

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDING OF THE PARKS COMMISSION

OCTOBER 21, 2021

The minutes of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the Parks Commission of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Roll Call

Those present in person were City Staff: Greg Hamblet, Operations Administrator; Kelli Burnette, Contracts Administrative Specialist; and Commissioner Bill Davis. Also present attending remotely were Carolyn Johnson, City of Coos Bay Community Development Administrator; Commissioners Ariann Lyons, Coco Sutton, Patty Scott, and Bev Meyers.

Approval of the September 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Sutton seconded the motion to approve the September 16, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Citizen Input

There was none.

Master Plan Update

Staff Member Johnson reported she has applied for an Oregon Department of Land, Conservation and Development Department (DLCD) grant to fund the Master Plan update, that staff should know by December 1 if the City is awarded the grant funds, and, if awarded, a consultant will be engaged to work with staff and the Parks Commission on the Plan preparation and work would commence in 2022.

Staff Member Johnson further explained that City Council has two goals – focusing on economic development, which a lot of that is focused on tourism, and the other, updating the Parks Master Plan. Staff Member Johnson stated parks and recreation are not only important for local residents, but also tourists, so she has combined these two items for the grant application, which she believes will be selected for funding.

Skateboard Park Usership Assessment

Staff Member Hamblet reported the City's insurance provider has recommended allowing mixed use but not at the same time and that additional signage be placed with specific language outlining the rules. Staff Member Hamblet stated he recommends the Commission accept the recommendation of the insurance provider and requests the Commission to provide mixed use guideline recommendations and a recommendation of hours of availability for each user group. Staff Member Hamblet reported the City's liability insurance would increase by \$2,000 per year, that there would be an additional cost for new signage, as well as maintenance costs.

Commissioner Sutton asked if there would be legal costs associated with the preparation of the signs. Staff Member Hamblet stated staff would take the language recommendations from the Commission, provide them to the insurance company and then the signs would be made.

Chair Lyons asked if there had been Council comment. Staff Member Hamblet reported it had not gone to Council yet, that staff wanted Parks Commission recommendations first.

Angelina M. Appel, 976 S. 5th Street, Coos Bay, Resident, came forward and expressed her concerns about the park being used for skateboarders only and that she would like to see it mixed use. Ms. Appel explained most are mixed use and it sounds like the issue here is a monetary issue surrounding insurance.

Fred Vassar, Resident, came forward and spoke about the professionalism, comradery and companionship among scooter riders, that it is a sport, and trying to separate the times would be difficult. Mr. Vassar asked the commission to negotiate in good faith and provide equal opportunity to all users.

Chair Lyons asked if the insurance company provided any recommendations other than increasing the liability coverage, installing signs and imposing new rules, i.e., did they provide any examples or guidelines as to how the park might operate with mixed use at different times as she has not seen a park that operates that way.

Staff Member Hamblet stated the recommendation from CIS is to operate at separate times.

Commissioners Davis asked it if was a safety issue.

Staff Member Hamblet stated they commented it would be safer in the eyes of liability insurance to have it separated.

The Commission and staff discussed researching peak usership hours, utilizing the defunct tennis court and alternating uses (times and/or days) at the two locations, finding a temporary resolution while the Commission looks at future design of a new skatepark, and what the term mixed use meant, i.e., can different classifications be lumped together.

Chair Lyons asked how much the City's insurance cost would increase by should the City allow mixed use at the same time, and if the City were to allow mixed use at the same time, if the park would be shut down.

Staff Member Hamblet stated he would look into that.

A discussion commenced regarding types of insurance, providing additional disclaimers to signs to better protect the City, and the lack of enforcement at the park.

Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery Presentation

Becky Soules, attending via Microsoft Teams, introduced herself, provided a history of her involvement with the Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery, and stated the cemetery's Management Plan needs to be updated. Ms. Soules stated she has been writing a revised history of the cemetery and would like to work with the Commission on revising the Management Plan.

Commissioner Sutton thanked Ms. Soules and stated she appreciated her submittals and asked if she could provide a bullet point list of items she felt needed to be changed.

Chair Lyons commented that providing a redline version containing the changes might help the Commission visualize the changes being recommended and applauded Ms. Soules for her continued support and effort she has put into the cemetery. Chair Lyons further commented that the Commission would invite Ms. Soules to the Parks Commission Master Plan work sessions so the City can get her full input.

Staff/Commissioner Closing Comments

Staff Member Hamblet thanked everyone for attending, stated he will look into their questions and asked the Commission to email their questions regarding the skateboard park usership issue to him to be sure he obtains all the answers.

Commissioner Davis asked about the status of the Mingus Park Pond Dredging. Staff Member Hamblet reported that Staff is currently looking at the grant opportunities, and looking at ways to mitigate the invasive species, including the installation of two new aeration pumps.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by consensus of the Parks Commission, Chair Lyons adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE 16TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2021.

<i>Ariann Lyons</i>	dotloop verified 01/10/22 10:53 AM PST 5FV1-S6QV-LFTI-WWLZ
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Ariann Lyons, Chair

Attest:

Kelli Burnette
Kelli Burnette, Staff