

City of Oregon City
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:56 pm

INTRODUCTIONS

Members: Brent Haverkamp; Shawn Dachtler; Andy Crump; Doug Neeley; Troy Bolinger; Jeff Sargent; Alicia Hammock; Karin Morey

Staff: Kendall Reid, Parks and Recreation Director; Denise Conrad, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Kathy Wiseman, Senior Center Supervisor; Rochelle Anderholm-Parsch, Aquatic and Recreation Manager

Guests: Greg Williams, Library Director; Pete Walter, Community Development Senior Planner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the August 24, 2020 Regular Meeting

Approval of the minutes was approved and seconded.

All in Favor: Doug Neeley; Karin Morey; Troy Bolinger; Alicia Hammock; Andy Crump; Shawn Dachtler; Brent Haverkamp

All opposed: none

Abstain: Jeff Sargent

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no citizen comments.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Expansion of the 6th Street Library Book Return

Greg Williams, Library Director, provided an update on the 6th Street book drop expansion. Mr. Williams announced that they have expanded the book drop capacity by adding an identical unit next to the existing book drop on 6th Street. There were no code, permit or historical issues with this addition and the City Attorney was consulted prior to installation. The new capacity allows for 24/7 drop off, including over long holiday weekends. Before and after photos were presented. Mr. Williams apologized for not coming before PRAC earlier but noted that he had reached out to Parks and Recreation Director, Kendall Reid.

Doug Neeley moved to approve this expansion; Troy Bolinger seconded.

All in Favor: Doug Neeley; Karin Morey; Troy Bolinger; Jeff Sargent; Alicia Hammock; Andy Crump; Shawn Dachtler; Brent Haverkamp

All opposed: none

Motion passed unanimously.

3. OLDA Pilot Program (Off Leash Dog Area)

Denise Conrad, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, provided an update on the OLDA that was last discussed in February. The pilot program was planned to be for a one-year test run, although it has gone on for more than 3 years. Ms. Conrad noted that the results to an online survey taken in November 2019 were attached to the Staff Report. Mr. Reid had drafted a recommendation presenting options for PRAC to consider and determine the next steps; form a new dog park sub-committee; increase public outreach; choose a site and create a budget; create a proposal that considers location, funding, maintenance and enforcement.

Doug Neeley moved to form a new sub-committee and include Ms. Conrad's additional recommendations; Jeff Sargent seconded.

All in Favor: Doug Neeley; Karin Morey; Troy Bolinger; Jeff Sargent; Alicia Hammock; Andy Crump; Shawn Dachtler; Brent Haverkamp

All opposed: none

Motion passed unanimously.

Karin Morey asked for a volunteer for Chair of the sub-committee; Jeff Sargent volunteered. Alicia Hammock volunteered to serve on the sub-committee. Ms. Morey recommended that Mr. Sargent reach out to previous PRAC members Bill Daniels and Lisa Novack who had expressed interest in sub-committee service. Mr. Neeley asked if a fenced OLDA was included in the recommendation. Ms. Conrad replied no because they are building a fenced dog park at Tyrone S. Woods Memorial Park.

4. Heritage Tree Stand Nominations

Pete Walter, Senior Planner, discussed a prior nomination of a tree stand in Park Place Park. The topic was last discussed with PRAC in February, but the Planning and Parks Staff are now recommending that PRAC consider a revised proposal to move forward with the nomination of only some of the trees in this area, but not all. Mr. Walter noted that these trees will still be protected under the City Permit requirement for tree removal and also by the draft City Policy for Tree Removal. A map was displayed of the original site plan as well as a list of the trees that were previously nominated. Mr. Walter reminded members of their previous recommendation to move forward with nominating trees with the

exception of those that were in decline, but noted that they don't know the condition of all of the trees in the stand. Staff recommendation is for PRAC to consider revising the Heritage Stand designation to only include trees in good condition, are safely accessible and are visible to park visitors. Mr. Reid summarized that Parks supports this program but feels that specific trees/areas need to be identified for nomination to avoid all of the back & forth with the process. Ms. Conrad added that there are some concerns with the visible Atlas Cedar trees as they sit on a bench with a large elevation drop onto a playground and their position near a road could compact the roots and degrade the trees. Mr. Neeley and Mr. Dachtler pointed out that the significance of a tree should be considered whether or not it is visible. Mr. Dachtler felt that more information was needed and proceeding with the nomination was premature. Ms. Morey recommended that this topic be postponed until next month and then presented with clearer direction. Doug Neeley moved for a continuance for further information; Brent Haverkamp seconded.

All in Favor: Doug Neeley; Karin Morey; Troy Bolinger; Jeff Sargent; Alicia Hammock; Andy Crump; Shawn Dachtler; Brent Haverkamp

All opposed: none

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Haverkamp asked what further information will be coming. Ms. Morey replied they should expect a clearer motion and possibly to hear from Jonathan Waverly, Parks Manager.

