



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 4:00 PM
City Hall, 616 NE 4th Avenue

Special Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Staff: Jerry Acheson and Susan Newlove

City Council Liaison: Deanna Rusch

Public: David Dewey

Present: Eunice Abrahamsen, Steve Lorenz, Cassi Marshall, Katy Daane and Randy Curtis

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IV. MEETING ITEMS

A. Welcome - Agenda Review and Process Check

Ryan Mottau from MIG facilitated this Special meeting and started out by summarizing the meeting agenda for the retreat. Focusing on the past and talking about what to look forward to in the future is the goal of this meeting. Curtis stated that our newest Parks Commission member, David Dewey, will join us during the second half of the retreat. David Dewey will be appointed at the next City Council Meeting in February.

Curtis started out by mentioning that he was inspired by the all Clark County Parks meeting and would like to begin every monthly meeting with new visions about Parks and Recreation that want to be shared by the Commissioners. He encourages speaking up about inspiring items even if they are not on the current agenda for that particular meeting. Curtis stated that several items that began last year in 2018 will be incorporated into the current work plan for this upcoming year. The three most important items on the work plan are; MPD, Community Center, Sub-area planning.

Mottau asked each member what items from the work plan were worth revisiting from this past year and the majority of the group agreed that the Crown Park Master Plan needs to be revisited. Other items mentioned were the Skate Park, the MPD, the Community Round table meeting, the Camas Cemetery and field

usage.

B. Year In Review - PRGA, Community Center Update and Additional Items

PRGA - Metropolitan Park District Next Steps - Curtis stated that the Community Round table meeting held in January was a great meeting. There were 50 people in attendance, which exceeded their expectations. Curtis stated that he'd like to restructure the meeting for next time. Having more specific and detailed information to share with the attendees will make a difference.

Acheson shared the survey results. The top three projects voted on were; improvements to Crown Park resulting from the master plan, the future of the Community/Aquatics Facility and trails on the north shore of Lacamas Lake. Mottau stated that the top three projects definitely stood out from the others on the list. Acheson stated that the next step is to share the results with the meeting attendees, then have a second round table meeting with that same group to refine the list. Acheson hopes to present a formal proposal to City Council by the end of this year. Curtis stated that they had great representation from the community at the meeting. Discussion ensued on the timing of the MPD.

Community Center update - Curtis stated that they came up with potential sites for a Community Center, one of the top sites was the Camas Business Center site, which is 26 acres and is owned by Georgia Pacific. The Community Center Committee narrowed a location down to two sites, one in Washougal and the C.B.C. site. There is now a third site near Woodburn school. Acheson had shared a conceptual plan of the C.B.C. site at the January meeting, which included a mixed development plan.

Curtis spoke about the City of Salem and how they are working with the YMCA to build a facility at a much lesser cost than what Camas/Washougal is finding. Acheson stated that both Camas and Washougal have agreed on a \$30 million fee for the facility. Curtis stated that they could potentially fundraise and work with the YMCA for more funds in addition to this. In response to Mottau, Acheson stated that the study did include an additional subsidy for operating costs of the facility.

Additional items - Crown Park Master Plan - Acheson stated that on February 4th, City Council approved the pool demolition contract. The Master Plan is not in the current budget. Questions and uncertainty about the water feature have put the project on hold. They can make enhancements to the park, a high priority is to build a bathroom in Crown Park. Mottau spoke about the possibility of phasing out the project if it can't be completed at one time.

Curtis spoke about the importance of saying "water feature" adding that Crown Park is the jewel of Camas, so this is a big issue for the community. Curtis feels

that most cost elements of the Crown Park Master Plan should be included in the MPD.

Another item briefly discussed was the Skate Park, which is moving forward and going to Council in March. Marshall discussed an upcoming fundraiser for the skate park. Mottau stated that skate boarding has become a big sport everywhere and will become an Olympic Sport in 2020. Several communities are spending a lot of money on good quality skate parks.

The Cemetery was another item brought up by Abrahamsen, who is all about making it a safer, more secure place. A grant opportunity is coming up to put in a gate at the entrance of the Cemetery for more security.

C. Goals for 2019 - PROS Plan Update, Sub-Area Planning and Additional Items

David Dewey was introduced to the group. He is the newest Parks Commission member.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan update - The Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan is mandated to be completed every 6 years as directed by the RCO office. This PROS plan looks at existing inventory and future plans. The process to complete the plan takes approximately 15 months to 2 years and this next update will be quite substantial compared to others done in the past in Camas. Acheson stated that a Planning Advisory Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee will help to create the plan.

Mottau stated that the city needs to analyze community wants and needs. He added that separating these two categories out will help prioritize projects in the plan. Acheson stated that this plan is relied on heavily by the city, it will allow the city to be eligible for grants for projects.

Sub-Area Planning - Curtis stated that two sub-Area planning options that the city currently have are in Downtown Camas and north of Lacamas Lake. The city can only take on one area at this time. The Downtown vision is based on how to expand the main street and downtown area, this would include the C.B.C. site. Curtis spoke about the small business revolution competition in downtown Camas and the positive energy being focused on that area. He gave a brief economic history of downtown and stated that small businesses are currently facing some challenges. Curtis hopes that the theme for downtown could eventually become Business, Recreation and the Arts.

Discussions ensued on sub-area plans in downtown and the north shore. Acheson stated that regardless of the sub-area plan chosen by the city, the Legacy Lands project will still proceed no matter what. Mottau spoke about the important role of the Parks Commission members and stated that having more participation from the Parks Commission is crucial for these projects. Lorenz

stated that this is good information and it provides a lot of opportunity. Mottau stated that it's a lot to keep track of and people need to step up and be more involved. Small cities have limited staff that cannot partake in all of the committees and meetings related to these projects. Curtis recommended that the Parks Commission have more representation on these committees.

Additional items: Heritage Park - Acheson stated that he contacted the Department of Fish and Wildlife about the parking lot on the north shore at the boat launch. The parking lot lease has expired and the boat launch will no longer be maintained. He added that the parking issue is a 6-week issue during the summer and he is still working on resolving it. Safety has improved immensely with the addition of the parking lot monitor during the summer months.

D. Wrap Up and Next Steps - Review Assignments and Annual Report

The Parks Commissions annual report was reviewed. Ongoing programs include the parks advocate program, the annual retreat, the Ivy League program, Parks & Recreation Growth Assessment, the Downtown Sub-Area plan, the Legacy Lands Sub-Area plan, the Community/Aquatics facility, annual Clark County all parks meeting.

Abrahamsen spoke about posting "no smoking signs" in parks and Acheson is in the process of ordering the signs.

The annual Park assignments were revisited and some changes were made to the list.

V. PROJECT UPDATES

VI. OTHER ITEMS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.