

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49

**COOS BAY
PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES
January 16, 2020**

Vice Chair Crowley 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: Carmen Matthews, Bev Meyers, Sam Crowley, Bill Otton, Bill Davis and Arian Lyons.

Members Absent: Patty Scott and Shaun Gibbs.

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

Guests Present: Jim Behrends

Staff Member Dixon provided the Commission with an update on current projects, noting the Empire ADA curb ramp project is finishing up with the last few ramps, the Empire striping project has not yet begun due to weather, City Council has approved the 4th Street Pedestrian Safety Project to move forward, and the Eastside Safe Routes to School project will be going out to bid in February, with construction hopefully beginning in March.

DISCUSSION – PARKS MASTER PLAN PROJECT STATUS

Staff Member Dixon reviewed the Parks Master Plan Capital Improvement Plan Table with the Commission and showed park and City owned properties on a map.

Staff Member Dixon reported the City has retained Heather Laird for grant writing services on the Mingus Park pond dredging project, and that plans are underway for the design of the new Mingus Park playground area and restrooms. Staff Member Dixon explained that the dredge material from the pond would be used to raise the elevation of the new park area, and a vault and storm water pump would be installed, etc. Staff Member Dixon stated he will continue working on and developing the project while the grant writing is taking place.

Commissioner Meyers asked about damage to the trees in the new playground area. Staff Member Dixon stated that all of the trees would be removed and new species replanted and that he would come to the Commission with a proposed design for comment and approval.

Staff Member Dixon explained the dredging aspect of the pond, invasive vegetation and that the City is and will be working with Coos Watershed and the selected contractor to address those issues.

Commissioner Matthews commented on the proposed vault being designed like a rain garden and making it look like a natural stream.

A discussion commenced regarding the pond dredging to include the small pond, existing drainage and a pre vault filter tank for treatment going in up by the tennis courts, and replacing the fountains.

Chair Lyons arrived at 3:35 p.m.

A Discussion commenced regarding park property and city owned property as shown on the maps presented by Staff Member Dixon.

50 The Commission and Staff discussed looking at City owned property to develop for parks and
51 recreation or looking at property to purchase for development.

52

53 A discussion commenced regarding property more centralized in the City, specifically noting the
54 Water Board property, the existing access to that property through the Timberline neighborhood
55 and adding a sports and neighborhood park/trail system in that area, possibly with a city shop.

56

57 A discussion commenced regarding the possibility of “swapping” properties with the Water Board
58 given the nature of the neighboring locations and the fact the Water Board acquired the property
59 from the City. Staff Member Dixon stated he would research property restrictions, contact the
60 Water Board and discuss options with the City Manager.

61

62 A discussion commenced regarding focusing on developing community parks or neighborhood
63 parks. It was noted that a community park with a sports complex would pay for itself, and that
64 adding cabins to rent could generate income. The consensus of the Commission was to focus on
65 one large community park vs. smaller neighborhood parks. Staff Member Dixon commented the
66 first step is to obtain property information, make a design, and get citizen input, etc.

67

68 *Chair Lyons moved and Commissioner Matthews seconded the motion to focus on a centrally*
69 *located community park, where Staff Member Dixon looks as possible acquisition of property*
70 *and/or Water Board property, pros and cons. A discussion commenced regarding listing the*
71 *amenities, sports complex, bike trails, etc., desired until after property is acquired. Motion carried*
72 *by unanimous vote.*

73

74 Chair Lyons commented on a recent presentation she heard at the Planning Commission meeting
75 regarding rising sea levels, flooding, and existing City infrastructure, stating she was really
76 impressed and would like to have the presenter also present to the Parks Commission. It was noted
77 that there is interest for the same presentation to be given at a Council meeting.

78

79 Chair Lyons closed the work session portion of the meeting and called the regular session to order
80 at 4:10 p.m.

81

82 APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 14, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

83

84 Chair Lyons called for a motion to approve the minutes.

85 *Commissioner Matthews moved and Commissioner Meyers seconded the motion to approve the*
86 *November 14, 2019, minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

87

88 PUBLIC COMMENT/CITIZEN INPUT

89

90 Citizen Jim Behrends was introduced, but did not wish to provide comment at that time.

91

92 OLD BUSINESS

93

94 **5.1 John Topits Bridge.** Staff Member Dixon provided a brief recap on the Empire Lakes
95 bridges and stated there needs to be justification for replacing the bridge. A discussion commenced
96 regarding having a master plan just for Empire Lakes, the decrease in park visitors since the bridge
97 went down, increasing usability, looking at the entire park, and replacing the SOCC bridge.

98

99 Staff Member Dixon explained if the Commission proceeded with putting in the bridge, there
100 would be opposition given the cost and location of the existing trail. It was proposed to have a
101 meeting just to focus on developing a master plan just for Empire Lakes.

102
103 A discussion commenced regarding the Parks Commission and City Council having a combined
104 work session and the Parks Commission attending the Council meeting when the water surge
105 presentation is presented.

106
107 *Commissioner Matthews moved and Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion to schedule a*
108 *combined work session with the Parks Commission and City Council to discuss the parks master*
109 *plan. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*
110

111 **5.2 Mingus Pond Fishing Pier** – Staff Member Dixon presented the Mingus Pond Fishing
112 Pier design from ZCS which is now 100% complete and ready to go. Staff Member Dixon
113 explained he is meeting with Civil West and ZCS on Friday to discuss the design of the southern
114 end of the park, and will come back to the Commission with the design once received for review.

115 116 NEW BUSINESS

117
118 As discussed above in work session.

119 120 COMMISSIONER CLOSING COMMENTS 121 STAFF CLOSING COMMENTS

122
123 Commissioner Davis and Chair Lyons commented on the water surge presentation at the Planning
124 Commission meeting stating they believe it is a good tool that can be implemented. A discussion
125 commenced regarding vaults and existing inactive aquifers.

126
127 The Commissioners expressed their excitement for the master visioning for a new park asset and
128 a master plan for Empire Lakes. Staff Member Dixon commented that proposing the development
129 of a new park asset will likely receive some opposition as there is lack of funding to maintain what
130 the City already has, but the idea is to develop a self-sustaining asset. A discussion commenced
131 regarding financial data on sports complexes. It was noted the 2009 two-week softball event
132 brought in approximately 3 million dollars for the City.

133
134 The Commission and staff discussed potential for grants, the rails to trails connectivity from
135 Coos Bay to Coquille, and local bike shop owners assisting with training kids, staff and parents on
136 the new Safe Routes to School project in Eastside.

137
138 A Discussion commenced regarding having work sessions prior to all Parks Commission meetings.

139
140 *Chair Lyons moved and Commissioner Otton seconded the motion to have a one-hour work session*
141 *prior to all Parks Commission meetings starting at 3:00 p.m. until further notice. Motion carried*
142 *by unanimous vote.*

143
144 Staff Member Dixon advised the Commission of the recent Mingus Park swimming pool
145 inspection. Staff Member Dixon reported meeting with pool management to discuss the inspection
146 which consisted an illegal lifeguard chair, doors being locked during business hours with no
147 emergency exit components, not cleaning the deck, gutters and bottom drain, and the side gate
148 being unlocked without staff on deck. Staff Member Dixon also stated the City will be purchasing

