



Parks & Recreation Commission
7:00 P.M.
October 24, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: David Gast, presided

Present: Juli Bradley, Walt Eby, Scott Jonason, Steve Lorenz and
Melissa Smith

Excused: Brent Erickson

Absent: Mark Nickerson

Staff Present: Kathi Hansen, Eric Levison, Susan Newlove and Ronda Syverson

A motion was made by Bradley, seconded by Jonason, and carried that minutes of the general meeting on September 26th, 2007, be approved as written. Levison announced that this is Ronda Syverson's last board meeting and her replacement will be Susan Newlove, who currently works for the Parks and Recreation Department. Levison mentioned that he can tell from the reactions of the board members, that Syverson will be missed. The Parks and Recreation Commission thank Syverson for all her years of hard work.

PROPOSED 2008 BUDGET:

Gast asked Levison for an update on the proposed 2008 budget. Levison stated that the budget has not gone to Council yet and that there is an additional sheet in their packets that includes the GMA projects in the plan. Levison mentioned that Acheson has requested for a motion tonight to approve or deny to move on with a recommendation to Council for the Parks Budget. The recommendation will then go to Council as part of the budget package in which they look at it as a whole. They will then go through a public hearing on November 5th and vote sometime after that to approve, modify or reject the budget.

In response to Gast's question, Levison explained that the GMA project sheet lists the capital projects that didn't show up in the maintenance budget but are scheduled to be done.

Parks/Open space includes:

- **Ostenson Canyon:** design
- **Open Space General:** placeholder for expenditures to buy open spaces that become available
- **Trails General:** fill in if opportunity arises

- **Grass Valley Park:** parking expansions, pays for development and environmental studies. No construction, just the start process.

In response to Gast's question, Levison stated that Reet 1 is a source of funding. Parks Open Space is impact fees that people pay when they move into the city. Reet 1 and Reet 2 are two separate taxes in which funding comes from the sales of homes and a quarter of a percent of the proceeds goes to each one of these categories. Levison explained that these funds can be used for a variety of Capital projects in the City but cannot be used for maintenance issues.

Reet 1 includes:

- **Open Space Acq/Upper Lacamas:** Levison stated that this is the upper Lacamas Basin in conjunction with Clark County. Bradley asked whether the open space refers to upper Lacamas Creek or Lake. Levison stated that he believes it refers to upper Lacamas Basin and that it's some of the GP property around the lake.
- **Goot Park restroom replacement.**

Reet 2 includes:

- **Prune Hill Sports Park phase 3:** Levison explained that the ball fields were delayed this year and transferred to next year because it required a little more funding than was available. They are budgeted for the upcoming year.
- **Washougal River trail/bridge:** In response to Eby's question, Levison explained that this amount only includes the trail connection at both ends, which would eventually hook up with the proposed Community Center site and connect to 3rd Street. Levison stated that the bridge is a separate project from this.
- **Ash Creek detailed design/Klickitat phase 2:** Levison stated that this project is to potentially take dirt off of the Klickitat Park site that's elevated and use that to fill the deficit of material at the Ash Creek park site. Levison explained that we are providing for the funding opportunity for this but that a decision has not yet been made. The decision will come from the Commission and part of the neighborhood association before we decide to change or altar Klickitat.

Gast mentioned that the budget they looked at last month had a total of 1.4 million. He mentioned that the dollars here are significantly larger than the line items in maintenance due to capital expenses.

Eby asked if the alterations to Klickitat refer to dropping the upper clay field. Levison said that is the concept and this is an opportunity. Ash Creek Park has a requirement for imported materials to build its conceptual design. There have been neighborhood complaints about maintenance issues at Klickitat so the thought is to do both since material has to be bought anyway and they build at a lower elevation.

Gast asked what the issues were with Klickitat. Levison explained that from a maintenance standpoint, the upper berm have fairly steep slopes so the grass tears when trying to mow. The complaints made by neighbors have been that they thought it would be lower and that the fields aren't in very good shape.

In response to Bradley's question, Levison stated that they are going to put \$5000 back in the budget for trail maps.

A motion was made by Eby, seconded by Jonason, and carried that the proposed 2008 budget be accepted as presented and move onto City Council for adoption and approval.

POOL REPORT

Hansen reported on the 2007 summer season at the Camas Municipal Pool. She mentioned that the pool is heavily dependent upon weather conditions. While the weather wasn't great at all times, they did see an increase in pool attendance this year.

This year the season was extended until the day before Labor Day and patrons were happy with this change. Hansen mentioned that patrons have requested a longer season in the upcoming year, suggesting that the pool open again on Memorial Day. She did propose for an extended season for the dates of Saturday, June 7th - Sunday, August 31st, 2008. Early weekend dates and evening hours are dependent upon weather.

