



City Parks Advisory Board – Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2016 – 4:00 P.M.
520 E. Cascade Avenue, P.O. Box 39, Sisters, OR 97759

City Parks Advisory Board Attendees:

Chairman: Liam Hughes
Board Members: Peggy Houge, Greg Johnson, Kris Rerat
Council Representative: Nancy Connolly
Absent: Dixie Eckford, Robin Holm
Staff: Patrick Davenport, Paul Bertagna
Visitors: Sue Stafford, Paul Bennett
Recording Secretary: Carol Jenkins

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Hughes called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
Board Chair Hughes introduced Kris Rerat and welcomed her to the City Parks Advisory Board.

II. VISITOR COMMUNICATION

Paul Bennett – Rolling Horse Meadow Subdivision
159 N. Rope St.
Sisters, OR 97759

Mr. Bennett gave a little history on the Rolling Horse Meadow Subdivision saying that the children in that area would go over to the river which served as their park. He said that as those houses have grown in that area, the idea there was to have a trail along one side of that river much like the Metolius so that there would be public access, and not end up with a situation like Buck Run where people own property to the middle of the river basically making it inaccessible to the public. He said that it was to be a neighborhood river, but as it developed that is not the case. It has mainly become owned by people that have houses along the river. It is a public park, but there is no access at the one end of the river near the bridge. He gave a visual of the map for the access point down by the river to the group that was made by the City. He talked about measurements and accessibility that had been discussed during a tour they had, but he's not sure that anything has been done since then. He stated that there would have to be a path built down to the river, but they can't damage the banks, but every house on the river has broken through the bank to make a path down to the river – that's their river and they want access to it. He stated that he would like to pursue a clarity about this one access point that is shown on the map. If the City doesn't want to do anything – sell it to one of the property owners and use that money towards some other kind of infrastructure in that area.

Mr. Bennett wanted to mention Fir Street Park again about naming it “Songbird Stage”. He said that he did the bird tree that is on that stage. His name is not on there because he wanted to add a little tag that said “Songbird” something by Paul Bennett. He said that he wanted to come together with something to give that stage a name. It has a more poetic title to it than Fir Street Park, etc. It would be a clear identity as to what stage and the name behind it.

Board Member Johnson asked staff if there have been any measurements taken on this.

Director Bertagna stated that in looking at it, it was decided at that time to not pursue that access point as a developable access point mostly due to the large boulders and getting down to the river there. The City does not own the property, but there is an easement – that is the big difference. The easement is to the public, but we do not own the dirt underneath it. If we were to vacate the easement, it is still their property. He said that the City did an educational outreach, put up maps and flyer boxes on the access points down on Creekside Drive and on Timber Creek while maintaining them on a regular basis. The group felt at that time that two accesses were sufficient.

Mr. Bennett asked if anyone in the group tried to walk from those access points down to the bridge because it’s hard to get down there from either of those access points. People would have to cross the river three times to get down to the bridge. He said that his point is that the public can’t get to the other end of where a lot of the children at that end were playing up until the last house going in there. He stated that it never became a very clear issue and feels like it was more for Timber Creeks benefit than for the public because it still doesn’t solve the problem of getting down to the other end.

Director Bertagna stated that is one of the reasons for the maps that showed the layout of the private properties and the parklands. He stated that here is a little strip of City owned property from the bridge due to needing the room to construct.

Board Chair Hughes stated that this has been a contentious issue and they have heard from people on both sides of this here at the meetings, and neighbors feeling that the people are damaging the creek and not being responsible as well as people that want access to this public park that is zoned right down the middle of the creek and x-amount of feet from either side. As far as that specific access point – it is an access point but it is not a good one. There is no clear path down to the river and it is dangerous the way it is right now. He asked what the issues are that are being faced and what about putting a sign up saying “This is the creek access – feel free to access the creek here”. Is that a liability if people fall over those boulders and is there an obligation to improve it, etc.?

Director Davenport stated that there is some risk with it, but inherently what comes with accessing natural environment – there is only so much risk of what you are responsible for. If being invited there, they need to be warned appropriately, and to do the best with what you’ve got to work with.

Board Chair Hughes stated that as far as the creek is concerned and they are pretty sure that a lot of the neighbors have gone in and built a trail, but that is something that is not allowed because of the protected floor plains, etc.

Director Davenport stated that those improvements have to be blessed by FEMA and built appropriately. Staff always like to work with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, they are great to work with, and just letting this group know that we need to improve this access, and simply asking them what would they recommend. The access is there and how can we improve it appropriately because they are the best group to work with. There are certain risks, but there needs to be an appropriate accesses.

