

40 Commissioner Davis asked if the damage to the skate park was limited to the vandalism. Mr.
41 Reasor stated he believes the foundation has settled over the years, causing cracks in the concrete
42 and shifting as well as the weight of the cradle piece. Mr. Reasor stated the park has held together
43 exceptionally well except for the flat bank on the backside which caused the structural cracks in
44 the foundation that needs to be demolished and replaced. Commissioner Davis asked about a cost
45 estimate. Mr. Reasor commented that he is not a contractor but believes it would be tens of
46 thousands of dollars and that if it is not fixed in the next five years, it will fail and continue to
47 settle.

48 Commissioner Davis asked if he had any fundraiser ideas. Mr. Reasor commented they have been
49 working more on establishing the organization, that fundraising would have to be done online at
50 this point in time, but that they have established a Go Fund Me account to raise funds for the filing
51 fees to establish the organization, which was successful, and they intend to conduct fundraisers,
52 but they haven't advertised because they wanted to get approval from the City first. Mr. Reasor
53 indicated they have 144 Facebook followers without really promoting the organization, that there
54 is definitely good support for the organization and expansion of the skatepark.

55 Staff Member Dixon stated she thinks the organization is a good idea.

56 Christal Kralicek, local skateboard business owner, came forward and stated that people are really
57 wanting their kids to get outside, get some exercise and bond, and a skatepark is a good way for
58 kids to build relationships, get exercise and bond with each other. Ms. Kralicek also stated there
59 has been an increase in skateboard sales by 2,000 percent, that people want to skateboard and a
60 safe, healthy place for kids to come, as well as tourists, professional skateboarders and people that
61 passthrough town is needed. Ms. Kralicek stated she has even had someone offer to come and sign
62 autographs for a fundraiser and things like that to help support this movement.

63 Staff Member Dixon commented he likes the idea of their 501c non-profit organization, supports
64 the idea of bringing events to town, having others come into the community bringing tourism
65 dollars, and that this could be a great relationship to move forward looking at the use of the facility
66 - what the use should be based on design and what it could be in the future. Staff Member Dixon
67 stated when the Parks Commission and Council look at the master plan, staff would come to the
68 Skatepark Association to help and assist the City in the development of the skatepark.

69 Mr. Reasor discussed the rules of the skatepark, which does not allow bikes and scooters because
70 the final design of the park was not designed to withstand them. Mr. Reasor further stated the use
71 of bikes and scooters in the park is part of the reason the park is in the state that it is in, which is
72 the main reason he is at the park every day as a volunteer to make sure the rules are followed. Mr.
73 Reasor further stated it is extremely easy for someone to damage the rest of the coating and make
74 it unsafe. Mr. Reasor stated he has spoken to Park Department staff who have indicated that if the
75 park is deemed unsafe, it will have to be closed until funds can be put towards repairing it. Mr.
76 Reasor stated he has been down there almost daily since October and will continue until we can
77 get the remaining 185 lineal feet repaired, that he has the knowledge to fix it, and as soon as the
78 budget comes in he will volunteer and come in and fix it.

79 Staff Member Dixon briefly discussed funding and the fact that the City has 200 acres throughout
80 its park system and that the City is far behind the benchmark standard in regard to funds available
81 to maintain those 200 acres, but Staff tries to raise that bar every year and has done well. Staff
82 Member Dixon stated when the Commission updates the master plan, the association can come in
83 with some good input, that he is very interested in the association's interest in the facility, and

84 commented that the Parks Commission has been looking at different locations for a ballfield that
85 would incorporate a BMX trail location, which means there are options and it would be good to
86 have the Skatepark Association in those discussions. Staff Member Dixon further commented on
87 the upcoming Mingus Park renovations. Staff Member Dixon thanked Mr. Reasor and Ms.
88 Kralicek for coming in and stated the City would be in touch.

89 **Current Downtown Library Location – Future Open Space**

90 Chair Lyons commented she wanted to get the Commission thinking about what the current library
91 location could be used for once the library is relocated. The Commission and Staff discussed
92 Blossom Creek along Bennet Ave., daylighting, bioswales, alleviating some of the hydraulic
93 cracking, pond expansion and greenspace. It was discussed there is a lot of funding available for
94 greenspace, maybe even DEQ dollars, and getting support from the Army Corps of Engineers.

95 The Commission discussed a vision for connecting parks through pathways and that Curtis Avenue
96 is on the horizon to be rebuilt.

97 **Ballpark/Parking Lot at Old Armory Location**

98 Chair Lyons asked if there were any updates or ideas regarding the possibilities for the Armory.
99 Staff Member Dixon stated he has not had additional contact with the National Guard, but he will
100 follow up and give the Commission an update. Staff Member Dixon commented that this location
101 would be good for a ballpark or any activity, because you already have a park and access into it,
102 and that bringing activities to the Empire area may also run out negative activity.

