



CITY OF OREGON CITY

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Members: Troy Bolinger, Steve Williams, Ken Worcester, Andy Crump, Brent Haverkamp. Tim Wuest, Joey Knauf,

Staff: Kendall Reid, Parks and Recreation Director; Melissa Sebastian, Aquatic and Recreation Manager; Jonathan Waverly, Parks and Cemetery Maintenance; Justin More, Administrative Assistant

Guests: RJ Aubert, Recreation Coordinator; Emily Lisborg, Public Comment

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of June 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Andy Crump motioned to approve the minutes as distributed. Steve Williams seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

All Approved: Steve Williams, Troy Bolinger, Joey Knauf, Brent Haverkamp, Andy Crump, Tim Wuest

All Opposed: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

This section on the agenda is for citizens to present information relevant to the City but not listed as an item on this agenda. This is a virtual only meeting, if you would like to participate, please contact Justin More at jmore@orc.org. The citizen has up to 3 minutes for comments. Prior to speaking, citizens shall complete a comment form and deliver it to the Staff Member. When the Chair calls your name, proceed to the speaker table, and state your name and city of residence into the microphone. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Members do not generally engage in dialog with those making comments but may refer the issue to the Staff Member. Complaints shall first be addressed at the department level prior to addressing the Committee.

Emily Lisborg, residing in the Rivercrest neighborhood, provided public comment on the agenda topic titled "Monarch Butterfly Pledge" as an avid gardener herself, Ms. Lisborg believes the public effort to plant milkweed and engage the community is an opportunity to speak of the decline of pollinators. Emily Lisborg informed the committee of the Xerces Society based in Portland which is dedicated to the preservation of pollinators and insects while advocating for the reduced use of pesticide applications. The City of West Linn implemented a bee city program that offers an infrastructure to play an active role in insect preservation that Oregon City could utilize to put signage at the Promenade and a pollinator garden at Waterboard Park. Emily Lisborg concluded her public comment by stating she applied for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and hopes to be considered for appointment.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations on the agenda.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Introduction of New Recreation Coordinator

Melissa Sebastian introduced RJ Aubert as the new Recreation Coordinator for the Oregon City Pool. Mrs. Sebastian noted her department is excited to have RJ Aubert on board and is now fully staffed. Mr. Aubert started back in June and moved to Oregon City from Washington State. RJ opened the topic for discussion. Steve Williams asked what his first order of business is as the new Recreation Coordinator. Mr. Aubert responded by getting caught up with Concerts and Movies in the Park as well as youth camps and an adult basketball league. Brent Haverkamp asked what new programs RJ is looking at implementing. Mr. Aubert noted that his area of interest is sports and is to focus on ages 12 and up with outdoor volleyball, soccer, and pickleball based on the facilities Oregon City has.

3. Vote for PRAC Vice Chair

Troy Bolinger reminded the committee that nominations for the Vice Chair position within PRAC are open to all members besides the Chair. Mr. Bolinger opened the discussion for nominations. Tim Wuest nominated Brent Haverkamp. Brent Haverkamp did not accept the nomination. Brent Haverkamp nominated Tim Wuest. Mr. Wuest accepted the nomination. No further nominations were given. Vote passed 6-0.

All Approved: Steve Williams, Troy Bolinger, Joey Knauf, Brent Haverkamp, Andy Crump, Tim Wuest

Troy Bolinger noted that Tim Wuest will serve as Vice Chair for the remainder of the calendar year as nominations for Chair and Vice Chair takes place again at the January meeting.

4. Monarch Butterfly Pledge

Kendall Reid presented the Monarch Butterfly Pledge and background on what the pledge means, statistics regarding the decline of Monarch Butterflies and other pollinators, and how Oregon City plans to engage with the pledge's requirements. Mr. Reid concluded his presentation by opening the topic for discussion. Brent Haverkamp asked why PRAC did not approve it before and when it was presented. Kendall Reid responded by stating it was presented in May 2021 and there was discussion about the pledge and bringing it back to PRAC at a later date, had little support, and it was not brought back. Mr. Haverkamp stated the pledge has his full support. Mr. Reid noted that the pledge does not require a financial commitment from the City. Tim Wuest asked what the City could do to show they are committed to the pledge as 3 out of 20 items do not show commitment. Kendall Reid said that the requirement of the pledge is three items, and they are looking at items that do not require financial investments but can always do more than 3. Mr. Wuest stated Hillendale Park there is a seep of spring that comes out and makes the park very wet and could be converted into a pollinator garden.

Joey Knauf was curious about the commitment of the three items and what are the necessary steps to get those items launched. Mr. Reid noted the next steps would be to get a letter of recommendation from PRAC to the City Commission for approval with the development of a timeline for these items to be completed. Mr. Wuest asked if the Parks Department is using any pesticides that counter the Monarchs. Jonathan Waverly responded by saying that the milkweed plants are a toxic plant but agree with Mr. Reid that the Parks department could help plant pollinator plants throughout the City but acknowledges the City does use some pesticides sparingly. Ken Worcester stated that the pollinator gardens in West Linn are operated by volunteers and pesticides are not used in the gardens. Mr. Worcester acknowledged that the gardens can be inexpensive and a great way to get the community involved.

