



City Parks Advisory Board
October 20, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.
520 E. Cascade Avenue, P.O. Box 39, Sisters, OR 97759

City Parks Advisory Board Attendees:

Board Chairman: Liam Hughes
Board Members: Peggy Houge, Greg Johnson, David Magaret
Councilor: Nancy Connolly
Absent: Dixie Eckford, Robin Holm, Rory Peterson
Staff: CDD Director, Patrick Davenport; Associate Planner, Darcy Reed;
PW Director, Paul Bertagna; City Engineer, Erik Huffman;
Public Works Coordinator, Nicole Montalvo
Recording Secretary: Carol Jenkins

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chairman Hughes called the special meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Board Chairman Hughes stated that this will be a roundtable format tonight to give everyone a chance to talk/collaborate, and try to come up with solutions that are more acceptable to everybody. He stated that they will look at the pros and cons for each, and see if they can come up with some consensus that way.

A recording of this special meeting is available on the City of Sisters website and available upon request.

II. VISITOR COMMUNICATION

Members of the audience that came forward to speak are as follows:

Tate Metcalf – Sisters Athletic Club
1001 Desperado
Sisters, OR 97759

Mr. Metcalf came forward and addressed the inside and outside of the Campground, traffic issues, keeping the proposal “as is” – two entrances and two exits, intersection operation analysis/study, updating the City website with updated directions, signage, moving the Five Pine signage, widening of the road, turning radius, fiber optics, boulders, possible ADA walking bridge, and new access/street through the park into the Campground, sidewalks, speed limits and connecting points, one-way option in working with the Fire Department, and a letter from Kent Neff.

Lisa Clausen
665 E. Coyote Springs Rd.
Sisters, OR 97759

Ms. Clausen came forward and addressed the petition that was circulated at this time. She stated that the signage has made a huge difference. She discussed the number of RV's in the park, mitigation that has taken place has improved the situation in a significant fashion, and it needs to be validated by the people who live there and that signed the petition.

Visitor – did not give his name, but agrees with Ms. Clausen. He stated that he only saw 3-4 RV's come down the street all summer long. He said that the right turn only is working and working well.

Michael Robillard
692 E. Tyler Ave.
Sisters, OR 97759

Mr. Robillard came forward and stated that he is in support of not changing the traffic flow, the petition not actually addressing the traffic and traffic flow, signage, screening, turning radius, and familiarity of visitors to the park if traffic changes are made to the Campground, etc.

Pat Thompson
506 N. Pine St.
Sisters, OR 97759

Mr. Thompson came forward and addressed the additional costs in signage, Capital Improvements being proposed based on traffic flow changes, giving people options in two (2) different sites versus going one-way, and too many negatives in changing the traffic flow going forward.

Peter Storton
625 N. Arrowleaf Trail, Ste. 104
Sisters, OR 97759

Mr. Storton came forward and stated that he is in agreement with Mr. Thompson.

Councilor Connolly came forward and stated that the Bakers, Bryans, and Yacovella's are all out of town. She stated that they have said that they have tried and tried, it's not that they have given up and not wanting to sit down with the Board, but it didn't work out for this meeting.

Board Member Johnson said that he appreciates the collaborative and mitigation efforts, ingress and egress through the weigh station as a temporary model, neighbors on the west side being in support of the changes made, getting input from both sides, conclusion of the Master Plan review, possibility of a sub-committee and working with ODOT, and having some aggressive changes before opening the park.

A discussion took place regarding the objection of putting a stop light at the Five Pine Campus at this time. Also, discussed were the turning radius, stacking room, power options, the water and sewer lines, fiber optics and the different challenges that could happen.

Bill Merrill
327 E. Tyee Dr.
Sisters, OR 97759

Mr. Merrill came forward and discussed the two options of entrances and exits. He discussed the directions to the Creekside Campground and them not being accurate. He asked to leave it the way it is now, but with the City website giving an option from coming in from the east and the west.

Bob Wright
888 S. Starry Skies Ct.
Sisters, OR 97759

Mr. Wright came forward and stated that he has seen a lot more RV's coming to the park over the last month. He gave examples of how the RV's maneuver in and out of the park, and his experience in driving an RV at this time.