Board Chair Hughes stated that he sees some value in having multiple accesses along the creek, and if the housing development continues the way it has – is there something that we could come up with for the next meeting - a list of whether this would be feasible to improve this access.

A brief discussion took place regarding the City Limits, property owners and public parkland, etc.

Director Bertagna stated that the pedestrian path just north of the bridge is on public property so there would be a line of site compared to the bridge to see how wide that is. He stated that he would check with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and see if they have any suggestions for that corner.

Director Davenport asked *Director Bertagna* at the next meeting, if they could que up a discussion item to get a recommendation from the Parks Board on a name for that stage, and forward to the City Council on any associated policies on September 7, 2016.

Board Chair Hughes asked *Director Bertagna* with regards to the stage project, if he had any background on that. He said that he understands that was a joint project with the Kiwanis, and Earthwood Homes, etc.

Director Bertagna stated that is was an Eagle Scout project done in coordination with the Kiwanis with the assistance of Earthwood Homes. Kathy Deggendorfer donated the tile art that is on the front of the stage, and Paul Bennett did the songbird metal sculpture. There is a plaque there denoting this information on the stage on the west side.

A discussion was held on the placement of this sign for the stage and where it would go. The different bands that come where they will hang their band logos, or their non-profit banner and there is a tack board up there just for that. The sign would have to go above that area.

Director Bertagna stated that Mr. Bennett would like some recognition. He stated that Fir Street Park was a very public process that the Parks Board went through to come up with that name that included community input.

Board Chair Hughes asked the Board if they saw any objections in naming the stage and would there be any reason that anybody be upset by that.

Board Member Houge asked the Board if they remembered that they were going to come up with some rules on naming specifically parks and not sure what happened with that.

Board Chair Hughes stated that there was a policy written and copied from the City of Wilsonville.

The big issue was that you couldn't be living and have a park named after you. There wasn't a theme or anything like that, but it would be a good idea to put that as an agenda item for next month.

Director Davenport stated that he would put that as an agenda item for September and that would be a good time to get a policy in order and present it to the City Council for their feedback.

Board Member Magaret stated that he felt there were a lot of people involved in this process of building the stage, and what about all the other people that helped out and we'd be leaving them out by naming it Songbird Stage.

Board Chair Hughes stated that is a valid point and maybe it would help to have someone reach out to Paul Bennett, Kris Calvin with Earthwood Homes, and the Kiwanis to see if this is in anyway troubling to them. Also, Rory Peterson that was a former member of the Parks Board and maybe, the Board could invite him back and talk about this, or have him write a letter, etc. He stated that he could ask the Kiwanis that question since he is a member.

Director Davenport introduced the Planning Intern, Tanner Mackala to the Board and talked about what Tanner's responsibilities will be to help out the Planning Department during his internship with the City.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
None

IV. STAFF UPDATES

Improvements / Maintenance Updates: Barclay Park, Village Green Park, Clemens Park, Fir Street Park, Creekside Park / Campground.

Director Bertagna stated that all the parks are on a regular maintenance schedule for mowing.

- *Barclay Park* – Nothing to report.
- *Cliff Clemens Park* – The new restroom building arrived on Friday, July 29, 2016. Plumbing and electrical hook-ups and other site work (sidewalks, etc.) will start the week of August, 1, 2016.
- *Creekside Campground* – Nothing to report.
- *East Portal* – Nothing to report.
- *Fir Street Park* – Nothing to report.
- *Village Green Park* – The Public Works Crew installed a new and unique drinking fountain near the new restroom/shower building. It includes a spigot at the bottom (for dogs).

V. OTHER BUSINESS: From SPRD and Board Members.

Board Chair Hughes stated that from the kids appreciation day at the park and something to consider when putting in new restrooms, and along with having the pros and cons for having the single stall style versus the men's and women's. He gave a few examples of different experiences

he's heard of going in and coming out of these restrooms. He said that the single stall has some great benefits, but in public parks it can be an issue.

Director Bertagna stated that they have run into that a little bit, but not a lot. There are no smoking signs on every door. The whole public restroom thing is going to be an interesting deal as rolling down the civil rights hallway. He said that they have gotten feedback from women that really like the single staff because they feel comfortable and safe, so there are a lot of benefits, but it does allow people to do laundry, wash the dog, to whatever, etc.

