



Parks & Recreation Commission  
7:00 P.M.  
January 28, 2009

**CALL TO ORDER:** Brent Erickson, Chair

Present: Eunice Abrahamsen, Walt Eby, Scott Jonason, Steve Lorenz and Mark Nickerson

Absent: Juli Bradley and Melissa Smith

Staff Present: Jerry Acheson, Eric Levison and Susan Newlove

Public: Cheri Martin and Nelson Holmberg

A motion was made by Jonason, seconded by Lorenz, and carried unanimously that minutes of the general meeting of December 10, 2008, be approved as written.

**PARKS FOUNDATION PRESENTATION**

The Executive Director of the Parks Foundation, Cheri Martin, introduced herself, and board member and Chair of the Marketing Committee, Nelson Holmberg. Martin stated that they were here to report to the commission on the Strategic planning process of the Foundation. She added that they are the Parks Foundation for all of Clark County.

Holmberg stated that the strategic process is a 6-month process and the primary goal of the Foundation is to raise funds for parks, trails and recreation programs across Clark County. He stated that cities and counties with well-funded, vibrant parks tend to be more livable and healthier communities.

Martin stated that members, donors, granting organizations and community partners all contribute to the Foundation. The Foundation works with the cities of Clark County and the purpose of their presentation is to ensure that the City of Camas knows the Foundation is here to help. She noted that the Foundation's success is dependent upon many issues, including aligning values with the cities of Clark county, encouraging healthy communities, implementing a grant process open to cities to apply, ethical gift acceptance policies, creative partnerships, responsibility to recipients of grants and donor accountability.

Holmberg stated that anyone is eligible to support the Foundation through personal memberships. In response to Levison's question regarding the funding gap for 2008 and 2009, Martin answered that both operations and maintenance are involved. In response to Nickerson's questions regarding supervision of volunteers, Martin stated that the

Foundation works directly with the City and a volunteer base would have to be organized through the Parks Department.

### **PARKS AND CEMETERY OPERATIONS AND PLANNING**

Levison began the discussion by explaining miscellaneous items. He stated that the Finance Director, Joan Durgin, has produced a basic inflation adjustment for a three percent increase in fees at the cemetery. A request has been made to have a sun dial donated to the Cemetery. The School District provided portables to the City and Levison suggested placing a single-wide trailer at the cemetery in place of the monthly rental. Levison noted that in the long run, it would save the City money.

A number of tree issues along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Everett Street, Louis Bloch Park and Benton Park have developed from the recent storms. Eby stated that some trimming needs to be done at the south side of the cemetery and Levison said that it is in the process of being completed. The Commission gave Levison permission to pursue a citizen request regarding plot space at the Cemetery.

Levison presented the Master Plan for the Cemetery. Agenda items included budget, public participation, time line, the path forward and issues to address. Issues to address included:

- Remaining property layout
- Burial options and trends
- Current inventory
- Security/hours of operation
- Funding/revenue projections
- Use projections
- Pet cemetery
- Record keeping/mapping
- Operation/maintenance level of service
- Volunteer policies/projects, donation policies
- Marketing
- Ordinance updates
- Time line: to be completed by the end of 2009

Abrahamsen stated that she is working with Virginia Warren to discover the history of the cemetery and Warren has suggested an activity called “Discover Your Cemetery” during Camas Days. Levison stated that the development of history can tie well into marketing strategies. Erickson suggested reaching out to the community to form a committee and Abrahamsen stated that she has started an informal group called the “Friends of the Cemetery”. In regards to Nickerson’s concern regarding outsourcing to another committee, Acheson suggested forming a sub-committee of the Parks Commission.

Eby suggested segmenting the cemetery into 2 phases, which Levison commented would be a great idea. Erickson suggested that Levison consider working with State Cemetery

Board member Burt Duncan. Jonason suggested outsourcing through local funeral homes and Levison agreed that outsourcing is something to consider.

The Commission decided to have separate meetings for Cemetery issues outside of the Parks Board meetings.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

A motion was made by Eby, seconded by Lorenz, and carried unanimously to elect Brent Erickson as Chairmen of the board for 2009.

A motion was made by Lorenz, seconded by Jonason, and carried unanimously to elect Mark Nickerson as Vice President to the Chair for 2009.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

**Camas Community Center:** The parking lot bumpers have been installed.

**Benton Park:** A bid has been awarded.

**Moose Lodge Trail:** A trail segment has been completed from Heritage Park to Lake Road.

**Prune Hill Sports Park:** The bathroom is approximately 25% completed.

**Boat Rental Concept:** This will be presented at a Council workshop on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Verizon:** Is interested in the Prune Hill Sports Park location again and will give a presentation to the Commission at the February meeting.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

**Community Center:** Eby stated that last summer the process of developing a committee was started to establish a fundraising approach. Everything is currently on hold. It is still in development, although at a slower pace.

**Cemetery brochures:** Abrahamsen stated that the publication at the cemetery has been corrected.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.