



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

CALL TO ORDER: Mark Nickerson, Chair

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

Excused: Brent Erickson

Staff Present: Jerry Acheson, Kathi Hansen, Daniel Lee, Eric Levison, Susan Newlove and Ed Senchyna

A motion was made by Eby, seconded by Lorenz, and carried that minutes of the general meeting of August 26, 2009, be approved as written.

2009 POOL REPORT

Kathi Hansen presented the pool report. She addressed the seasonal attendance and schedule and commented that it ran smoothly. Hansen noted that two extra sessions of family swim were added on hot days. Hansen recommended having the same schedule next summer with the ability to open extra swim sessions contingent upon hot weather. She stated that there may be an admission price increase for next summer since Camas fees are the lowest in the area.

Hansen stated that she had a staff of 28 working at the pool this summer, which is below average. In response to Abrahamsen's question regarding volunteers, Hansen stated that they have a volunteer program but do not have volunteer lifeguards, only volunteer junior swim instructors. Hansen noted the high number of returning staff this summer.

Hansen commented that the swim lesson rate increase was well accepted. There were many participants in swimming lessons and had 54 sponsorships. Private lessons, aqua aerobics, parent tot classes, safety classes and swim camps continued to be offered throughout the summer. Additionally, the swim camps were extremely popular. Registration went smoothly and they continue to get many requests for online registrations. In response to Lorenz's question regarding costs of an online registration system, Acheson stated that his concern is regarding enforcement of the policies involved in registering.

Hansen stated that the Water Safety Awareness event was successful. The biggest change in physical operations was the installation of drain/entrapment devices required to meet new federal laws. She noted that the filters and pumps are old but do not need to be

replaced at this time. The mats will need to be replaced next summer. The chlorine system and heater worked great. Hansen hopes to paint several needed areas of the pool with a combination of staff and volunteers.

Lorenz stated that Hansen has made amazing financial increases over the past few years and he remarked that it is really impressive and congratulated her. Hansen stated that they continue to have a highly regarded swim program. The Commissioners thanked Hansen for all of her hard work.

POOL FUNDRAISER PROPOSAL

Hansen introduced Daniel Lee. Lee stated that he would like to do a fundraiser for the Camas pool for his senior project. He suggested having children paint fish at the pool for a fee. He stated that they are planning to do the fundraiser on March 20, 2010 from 10 am to 4 pm. Lee spoke with principals at elementary schools and volunteered to pass out flyers to the students.

Smith stated that it is a great idea and requested that they have templates created for the fish. Lee agreed and said that he has contacted someone in the Art Department at school. Hansen stated that they have quite a bit of surface area to paint on and she suggested that they would have a year “warranty” on the paintings.

A motion was made by Lorenz, seconded by Jonason, and carried to accept Daniel Lee’s proposal for fish painting at the pool.

CEMETERY MASTER PLAN

Levison introduced senior grounds maintenance worker Ed Senchyna, whose primary responsibility is the maintenance of the Camas Cemetery. Levison stated that he compiled notes from the last three meetings, removing the executive summary and conclusion of the Master Plan. He asked for guidance from the Commission on the executive summary and the conclusion of the Master Plan.

Abrahamsen stated that this Master plan is tremendous and the City has done a fantastic job with the cemetery. She pointed out some minor corrections to be made on pages 13, 16 and 17. Abrahamsen mentioned headstone cleaning and she hopes to have information on this for the cemetery tour in July as an educational additive.

Lorenz suggested having an annual cleaning day at the Cemetery. Jonason suggested that Abrahamsen involve the Friends of the Cemetery to come up with a set date every year. Levison stated that on the Volunteer page of the Master Plan, one of the bullet points could be Annual Volunteer Clean Up Day.

Levison stated that he would like the Board to think about the executive summary and the conclusion between now and the next meeting. Lorenz questioned the request to look into acreage use for a reservoir. Levison stated that it was discussed to leave opportunities open for land use and that is the direction of the executive summary. Eby stated that he is not ready to commit the acreage to the reservoir at this time and Levison

stated that these are merely examples of how to use the acreage. In response to Lorenz, Levison stated that the reservoir would be built in the next 6 to 10 years.

Nickerson brought up the budget gap and Levison stated that it can improve but not enough to close the gap. Levison stated that the niche walls are almost sold out and that the direction is towards more cremations. Smith brought up the green burials and Levison mentioned the importance of reserving areas for Green Burials. Levison stated that the next Cemetery Board meeting may be on the same night as the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in December.

2010 PROPOSED BUDGET

Acheson distributed the Parks and Recreation Budget. He stated that it reflects the reduced schedule of the pool, deferred maintenance and while maintaining a steady budget. Levison noted that staffing levels are the same with less maintenance and operation. In response to Lorenz, Acheson stated that Benton Park and Prune Hill Sports Park are new this year.

SET NOV./DEC. MEETING DATE

Acheson stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9th, at 7 pm and this would cover both the November and December meetings.

PROJECT UPDATES

Goot Park – Construction should start soon on the restroom and the offstreet parking.

Grass Valley Park – Parking expansion project is almost completed.

Washougal River Greenway Trail – Bids are completed and construction will hopefully start soon. It is projected to be done in June of 2010.

Dog Park – Still making headway. There is a layout and the next step is to meet with the Public Works Department and Dog Paw.

New policy – There is a Community Athletic program anti-discrimination law that was passed in July.

OTHER ITEMS

Cemetery Tour – Abrahamsen stated that there was an interview with Howard Lorenz for the tour.

Cemetery – Eby stated that the cut shrubbery looks great.

Doc Harris Stadium – Levison stated that construction is to start soon and he added that they have been asked to be respectful during services at the cemetery.

Request from Senchyna – Abrahamsen stated that he should go ahead with the great revenue source idea of containers for the ashes. A motion was made by Eby, seconded

by Nickerson, and carried to adopt Senchyna's request for the containers to be sold at the cemetery.

Camas Pool – Bradley suggested having businesses sponsor a day at the pool. Acheson stated that it is being looked in to for Sundays when the pool is closed. The issues that came up were weather and staffing. Bradley recommended having a flexible schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m.