Board Chairman Hughes came forward and addressed the exits through Creekside Park, signage of the initial petition regarding the one-way traffic flow, and the possibility of contacting these individuals to see where they stand now.

A discussion took place regarding the original petition and what steps should be taken to see how the public feel now regarding the issues with the park, re-interview the 104 petitioners by using flyers, going door-to-door and try and get a consensus at this time.

City Engineer, Erik Huffman came forward and addressed his report dated October 16, 2015 regarding the 'Observed Challenges and Potential Options for the Creekside Campground Entrance' at this time. A copy of this report is available upon request.

A discussion took place regarding the traffic changes, traffic study, entrances and exits, staging areas, the pros and cons, neighboring concerns for traffic movements, stacking of RV's, safety and traffic issues, turning lanes, combining the entrance and exit on Locust St. and letting Buckaroo stay the same, etc.

Doug Roberts
16052 Foothill Lane
Sisters, OR 97759

Mr. Roberts came forward and addressed the comment of "no opposition" and he believes that there are numerous members from the 4th Sisters Condos that have testified and written letters over the past year. He stated that he believes that it is incorrect to say that there was 'no opposition'. He stated that it may have been limited.

Board Chairman Hughes stated that he will rephrase that to say 'minimal' opposition. He stated that there were multiple meetings where it was brought up that a number of the Board members were

playing devil's advocate and saying what about the folks on the other side. The comment was made by the members of the audience that if they cared they would be here. There was a period of time where if hearing enough people petitioning and no one petitioning back – it becomes a very strong argument at some point.

A discussion took place regarding the entrances and exits and signage being very helpful with RV movement in the park.

Board Chairman Hughes asked the Board if they wanted to move forward with the pros and cons of each scenario, but said he is also interested in pursuing the concept of 'does the initial petition represent the neighborhoods current views' and have things been changed by the signage that has been done, are the vegetative buffers proposed going in soon, and does that address more of the neighbor's concerns, or are there still more concerns out there.

Board Chairman Hughes stated that he drew up a list of questions to put down on the survey and would type them up and put it into a useable form if that is helpful to staff. He stated that he would like to get the Boards approval before moving forward. He gave a list of questions to the Board at this time. The results of the survey are available upon request.

Councilor Connolly came forward and gave the Board statistics on the camping spaces from 1990 to current. She stated that the idea that the Campground was there when the people bought in was true, but it has become a different beast and an increase in spaces that have added to the problem.

Board Chairman Hughes stated that has been a part of the discussion over the last 12 months. He stated that they have heard various sides of it and gave examples at this time. He stated that he feels they are on a new path now, along with the idea of re-questioning the petitioners.

Board Member Houge asked about the parking spots by the Pump House on Locust St. that are currently at an angle and makes it very difficult to turn left. She asked if they could be removed or moved into two (2) parallel parking spots.

Director Bertagna did some measurements and stated that they could look at the possibility of removing a couple of those parking spots, but it is heavily used for parking at that site. He stated that there may be the possibility of three (3) parallel parking spots.

Board Chairman Hughes stated that the Board will put their thoughts together and come up with something to present at the next meeting on November 4th 2015, and go over the pros and cons at that time. He told the members of the audience/public that if they had anything to submit to the Board to please do so, and they will add them to the list.

Board Chairman Hughes asked if they had the Boards approval to move forward with following up with the neighbors to see where they stand based on the survey questions that were presented.

Director Davenport stated that he wanted the Board to keep in the back of their minds that this will set back the approval of the Master Plan which the access is a major element and time is of the essence.

Board Chairman Hughes stated that it is his hope to turn this around and do something before the next meeting. He stated that he will meet this staff tomorrow and get this drafted and distributed.

A discussion took place regarding the process for the survey, questions about the initial petition, and volunteers that will take the survey around to the neighbors, etc. at this time.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None at this time.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS / UPDATES (continued to November 4, 2015)

a. Creekside Park Campground

1. Review additional information related to entrance / exit revisions
2. Review

V. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business at this time.

VI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Jenkins, Recording Secretary