

**COOS BAY  
PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES  
November 14, 2019**

Chair Lyons opened the work session on the above date in the City of Coos Bay Conference Room located at 500 Central Ave., at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ariann Lyons, Carmen Matthews, Bev Meyers, Sam Crowley, Shaun Gibbs, Carmen Matthews and Bill Otton.

Members Absent: Patty Scott.

Staff Present: Operations Administrator, Randy Dixon, and Kelli Burnette.

Guests Present: None.

**DISCUSSION - FUNDING OPTIONS FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT**

The Commission and Staff reviewed portions of the Parks Master Plan relating to funding and discussed funding options, including SDC's on new development, taxes, bonds, a county-wide recreational district, and obtaining park sponsors.

The Commission and Staff discussed working collaboratively with the Coos Bay School District. Randy stated he would reach out to the school district to see what they think about working with the City on park and recreation improvement and development.

The Commission and Staff discussed holding a work session with council to get a vision for parks and recreation moving forward. It was noted that the Commission should highlight what Master Plan projects have been accomplished and what still needs to be done.

A discussion commenced regarding the lack of tax revenue and the fact the County is currently conducting a new property tax assessment.

A discussion commenced regarding budget categories and processes, service level definitions, and the City's current maintenance status. Staff explained how recreational districts function, funding sources, and the process for reaching out to community members to obtain their support. Randy stated the Rails to Trails Program could be a great asset, especially on the South end of town, which would function really well as part of a recreational district as it would involve County property.

The Commission and Staff discussed how to survey the community to see what they may want and the fact there is still a large demand for a dog park. The Commission and Staff discussed the complex nature of developing a dog park, possible litigation impacts, and the location previously selected at Empire Lakes. Randy will provide the Commission with information on dog parks from a slide show presentation he has.

A discussion commenced on how impressed the community and council will be with the upcoming upgrades to Mingus Park which may influence them to want to improve/develop more parks. A discussion commenced that the upcoming upgrades to Mingus Park were funded by grants and the fact that non-grant funding is going to be required to maintain the new status.

49 The Commission asked Staff if all the parks were improved, what the cost would be to maintain  
50 them. Randy advised the Commission that he could bring numbers back to them based on acreage  
51 and visitation demands, and explained that the four main facilities the City has that will bring the  
52 support are Mingus Park, the Waterfront, Edlund Park, and Empire Lakes. Randy suggested  
53 staying focused on the current grants and capital projects, then come back and show the community  
54 and Council what has been accomplished, show them what has yet to be done, and ask for their  
55 input, and once the Commission has gained their support, find a way to fund it.

56  
57 The Commission asked Staff to compile a spreadsheet of Master Plan items that have been  
58 completed and a spreadsheet of what the Commission wants to do, showing  
59 development/improvement costs and maintenance costs, to take to Council.

60  
61 A discussion commenced regarding the Commission's next meeting. It was noted the November  
62 21, 2019, is cancelled, and the Commission will meet again on December 19, 2019.

63  
64 Chair Lyons closed the work session portion of the meeting and called the regular meeting to order  
65 at 4:07 p.m.

#### 66 **APPROVE THE OCTOBER 17, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

67  
68 Chair Lyons called for a motion to approve the minutes.

69 *Commissioner Matthews moved and Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion to approve the*  
70 *October 17, 2019, minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

#### 71 72 **CITIZEN INPUT**

73 There was none.

#### 74 75 **NEW BUSINESS**

76 **4.1 Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery Sign** – Staff presented a sign prepared by Cricket Soules  
77 and Staff and asked for a motion to approve the sign.

78 The Commission and Staff discussed the verbiage on the sign and size.

79 *Commissioner Matthews moved and Commissioner Gibbs seconded the motion to approve the*  
80 *public use sign as designed. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

#### 81 **OLD BUSINESS**

82 **5.1 Empire Lakes Bridges** – Staff informed the Commission that one of the bridges will need  
83 to be two miles long as opposed to one in order to stabilize. Randy suggested using covered  
84 culverts in this location as opposed to a bridge which would provide a walking trail and cut down  
85 on costs.

86 The Commission and Staff discussed ODFW requirements, environmental impacts, design  
87 standards, the current soils analysis, and different culvert styles. The Commission stated they like  
88 the vault style culverts better and decided to table the motion until the next meeting.

89 Commissioner Bill Otton joined the meeting at 4:19 pm.

90  
91 **5.2 Mingus Pond Fishing Pier.** Staff presented a bridge design from ZCS Engineering. The  
92 Commission and Staff discussed the current design, pier locations, trash receptacle locations,  
93 adding material vs. removing material, enhancements to the bird island and lighthouse, and the

94 pond aeration system. Randy explained that the environmental study on this project does not expire  
95 which means the City will not have to go through environmental permitting at this site again.

96 *Commissioner Matthews moved and Commissioner Otton seconded the motion to move forward*  
97 *with the Mingus Park dredging and fishing pier concept as presented. Motion carried by*  
98 *unanimous vote.*

99 The Commission and Staff discussed the proposal for the Mingus Park restroom and playground  
100 which Staff will bring to the Commission for review. Commissioner Matthews stated that an  
101 enhancement to the access point near the playground would be beneficial. Randy advised the  
102 Commission that grants open in January for the playground and bathroom enhancements.  
103

#### 104 COMMISSIONER AND STAFF CLOSING COMMENTS

105 **6.1** Commissioner Matthews asked if the Mingus Park Swimming Pool operating hours could  
106 be increased. Randy advised Commissioner Matthews to contact the pool management group.  
107 Randy also advised that Rodger Craddock is on that management team. A discussion commenced  
108 regarding how nice it would be to have a recreation community center with a library, pool, fields,  
109 etc.  
110

111 **6.2** Commissioner Matthews commented on low property taxes are and how it attracts people  
112 who have the mindset of not wanting to pay or contribute to a community, that we need a better  
113 plan to move forward, and stated the City is sinking.  
114

115 **6.3** Randy advised the Commission that the sweeper is out of commission and that it should be  
116 up and running next week.  
117

118 **6.4** Commissioner Meyers commented that she will be cleaning up the leaves in Mingus Park  
119 soon.  
120

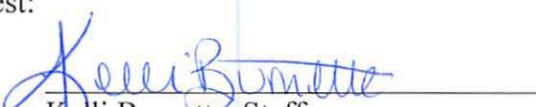
121 **6.5** Chair Lyons commented on how well the two-hour work session/meeting worked and the  
122 Commission agreed they would like to do them more often. Randy cautioned the Commission  
123 about getting burnt out. The Commission decided to hold another one-hour work session followed  
124 by a regular meeting on December 19, 2019.  
125

#### 126 ADJOURNMENT

127 There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by consensus of the Parks  
128 Commission, Commissioner Lyons adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.  
129

130 **APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2020.**  
131

132  
133  
134   
135 \_\_\_\_\_  
136 Ariann Lyons, Chair

135 Attest:  
136   
137 \_\_\_\_\_  
138 Kelli Burnette, Staff