Director Bertagna addressed the Village Green restrooms stating that they are getting hit really hard and harder than any of the restrooms ever have. The showers are being cleaned 2-3-4 times a day. With the showers, the original intention was for tourists, riding their bikes, take a shower and walk into town and have dinner. He stated that we are the people's permanent shower facility now for their everyday use. The showers came with an original setup and basically, a quarter a minute is how it is set up, and if going up to \$1.25 or \$1.50 – it would work out to be 7-8 minutes. He said that they backed the minutes per quarter off so now it is a quarter for 30 seconds which is pretty reasonable. He gave examples of the different stickers for the restrooms, etc. He stated that he's been tracking what it costs to maintain it, and they are re-cooping about half of the cost of what it takes the City to maintain it – not paying for hot water, not paying for electricity, etc. He said that there are a lot of things to consider and they need to work through.

Director Bertagna addressed the Folk Festival and asked the Board if they wanted to see lines out there in the morning and potentially all day long waiting for showers when there is a festival going on. There will be food vendors, acts, bands on the stage, people trying to get into the restrooms, and do you want that to co-mingle. He stated that he sees issues with it and his recommendation would be to shut the showers down. He said to maybe shut the showers down at 9:00 am so if they want to get in there early they can.

Board Member Johnson stated that he feels that the original intent should be looked at real carefully and then limiting those hours sounds reasonable.

Board Member Houge asked what the City Council is doing about the homelessness in Sisters which is a huge problem. She said that there is the good and the bad with the showers because there has always been a huge population of them.

Director Bertagna stated that he talked with a gentleman yesterday – a really nice guy and very educated and hiking around Oregon – a transient. He said that the word is out and that Sisters is the friendliest community to transients in the State as far as laws, as far as facilities, as far as services, etc.

Board Chair Hughes stated that Sisters has a unique setup compared to most towns in that there is the National Forest that borders right to the edge, they can camp freely for up to two weeks, then, move a couple of miles which coincides with going to the other side of town and then, set up camp again. The showers are beneficial and it is a good facility to have. The Folk Festival – not sure what the answer is, but it seems counter-intuitive to shut down a facility when it's going to receive the highest use. There are a lot of people that will love having that shower and but see the logic that it may cause a problem.

Director Bertagna started that there will be staff on hand cleaning that weekend of the Folk Festival and will clean the restrooms multiple times a day, etc.

Board Member Magaret asked if the concern is that people will be lined up there to use the restrooms, and it will interfere with the entertainment by being close to the stages.

Director Bertagna stated that the food vendors are close and it seems like it could be a little awkward. He said that staff is meeting with the Folk Festival next week and will talk with them regarding this issue, but wanted to ask the Board their thoughts first. There are going to be a lot of people there and a lot going on – do we want shower lines or not.

Board Chair Hughes stated that if they voice an objection, then, that is a good reason to consider the closures. If they say that they want the facility open to our people, then, maybe consider that too. He stated that he didn't know which direction they would go because a lot of the people using it would be their festival goers – with renting the park, with it comes the restrooms. He stated that their input would be very important.

Board Chair Rerat asked how long this has been operational.

Director Bertagna stated that just since this winter so they haven't gone a full season with it, and they haven't seen it yet with a big event like this one. He said that for the Quilt Show, it rained the night they were going to have their event there so it was very quiet.

A discussion was held maybe using the maximum time on the showers because that would probably lower how much water was being used, etc. Also, the homeless people experiencing the showers as well as using the room to get warm being out of the elements, drying things, and taking advantage of being inside doing laundry, washing their dogs, etc.

Director Bertagna stated that they do have that option for the showers, and he will get back with the Board at the next meeting on the discussion items held with the Folk Festival.

Director Bertagna stated that for Fir Street Park that they looked at a pretty in-depth Shade Sail structure that the Board as a group did not like. There is still a problem with the sun beating down on the musicians who are on the stage. He showed an example of a single shade and where it would be strategically located for the event and then, it is taken down after the event. He said that it is a problem and would be nice to have something like this to help during the festivals when it is really hot. He said that they would anchor it off of the timber frame, down to the restroom roof which is concrete, and then, put a sleeve in the ground to put in a metal post.

A discussion took place regarding the anchoring and materials of the Shade Sail and keeping it within the Sisters 1880's Western Theme and the importance of keeping it preserved.

Director Bertagna stated that his Public Works crew came up with a genius way to do a very cost effective drinking fountain. It was less than \$100 in parts.

