



Parks & Recreation Commission  
7:00 P.M.  
May 26, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: Brent Erickson, Chair

Present: Eunice Abrahamsen, Juli Bradley, Walt Eby and Mark Nickerson

Excused: Scott Jonason, Steve Lorenz and Melissa Smith

Staff Present: Jerry Acheson, Eric Levison and Susan Newlove

Public: Sherman Davis, Mark Hiney, Karen Howard, Corey Howard,  
Simon Stepanyan

A motion was made by Eby, seconded by Bradley, and carried that minutes of the general meeting of April 28, 2010, be approved as written.

**OFF-LEASH AREA**

Brent Erickson introduced Mark Hiney, Construction Manager and Board Member of the organization, Dogpaw. Abrahamsen asked whether the other dog parks are within residential neighborhoods and Hiney stated that except for Ross Park, all the parks have homes around them. Abrahamsen noted that there is a petition circulating with quite a few names on it opposing the potential off-leash area.

Erickson stated that the Board has been discussing a Dog Park plan for about seven years. He added that Dogpaw came to the City two years ago and offered to provide labor and material, which would make this a win/win situation for the community as a whole, especially for those residents who do not have large yards. Abrahamsen stated that she is in favor of Dogpaw, but believes that the opinions of those opposed to the Dog Park are very strong. Hiney stated that many of the complaints he has received note the already close proximity of the Dog Park in Washougal. He added that he does not consider the park in Washougal a permanent park because it is a lease agreement between the City of Washougal and a private land-owner.

Erickson opened up the meeting for public comment.

Sherman Davis at 2909 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue stated that he lives across from Goot park and opposes the potential off-leash area location because of what they experience daily with people letting their dogs run off-leash. Hiney responded that the off-leash park would provide a fenced-in, contained area. Davis suggested building the park if Washougal's shuts down.

Karen and Corey Howard at 2868 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue stated that there are many extra cars on the weekend due to youth sports activities and suggested an additional access to remedy the parking situation. Corey Howard stated that a majority of homes in the neighborhood have large lots and suggested locating the park in a neighborhood with homes that do not have large lots. Karen Howard stated that she's concerned about extra traffic and more dogs in the area around children.

Simon Stepanyan at 2854 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. stated that several times a week his children are approached by unknown dogs that are off-leash and this frightens the children. Hiney suggested calling animal control officers to respond to off-leash dogs.

Nickerson asked if there are any existing neighborhood issues with other Dog Parks and Hiney stated that all the feedback has been positive and membership continues to increase. Hiney added that often the Dog Parks are used more than other parks in the cities. Nickerson questioned whether a contained area might help with current concerns and Hiney replied that it should help with the off-leash concerns. Bradley said she agrees with the parking issues and Erickson stated that there are only two ways to access the park and nothing can be done about that at this time. Eby commented that this is the first time someone has voiced opposition to the Dog Park and added that the location needs to be further discussed. He stated his appreciation for the public comments.

Erickson stated that additional signage will be looked into and Animal Control contacted.

#### **GARDEN AREA NAMES FOR THE CEMETERY**

Abrahamsen commented on the list of suggested names for the new areas in the Cemetery and asked the Board to vote for three names. The Board voted for Devotion, Inspiration and Serenity.

#### **CEMETERY VOLUNTEER UPDATE**

Levison stated that the City is preparing for Memorial Day and there are volunteers from the Assembly of God Church and Camas United Methodist Church helping out that day. He added that the picnic tables have been painted. The Board read and approved the Volunteer Thank-You Letter.

#### **LACAMAS SHORES RESIDENT REQUEST FOR SIGNS ON HERITAGE TRAIL AT BLIND SPOTS**

Levison explained that the City received a call from a resident who suggested signs be posted at the blind spots along the trail to prevent injury and added that the signs will be created in-house. Bradley stated that she would like to see the signs before they are posted.

#### **UPDATE ON MT. BIKE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS**

Levison stated that there has been an interest shown in more trails being developed. Acheson stated knowledge of another group with a similar interest and Levison suggested that they all collaborate together on the project.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

**Heritage Boat Launch** – Levison suggested putting a curb when the water is low to prevent backing off the boat ramp. Levison will also look into a long term solution.

**Goot Park** – Eby questioned the tree in the middle of the sidewalk right in front of the sign at Goot Park. Levison explained the reason is because of stormwater treatment management and he added that he will discuss it with the Engineers.

**Lacamas Little League** – Acheson stated that Lacamas Little League would like to make improvements to the restroom facilities at Forrest Home Park.

A motion was made by Erickson, seconded by Bradley, and carried to allow Lacamas Little League to make improvements to the restroom facility at Forrest Home Park after they fulfill the obligation of installing the playground structure that was supposed to be installed when lights were installed a few years ago.

**Goot Park** – The Dedication is Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 p.m. with Walt Eby as Master of Ceremonies.

**Community Center Project** – The project has started.

**Washougal River Greenway trail signage** – Acheson displayed a sample sign to the Board and stated that the City would like to follow the same concept and layout as Clark County.

**Washougal River Greenway Trail** – The trail is near completion and the Dedication Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 p.m.

**Grants** - The City applied for two Conservation Futures grants and received preliminary committee approval for a \$380,000 grant for the purchase of Fallen Leaf Park and a \$30,000 grant for the purchase of land along the Washougal River.

**Lacamas Creek Trailhead** – Levison explained that the City wants to re-align the driveway to take advantage of the space for additional parking and a ramp to access the park. Levison added that he will start the process of preliminary design and noted that this will also provide additional parking access for the Washougal River trail.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

**Camas Cemetery** – Abrahamsen stated that she will be at the Cemetery for Memorial Day weekend helping out and invited the Commissioners to come out.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