Troy Bolinger expressed his support for monarchs and pollinator gardens; however, he does not support the mayor's pledge as it does not benefit the City in any way and only helps the organization in having our name added to the pledge. Mr. Bolinger suggests the committee waits until the City has a mayor elected for a full term and allows them to make the decision. Troy Bolinger also stated that he will not support a vote to recommend the pledge to the City Commission and would have a hard time adding his name and title to the letter of recommendation. Tim Wuest stated the pledge is just a pledge and has little to no cost to the City and the appearance to do good goes a long way. Brent Haverkamp was confused about the 3 of 30 items and asked for clarification. Mr. Reid said out of all the items listed are ones the City could choose from. Mr. Haverkamp states it seems to be a political issue with the pledge but regardless, we need pollinators. Andy Crump asked what the staff's recommendation is to PRAC and if there is a reason to not vote yes. Kendall Reid replied that the

recommendation is to vote in favor of writing a letter of recommendation to the City Commission and he does not see a reason to vote no.

Ken Worcester continued the discussion by stating the pledge is a supportive action by the City that goes a long way and that the actions speak louder than the pledge, however, committing to the three items chosen is not risky. Steve Williams agrees that it would be easy to support the cause. No further discussion. Vote passed 6-1.

All Approved: Steve Williams, Ken Worcester, Joey Knauf, Brent Haverkamp, Andy Crump, Tim Wuest

All Opposed: Troy Bolinger

STAFF REPORTS

Melissa Sebastian provided the first member report during the introduction of the new Recreation Coordinator about various programs the Pool is currently offering. Movies in the Park start on Friday and four more Concerts in the Park at EOT. The Pool is halfway through its summer schedule and Mrs. Sebastian noted the Pool will be closed beginning September 3rd for their annual pool maintenance. The Parks and Recreation Department will have a booth at National Night Out this upcoming Tuesday with Fall registration at the Pool opening on Friday, August 19th.

Kendall Reid began his staff report by thanking the committee for their support and participation in the Clackamette Park Master Plan. The goal is to bring the Clackamette Park Master plan to City Commission on August 17th with revisions to get approval to move forward with the process. The Parks Master Plan has a city-wide survey going in the mail on July 28th with it landing in mailboxes on August 8th. There will be ongoing conversations with PROS Consulting about a date for the next public engagement meeting. Mr. Reid noted the Sportscraft Landing negotiations are still ongoing. Kendall Reid informed the committee that the City received approval to move forward with PRAC Applicant interviews as done previously. The interviews would take place as a work session prior to the regular meeting. Brent Haverkamp asked if the City has a set of interview questions or if the committee will be coming up with their own. Mr. Reid stated we have a set of interview questions from the past and they will be sent out with the applicant's information.

Kathy Wiseman noted her experience in helping fill Kendall Reid's shoes while he was on vacation and expressed her gratitude for the work Jonathan Waverly and his staff does. At the Pioneer Center, Kathy has nine full-time staff for her facility but has recently hired for 5 of those positions in the past year and a half. Mrs. Wiseman stated they have a new person started in a few weeks and the Pioneer Center is moving their congregate meals to four days a week starting in

August due to full staffing. Kathy Wiseman is also working closely with Melissa Sebastian and RJ Aubert regarding room usage at the Pioneer Center for summer activities. The Pioneer Center has signed its contract for reimbursement from the county for their services.

Jonathan Waverly updated the committee on a variety of current and ongoing park projects. Access to the cemetery is limited on some days due to the mausoleum roof repair and the scattering canyon project is underway for water improvement. Looking ahead, the River Access and Cove trail project will begin next month for some pruning and removal of hazardous trees. The trails are still seeing some effects of the ice storm. Mr. Waverly also noted concrete work and ADA access taking place in the parking lots. The Parks Department is currently working on the cemetery bathroom restoration and the TSW Dog Park improvements project will also start in August. In the last week of July, the parks experienced over 10,000 people in their parks system with 300 – 400 people utilizing the park shelters. Wesley Lynn's irrigation is currently off due to an electrical phase event and the department is waiting on parts. Jonathan Waverly concluded his report by discussing his lack of seasonal staff as they only have one out of five seasonals and staff are continually having to work overtime and weekends. Tim Wuest asked why Jonathan Waverly is behind in hiring summer staff and Jonathan Waverly noted the lack of applicants even with the raised wages.

MEMBER REPORTS

Tim Wuest reported on the success of the Concerts in the Park and Brewfest. Mr. Wuest recently took his grandson to the Oregon City Pool. At the wading pool, he believes there should be shade outside as that area is very hot and would help cool patrons.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Steve Williams asked what the items represent and how it is decided what moves forward. Troy Bolinger noted some items have been discussed and it is more of a to-do list so that the committee does not forget about some of the items. Brent Haverkamp asked about the Park Place neighborhood development, he is interested in what the park development would look like as it is one of the biggest parks in Oregon City but only have one three-acre park. Kendall Reid noted that the topic needs to be addressed in the Parks Master Plan and urges Brent and his community to get involved with the plan. Ken Worcester asked if there was SDC money available to get more property before the development takes place. Kendall Reid stated they are in negotiations with the developer right now.

Sportscraft Landing Negotiations

Community Garden at Pioneer Center

Park Development Goals/Park Designs

PRAC Parks Tour

Parks Foundation Presentation

Parks Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Funding

Clackamette Park Master Plan

WES Good Neighbor Funds

Joint Operations Center

Willamette Falls Legacy Project

Property Acquisition

The Cove

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING - September 22, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.