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2 CITY OF COOS BAY
3 PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES OF
4 September 18, 2014

5 **Members Present:** Chair, Christine Coles; Commissioners: Ariann Lyons; Carmen Matthews;
6 Bill Otton and Jennifer Stephens

7 **Members Absent:** Commissioners: Beverly Meyers; Patty Scott

8 **Staff Present:** Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator, Pam Patton

9 **Guests Present:** Alexa Carleton, Outreach Coordinator for Coos Watershed Association
10 and Nathan Schroeder also with the Coos Watershed. Gary Martin,
11 Harding L.C. and Councilman, Thomas Leahy

12
13 **Location:** Tour of the Mingus Pool House
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18 **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

19 Chair Christine Coles called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and asked for a motion to approve
20 the minutes of August 28, 2014.

21 **Motioned:** Carmen Matthews motioned to approve as written

22 **Seconded:** Ariann Lyons

23 **Vote:** Aye, Unanimous. Minutes approved
24

25 **CITIZEN INPUT –**

26
27 **NEW BUSINESS –**

28
29 *Unfortunately due to background noise and the equipment noise, the quality of the audio*
30 *recording turned out poorly. The minutes are written as a summarization. A proposed scope*
31 *for the pool improvements will be attached.*
32

33 Alexa Carleton introduced herself, Outreach Coordinator for Coos Watershed Association and
34 familiarized the commission with their program in the community involving students. Alexa
35 approached the commission because they would like to see if there would be any interest
36 in/support for some environmental science projects at Mingus Park. Alexa introduced Gary
37 Martin, instructor to 10 to 15 students in his Environmental Science class at the Harding
38 Learning Center. They have teamed up together with a hands-on educational program with the
39 goal of involving students in the process of meaningful projects for the community. They are
40 seeking projects this year focusing on water quality and sustainability. One of their projects they
41 would like to be involved in is how to improve the quality of the water in Mingus Pond and
42 natural habitat for the waterfowl. Gary and his students, with their experience with the trail
43 system, have built bridges and created a forest trail at the far west corner of the park. They would
44 like to continue to improve the trail and make further enhancements. Alexa did mention they
45 would like to build an educational kiosk in the park to post information about the park and post
46 activities of the program and surveys.

47 *A brief list of project ideas is attached.*
48
49

50 Randy was very excited at the prospects and interest they will bring to Mingus Park's master
51 plan and encouraged the commission to get behind them and support their efforts. With the type
52 of work we are envisioning for the park, we would like to get started on dredging and cleaning
53 the lake and we will need all available help. It will require a sizeable grant for that type of work.
54 Randy stated for this fiscal year, he'd like to set up some coordination meetings with them but
55 not only for this year but for several years in a planning mode to refine the project list to extend
56 over a longer period of time as the Parks Master Plan will be done in phases and as funds
57 become available.

58

59 **Mingus Pool House**

60 Randy introduced City Councilman, Tom Leahy who will be attending the tour of the pool
61 house. At this time Randy Dixon conducted a tour of the pool house that sits, approximately
62 twenty feet below the pool deck itself which is not a good idea. Randy gave a brief overview of
63 the workings of the equipment and pointed out the areas where we are dangerously close to being
64 non-compliant with outcomes that could have the potential of a catastrophic failure. During the
65 tour, there were several questions asked with discussions taking place at various pieces of
66 equipment. The process of filtration is not the best for contaminants and the treatment with
67 chemicals administered for sanitizing and the way they are currently stored are not safe for the
68 staff. We are within health guidelines but this is not a preferred practice.

69

70 **Park Sites and Designs**

71 Dog Park – Location has been picked and approved with amenities still included. Randy is
72 keeping an eye on two potential agencies: one with UPAR; and State Parks to see what is
73 available for grants. With the land used as the match, Randy didn't see any dollars to be an issue
74 for us. After Randy has more understanding with the agency we zone in on, he will do a
75 Development Plan that will list what our volunteering is to be for the project for further
76 discussion.

77

78 **Mingus Park**

79 Randy is approximately 20 percent into the design showing the footprint of the park and is now
80 plugging in all the components such as amenities, the lakes and everything that dates back from
81 when the park was created which shows that we are well past the upgrading of this facility and
82 that will go part with the grant application for each one we apply to, no matter the agency. We'll
83 need to start with the pond first then fish piers, playground and restrooms. If we could
84 accomplish that and then come back the next year and do the trail systems, underground
85 irrigation and change some elevations back where the playground is located and a boarder near
86 the stage area to keep the materials from sloughing off.

87

88 **City Docks**

89 There has been some confusion and discussion over the connectivity of the City Docks and
90 Boardwalk. Randy explained that there will be a master plan just for the City Docks and a
91 master plan specifically for the connectivity of trails and linking. Jennifer Groth has been
92 working on that for years and is now looking at a Brownsfield grant and has the go ahead to
93 apply. From the original development and the heavy use of the City Docks, it needs sites and
94 amenities like, restrooms/showers/canoe access/and moving the airplane from the docks into
95 another area of its place of operation. Ariann asked if the private moorage could be separated
96 from businesses. Randy agreed that you could have commercialized on one side and private
97 moorage on the other side.