They brought back the 10-punch pass and it was very popular. They saw a huge increase in punch pass sales this year and continue to get requests for family passes. Hansen brought up the team pass, which was offered several years ago. She said that they had 20 teams take advantage of this pass because there were issues of acquiring funding for pool use. Gast questioned whether the team pass included lap swimming times. Hansen stated that team members could use the pass at any fitness classes or lap swim times and they definitely took advantage of it. She mentioned that it was mostly cross-country team members who utilized the pass and she suggests not having any restrictions on the pass to help increase participation. Hansen would like to keep the 10-punch pass, 20-punch pass and look into the family combo pass.

Both Sierra Levison and Cole Pavlina did a wonderful job as Assistant Managers. The pool had a lot of returning staff this year. Evening swimming lessons were added this year and really took off this summer so additional staff was needed to fill that need.

There is a continued need for early advertising for certified staff. Hansen has certification and can teach the Life Guarding class. She mentioned that Lacamas Swim & Sport has been extremely helpful in working with the City to get staff certified in time for the pool season.

Numbers increased in swim lessons from past years with the addition of more offerings in the morning and the expansion of the evening classes. They had 4 sessions with an average of 200 children per session and they continue to get positive feedback for the program. This year they had 20 sponsorships in the program thanks to a local grant.

They continue to get more private lessons. Someone requested looking into the Washington State Disability program and offering a program for individuals with disabilities. Hansen mentioned that she checked with the State Department and is still

researching the program with hopes of hiring staff for training. She wants to be able to offer this program since several of the children taking private lessons have some kind of disability and the pool is handicap accessible

The aqua aerobics class continued this summer. Parent tot classes went back and forth due to weather. They held CPR, WSI and lifeguard classes this summer. Swim camps were a success this year with a total of 50 enrollees between the 2 camps.

In response to Gast's question, Hansen stated that she opened up the WSI class to both the City instructors and instructors from other facilities. Lacamas Swim & Sport and Ballys both sent people over. In response to Gast's question, Hansen said that she held the class at our facility this year. Previous years they used private facilities because the pool was not open.

Hansen mentioned that the pool is at a point where they are going to max out as far as space for swimming lessons. In response to Gast's question, Hansen suggests that we decrease open swim time to increase space for swimming lessons. Gast commented that swim lessons seem to be one of the core things that our pool is good for.

People are pleased with the new registration process but continue to request online registrations. Eby mentioned that if there is any way to generate more interest to the pool that can be transferred to the new Community Center pool, it is a positive. Getting people in tempo with an easier way to use programs is the one to use at the new center. Hansen mentioned that she has seen on websites a 20% increase with the addition of online registrations. In response to Lorenz's question, Hansen explained that we currently have 2 completely different registration systems for the Community Center and the pool but if they could find something compatible with both, they would definitely look into it.

Hansen mentioned that she wants to hold a Water Safety/Awareness Event, which is part of a statewide event held on Saturday, July 12th. It is free to the public and no other local pools take part in the program. She's looking to partner with a fundraising organization for snacks and other items. Doesn't cut into our normal schedule and would be positive. She spoke with Fire Department to give a heads up and see what their thoughts are on it. She feels that it's a great idea because of all the water in area to have as much education as possible.

Kids Night Out was popular and they would like to offer 3 throughout the summer. They would like to find a sponsor for program expenses and increase time frame.

Pool maintenance: the pool shell was painted, the changing stalls in the women's room were taken out and replaced with curtains hung from the ceiling, curtains were also hung on the men's side, and benches and hooks were put in place in both the men's and women's locker rooms. Hansen mentioned that Tobin Reed was a wonderful help in getting these improvements in place. The heater was replaced and was great, didn't have any complaints. They continue to have problems with the mats tearing and the mats are

necessary for heat. The chlorine pump had problems in the middle of the summer and was replaced by an old pump from the Water Department.

Daily tickets went up this year. They had a more accurate system of keeping count. Gast mentioned that revenue comes from maximizing the facility use for lessons. Hansen mentioned that she increased advertising but people still say that they don't know that the pool is available. Online registration, accompanied by more classes would help get the word out to the community.

Eby questioned Hansen about the drastic drop in daily ticket sales between 2005-2006. Hansen stated that it was due to cool weather and also because Firstenburg opened there indoor pool. The punch pass helped out this year and Eby pointed out that it's because there's a commitment with them.

Eby mentioned National Night Out in August. Hansen stated that she would like to be involved in this. Eby suggested contacting UCAN to get the word out to families in the neighborhood and have National Night Out at the pool. Hansen stated that the weather wasn't good this year for swimming but she thinks it's a great idea.

Hansen mentioned that staff will report back in January with online registration.