5. OC 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Walter discussed updates on the OC 2040 Comprehensive Plan project. The project is in the Community Conversations phase, an outreach that asks a set of simple questions to help Planning Staff and the City Commission understand what people love about the City and what improvements can be made in the future. They are striving to get the broadest input from as many community members as possible. With that goal, Mr. Walters asked members a set of questions in a series of roundtable discussions.

Members were asked why they chose to live/work in Oregon City, what makes OC special and what should be preserved or enhanced. Responses included the unique historical nature of the City, the small town feel while having the convenience of being located near a big metro area, the ease of getting involved in the community and the access to the outdoors.

When asked about what changes or improvements could be made in the future, many members responded that economic development was important as well as finishing projects, such as the Willamette Falls Project, the paper mill, the dump site and the Cove. Of concern to some members were increasing traffic, pedestrian safety, aging parks infrastructure and the need for community involvement.

When asked how they would like to participate in the OC 2040 process and who else should be contacted to make this an inclusive process, members overwhelmingly responded that the seniors and veterans in our community need to be reached, and social media is not necessarily the best way to do that. Members suggested making sure all ethnic groups are included and all different methods of media should be used to access all of these groups. Mr. Walter encouraged members to sign up for the mailing list for bi-weekly updates and noted that updates will also be provided in Trail News publications. He thanked members for their input and informed the group that the PRAC meeting video would be posted on the project website.

MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Morey: Informed those who were interested in getting blue can/bottle recycling bags that support the Oregon City Parks Foundation that they need to contact her to receive further instructions as there is a specific process.

No other members provided reports.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Reid thanked Staff for their response during the wildfires; stepping up to assist with the evacuation sites, working the phone lines and for opening up the Pool for showers. He noted that they worked long hours and he really appreciated their community support. Mr. Reid stated that he is working on a plan for the deferred maintenance assessment, including finding a consultant to help verify the numbers. It is a priority to update the Master Plan, which will help provide direction for investment in growth and maintenance. At the next meeting, Mr. Reid will have more information on how Oregon City staffing and resource management compares to other cities, both regionally and nationally. Mr. Reid noted that all construction projects were placed on hold during the time that air quality was unsafe, and noted that all Staff who worked outside during that time were provided with the proper equipment. He concluded by mentioning that they have also been dealing with the issue of flooding that occurred at some parks and at the Pioneer Center.

Rochelle Anderholm-Parsch, Aquatics and Recreation Manager, announced that the Swimming Pool would be reopening on October 5 for limited pre-registered activities. The Oregon City Swim Team will begin their practices on Sept. 28. The Ermatinger House will be reopening for tours on October 3; pre-registration is required.

Kathy Wiseman, Senior Center Supervisor, noted that the Pioneer Center experienced their largest flood in more than 17 years. Ms. Wiseman expressed her thanks for Ms. Anderholm-Parsch and Mr. Waverly for their help with cleaning things up.

Denise Conrad, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, gave kudos to the Facilities Staff for their hard work on smoke mitigation and managing various crises. Ms. Conrad noted that they are a small staff that does an amazing job keeping up. She reported that seven days were lost on the current construction projects at Tyrone S. Woods and D.C. LaTourette Parks and they will need to extend the contracts as the time can't be made up. Ms. Conrad also expressed her thanks to the Staff for their willingness to pitch in during the windstorms and wildfires.

Mr. Haverkamp asked Ms. Conrad whether the extensions would lead to an additional cost. Ms. Conrad replied that everything in construction shut down, so there should not be an additional cost, just a time extension.

Mr. Bolinger said, "Nice job, guys!" to City Staff who worked so hard behind the scenes during the wildfires. He also noted that it would be good to have a mechanism to solicit help from the community when it was needed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. List of Future Agenda Items

- Tyrone S. Woods Memorial Park - 12/5/2019
- Parks and Recreation Funding
- Clackamette Park Master Plan – *corrected from "Clackamas"*
- Buena Vista House - 1/23/2020
- WES Good Neighbor Funds
- Joint Operations Center
- Willamette Falls Legacy Project
- Property Acquisition
- Dog Park - 2/27/2020 – 9/24/2020
- Review Goals - 2/27/2020
- The Cove

Ms. Morey stated that the Parks and Recreation Funding item should be broken down into two groups; deferred maintenance and staffing. Ms. Morey noted that she, Mr. Dachtler and Mr. Reid had discussed a plan for an RFP to start looking at the Parks Maintenance Plan and identify deferred maintenance issues as well as staffing. She commented that a Parks Master Plan should be added.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

7. October 22, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm by Chair Karin Morey