98

99

100 **COMMISSIONERS CLOSING COMMENTS –**

101

102 Ariann Lyons stated that she had received multiple complaints about two logs floating in the
103 Empire Lakes near the picnic tables south of the park host that has caused children to get
104 splinters while fishing and playing.

105

106 We are so blessed having so much recreation close by but the infrastructure, roads, facilities,
107 utilities and sidewalks; we fall well below to keep up. Maintenance costs were about 95 cents an
108 acre with other municipalities spending \$3.25 per acre which is only a benchmark. There are
109 some spending anywhere from \$9 to \$10 an acre.

110

111 Jennifer Stephens brought to Randy’s attention about a few of the commissioner’s attending next
112 year’s Oregon Parks and Recreation Association Conference. She felt it would be beneficial and
113 Randy agreed.

114

115 **ADJOURNMENT**

116

117 **There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by**
118 **consensus of the Parks Commission, Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.**

119

120 Respectfully Submitted,

121

122 Pamela Patton,
123 Department of Public Works

124

125 **APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE 16 DAY OF 10, 2014.**

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129

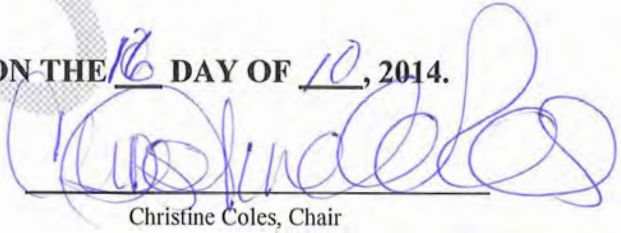
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Attest:


Pamela Patton, Staff


Christine Coles, Chair

Preliminary environmental science/water quality investigations:

- Calculate the density of algae growing in different areas of the pond to determine "hotspots"
- Identify hotspots of nitrate and phosphate throughout the pond (this will tell us where the main sources of runoff are, which are likely contributing to the algae bloom)
- Conduct some bacteria tests to see where fecal levels are the highest (probably near the outflow where most of the duck/goose/gull poop is--also a big contributor to the algae bloom)
- Do some sediment studies--what's on the bottom of the pond, how much is there, and where is it concentrated? Might send some students out to the middle of the pond in waders :) Luckily it's a good time of year to do that since there's so little water.
- Identify eroded banks in the upper pond/creek area (this will tell us where potential sediment might be coming from)
- Put all of this on a map and track it over time so we can start to understand what's happening out there! And, hopefully, make the pond easier to manage in the future.

Project possibilities--solutions to any problems/patterns identified above:

- Design and construct a bioswale(s) near some of the nutrient hotspots. There appears to be a good place for this below the pool and near the gazebo that would catch a lot of the runoff from the parking lot and streets above. We'd need to get some thoughts from an engineer since we'd probably need to dig out and re-pipe one of the catch basins, but the students could do all the rest of the work :)
- Administer a survey to park-goers to find out things like, what and how often do you feed the ducks/geese/gulls? Would you be interested in helping us conduct a study to improve water quality in the pond (by feeding the ducks less and/or different types of food) and attracting other kinds of wildlife (amphibians, migratory birds, etc)? The goal here would be education and a "let's figure this out together" approach, rather than telling people to stop feeding the wildlife because it makes their livers explode... which it does, but that's not a very fun message to convey!
- Create educational sign about the park wildlife and how we can help them be healthier and improve their habitat
- Plant more native shrubs along water's edge to provide habitat to birds and soak up runoff and duck poop
- Plant shrubs and groundcover along any eroded banks to reduce erosion into the pond
- Look into ways to aerate the water--many of the water quality issues would be better if the water was moving (pumps, aerators, fountains...?)
- Do some upkeep/trimming on the forest trail that Gary and his students created a while back--and add hand rails to the bridges they built (far west side of the forest). It would be great to encourage use of this awesome, slightly overgrown trail that not many people know about!
- Start a student-run native plant garden/nursery in the upper west corner of the forest where we could grow plants for use throughout the park
- Design and construct a kiosk to communicate info about student projects to park-goers. We're picturing something made of wood with a roof and a sliding plastic/glass case, similar to the one that's at the Millicoma school. And with a magic no-vandalism shield hovering around it...

Proposed Scope

Demolition

- Remove Above Grade Surge Tanks
- Remove Wall & Cabinet
- Remove Existing Pump
- Remove Sand filter (2)
- Remove Existing Pump & Plumbing
- Remove Chemical Sanitation System
- Remove Tile In Dressing/Restrooms
- Remove Plumbing Fixtures
- Remove Plumbing for Showers
- Sandblast Pool Tank

Construction

- Construct New Filter Vault
- Install 4" Concrete Slab
- Install Vacuum D.E. Filter System
- Install Filter Vault Discharge System
- Install UV/Ozone Sanitation System
- Construct Chemical Storage
- Re-plaster Pool Surface
- Install New Swimming Pool Pump / Circulation Plumbing & Valves
- Replace Shower Plumbing
- Re-tile Dressing/Restroom
- Relocate Existing Boiler