CEMETARY UPDATES

Levison reported on the Camas Cemetery. He stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission have been given the honor of being the advisory board for the Camas Cemetery. Levison mentioned that the cemetery has been owned and operated by the city for the last eleven months and that things are going relatively well. The ordinance that has been generated for the cemetery is based on city-owned cemeteries in the state of Washington and the existing rules and regulations that were already in place at the Camas Cemetery. Currently, there are two issues that come to the forefront as to where do we want to go as a city and at what level of service.

The first issue is whether or not the Niche Wall should be treated as headstone monuments. The monuments by ordinance are the responsibilities of the families and the city takes no responsibility for the headstone. For example, if it gets weathered, the city does not fix it since the city does not have the funds set up to do this. The Niche wall is not specifically named as a monument in the ordinance and when paint starts to chip and fade on the Niche Wall, complaints have been made by families who feel that the City should do something about this.

Levison suggested that the City should maintain the Niche Wall. The cost of repainting is approximately \$35 per name. Levison mentioned that Joan Durgin is looking into adjusting rates and ensuring that the rates assessed would reflect the cost of maintenance over time. A rate resolution should be presented sometime in late December or January for approval to move onto Council for adoption.

In response to Lorenz's question, Levison mentioned that brass could definitely be an option for the next Niche Wall but the one that currently exists is two-thirds full. If the City changes it to brass, they could get complaints from families on the looks and they may claim that this is not what they bought into. Levison stated that yes they will need to look into something much more permanent for future Niche walls.

The next issue is that the ordinance states that within 1 year, it is a requirement to have a headstone placed on the gravesite. In response to Smiths question, Levison mentioned that the book with all the records has been transferred from the Camas Cemetery to the City, specifically to Joan Durgin, and is housed in the vault. Debra Millhollin is entering all the data in a new database, which will then be taken out on the field to ensure accuracy.

In response to Gast's question, Levison stated that we have had 67 interments to date this year, which is more than double of what was expected. Approximately half of those don't have headstones yet because it can take a few months to get ordered or sometimes families can't deal with it for a few months. Levison mentioned that they are thinking of using survey markers. Rates will increase slightly to cover fees but it ensures that there's always something there for the future generations to go back and remember a loved one. Eby questioned if our fees are consistent with Vancouver's fees. Levison mentioned that we based most of our fees off of theirs. The survey markers aren't something that Vancouver offers so Levison suggests adjusting our fees slightly above theirs.

Eby clarified that the initial fee would include the marker. In response to Eby's question, Levison explains that we don't sell the stones. The City provides grave digging permits. That hasn't changed from how the cemetery operated in the past. Levison mentioned that they felt it would entail too much training and operation time but it doesn't mean we can't do it in the future. Washougal does it and Vancouver does it both ways.

Levison mentioned that the building at the cemetery needs maintenance. A decision needs to be made on the level of service we want to provide out there, for example, do we want to provide restroom facilities. In response to Lorenz's question, Levison stated that yes there is at least one full-time staff there at all times. They have had 2 or 3 staff members go up there to get familiar with the system.

Eby mentioned that as a neighbor of the cemetery, he's aware of what goes on and says that there's been 110% improvement of the operation and general appearance. Eby asked about an evening security and what is being done to have security on an ongoing basis. Levison explains that, currently, nothing is being done to provide security. They have had 2 or 3 incidents of vandalism in the last year but haven't had any problems since the fence has been fixed. Eby mentioned that the sidewalk out front is great.

Eby mentioned that one of the biggest complaints he has heard were that families were disappointed with the appearance of the place and lack of maintenance. Eby suggested that if there is a wall there that has been there for a while, we should maintain it. It was

nice to begin with and the cemetery can be used once again on Memorial Day. The event had been moved over to Washougal several years ago.

Levison stated that the cemetery is budgeted for \$135,000 this year and they are up to \$175,000 projected for the year. Reasons for going over include labor and materials. In response to Gast's question, Levison stated that revenues have not been subtracted from this total. Gast mentioned that he's assuming the revenues are much less than that. Levison stated that Joan Durgin said that revenues this year were about \$90,000. There is money from the cemetery board that is expected to last through next year, and then the general fund is going to have to fund the cemetery.

Lorenz questioned if the staff at the cemetery maintain things. Levison mentioned that they have one person who is there full-time and who is familiar with the processes and layouts.

Levison mentioned that there is more to come with fees and ordinance revisions like the Niche wall responsibilities.

PROJECT UPDATES

Washougal River Utility Bridge: Levison stated that a bid is opening on October 30th. They have about 7 or 8 expected for a really good, competitive bid on that.

Lorenz questioned where access was to the bridge. Levison stated that it's off of 3rd Avenue toward Smitty's.

Prune Hill Sportspark: Levison stated that the trail around the soccer field is going to be constructed soon. Have a partnership with Camas School District. Pulled out a small sum of money to do a walking trail around the soccer field. This was pulled out of Phase 3 so that it could get done and the rest will be completed next year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.