103 Staff and the Commission discussed the relocation of the library and the fact that the exact location
104 of the library in the parcel has not been determined.

105 Staff and the Commission discussed the benefits of doing a full master plan for Empire Lakes so
106 all elements at that location can be reviewed at the same time and that Council was up against
107 deadline and had to make a quick decision about the location for the new library.

108 Staff Member Dixon stated he doesn't think it is a bad idea, but thinks the library needs to be in
109 the front, closer to Newmark for visibility and accessibility, and discussed a ballpark needing
110 lights, etc. Staff Member Dixon further stated the Commission should have some input on the
111 library going into the park and provide some visioning through a master plan.

112 Staff and the Commission discussed the needs of all City Departments being considered when
113 making a master plan, such as when looking at property the city already owns and the possibility
114 of other structures needing to be relocated in the future that might impact park planning in
115 greenspaces. It was noted that there have been discussions about an emergency shelter/community
116 facility being placed at the exiting library location, the fact that Council has been discussing
117 community assets and needs, and the fact that the Commission should begin working on the master
118 plan as soon as possible keeping all community assets and needs in mind.

119 The Commission discussed the benefits of joint meetings with Council and other boards and
120 commissions for better collaboration so that we are not acting completely independent and
121 unaware of each committees' actions. Commissioner Matthews moved that the Commission try to
122 do more joint meetings.

123 Chair Lyons asked for any additional comments regarding the ballfield, library, old Armory, or
124 Empire Lakes.

125 Commission Matthews asked if there were any updates on the bridge project. Staff Member Dixon
126 reminded the Commission of the problems Staff and the Commission encountered regarding
127 environmental issues, the lake being too short for the bulkhead tie in, issues with column locations
128 for the bridge, and the other option of an open box culvert for water passage and a hard surface on
129 the top. Staff Member Dixon stated he provided the Commission with pictures of an open culvert
130 option, explained how it would be installed, and uses, and the fact the Commission wanted to
131 complete that project as part of the master plan. Staff Member Dixon further commented that
132 incorporating it into a master plan for Empire Lakes seems like the much better option in light of
133 the current activities, new library and ballfields.

134 **Commissioner Closing Comments**

135 Staff Member Dixon advised the Commission of a Travel Oregon Grant that is available for
136 COVID relief as it relates to recreational activities. Staff Member Dixon report the dollars are
137 small but he will be applying for a \$100,000 grant to resurface the lower and upper parking lots at
138 Empire Lakes, which would consist of new asphalt and new striping.

139 Staff Member Dixon also reported that the City will be applying for a COVID relief program in
140 which the City Manager intends to use some of the funds for rehabilitating the Mingus Park Pool.

141 Staff Member Dixon stated the projects would be advertised for bid.

142 Staff Member Dixon advised the Commission that ZCS has provided a rendering of what the
143 Mingus Park Rehabilitation would look like, free of charge, and showed the renderings to the
144 Commission. Staff Member Dixon stated Staff will use these renderings to promote the project.
145 Staff Member Dixon stated there will be two grants to complete the project, State Parks and
146 ODFW.

147 Commissioner Crawley commented the renderings looked great and asked if the City was still
148 getting the beam from the university. Staff Member Dixon stated yes, that the City is in the process
149 of scheduling a 40-foot truck to recover all of those structural beams. Staff Member Dixon stated
150 the picnic pavilions and the restrooms at the pavilion shown in the Mingus Park Rehabilitation
151 renderings will be constructed from those beams.

152 Chair Lyons commented she would like to see more swings at the park, otherwise she thinks the
153 renderings look great and the rehabilitation will greatly enhance the park and Choshi Gardens.

154 Commissioner Matthews stated the chains in the climbing area at Mingus Park are in bad shape
155 and need repaired as soon as possible. Staff Member Dixon stated he will put in a work order and
156 get them repaired.

157 Commissioner Matthews advised the basketball hoop near the skatepark still has not been repaired.
158 Staff Member Dixon stated he will follow up and apologized for the delay.

159 Chair Lyons stated there are a lot of exciting things happening in our parks and is looking forward
160 to the next few months and the beginning of our master plan planning process - overall for the
161 parks as well as the master plan for Empire Lakes and the other part of Mingus Park. Chair Lyons
162 thanked everyone for being part of the Parks Commission.

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165

166 **Adjourn**

167 There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by consensus of the Parks
168 Commission, Chair Lyons adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

169 **APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE 15th DAY OF APRIL 2021.**

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Attest:

174 
175 Kelli Burnette, Staff

Ariann Lyons

Ariann Lyons, Chair

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