Director Davenport stated that he and Director Bertagna met with Judy Trego at the Chamber and are working with Dennis Schmidling, our resident arts expert, to get a pilot project for the Kiosk at Barclay Park. Mr. Schmidling had volunteered to come up with a design that staff would run by the Board and Council. He has been very busy at work and with some other personal challenges so he has said multiple times that he owes us this design. Ms. Trego has a program to work the business directory so when that is all together, it will be queued up and passed through the Board. It's still on the radar to make that happen, get the Barclay's on board and get their input since it was named after them.

Councilor Connolly asked if it was a \$10,000 or 15,000 grant that the Chamber received for that.

Director Davenport stated that they did get the grant and they have a little bit of time to come up with a design, but not exactly sure of the timing of that grant.

Director Bertagna stated that on the Creekside Campground – it is incredibly busy and they are sold out. They are averaging 5-6 days a week and are at maximum capacity. They are still working on signage and those types of things to keep the motorhomes from going past the park. We have ordered a drop down sign that will be put at Jefferson saying that the Campground is full, etc. that way they can jump back on the highway versus going down and seeing the campground sign while down into the neighborhood.

Director Bertagna started that at Creekside Park they had back to back festivals on back to back weekends. There has been a lot of conversation on what it takes to bring a park back on back to back festivals.

Councilor Connolly stated that at the Council meeting last Thursday at the end of the meeting under Other Business – there was a discussion that since there was another public bathroom coming on-line at Cliff Clemens Park – if the Board felt that there was a need to have a policy that parks are not rented out on back to back weekends. There are three (3) that could be rotated events through for a two (2) week recovery between events. The sign-ups for reserving the parks is January 1st, but not sure it can be implemented that quickly, but something to talk about and get back to the Council.

Director Davenport stated that the City Council adopted the City Parks Master Plan update and with it came the revision to the Park SDC fees. It went from \$613 to \$1193 per residential unit also to include new lodging units. He said that hard copies are available if anyone in the group would like one. He stated that the City got the grant for the restroom at Creekside and the formal paperwork will come in about a month, and then getting into the details of building permits, and working with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council for what to do with the riparian enhancement. The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council is going to find some more funds on their side to help leverage our contribution.

Director Bertagna stated that the agreement has to go to the Council for their approval, and with that, provide a funding recommendation to Council for our half of the grant. He stated that if all of the agreements get signed, the money and authorization from Council, he would like to order the restroom in November and have it installed online by April 1st.

Director Davenport stated they are still waiting on the notice for the grant on the Village Green play structure. It is supposed to be coming next week and will let the Board know once that happens. He said that his contact at OPRD says that the City is not excluded because of getting the larger grant and there is a chance we can get that one too. He said that on the Village Green it was 150k and our part of the grant would be 75k at the most. The Creekside Campground was a 300k with a 150k match. Cliff Clemens was budgeted, but will have to come back with a supplemental budget on the others.

Interim City Manager Rick Allen introduced himself to the Board and said he was excited to be working with everyone.

Director Davenport stated that they are looking for volunteer from the Parks Board to work on the Transportation System Plan (TSP) update to get public input, but the focus of the TSP update is over next to the biggest park and that has to do with the land that OPRD owns, etc. It will be kicking off pretty soon and he would like to have someone from this group to help out. It will be about three (3) meetings and will need full attention and expertise.

A brief discussion was held on the Forest Service Land for the 66 acres – shared the Ordinance that approved the Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment, the East Portal being designated on the Comprehensive Plan as Open Space and zoned Open Space, and the full intent of the East Portal is Open Space as of today.

Interim City Manager Allen stated that when looking at the reality of a project that size – a developer may ask for some zone changes and other things. He said that it probably wouldn't be built out for 5 or even 10 years and will take a very sophisticated developer with deep pockets because by the time it is purchased, hold on to it, do the master planning and build the initial infrastructure because someone has to push that first road in, put in the sewer and water and branch it to the folks. It is a great opportunity and going to have a big impact on Sisters, but it is going to take the right developer. He said there are a lot of unknowns and what the Forest Service is trying to sell it for.

Board Member Johnson stated that they wanted 12 million and that was to cover their construction costs.

Director Davenport stated that they want to market 66 acres and purchasing Federal land is not that easy and that is a challenge someone will have.

Interim City Manager Allen stated that the market will pay them what it will be worth for a developer to develop it and make a profit. It has zero to do with the money as the seller. This has been going on for a while and once they decide what they want to do with it, everyone will be notified, etc.

Director Davenport stated that Peggy Houge and David Magaret terms are expired and that these need to be advertised for two appointments. There is one (1) in-city and one (1) out-of-city and they will need to fill out the applications, etc.

VI. ADJOURN

Board Chair Hughes adjourned the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Jenkins, Recording Secretary