



Parks & Recreation Commission
7:00 P.M.
December 12, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Brent Erickson, Chair, presided

Present: Juli Bradley, Linda Dietzman, David Gast, Scott Jonason,
Steve Lorenz, Mark Nickerson and Melissa Smith

Absent: Walter Eby

Staff Present: Jerry Acheson, Eric Levison and Susan Newlove

A motion was made by Jonason, seconded by Lorenz, and carried that minutes of the general meeting of October 24, 2007, be approved as written.

CEMETERY FEE RESOLUTION:

Levison distributed a proposed 2008 price list for the City of Camas Cemetery. He asked the Commission to provide a recommendation to move the new proposed cemetery price list forward to council.

Levison stated that the most significant change is with the niche wall, in which the price of a single niche increased to \$700 from \$480 to allow the city to do long-term maintenance of the name plaques, which was discussed at the most recent board meeting. The other changes are cost of inflation, which Joan raised about 3% this year. There's also a small increase of \$35 in lot sales to allow the City to input a survey marker in case a family doesn't input a headstone within a year.

In response to Erickson's question, this is a reduced version of what the original cemetery board had in place and there are just a few things that the city is not doing. In response to Gast's question, Levison stated that Camas is competitive with Washougal's rates and when first established, they looked into Vancouver's rates and based them off of theirs.

Levison recommended putting together a master plan for 2009 that sets the vision for what the city wants out of the cemetery for the next 6 to 20 years. A vision plan gives good public outreach and provides a guiding tool. Levison recommended proposing a plan instead of tackling issues one at a time. In response to Erickson's question, Levison suggested kicking the plan off in January 2009. Erickson recommended bringing someone down from the state of Washington to help with a 10-year plan down the road.

In response to Jonason's question, Levison stated that currently the City has a grave-digging franchise permit. There are 2 individuals who qualify for that and they have to

be permitted with the city to do that. In response to Dietzman's question, Levison stated that previously it was a cemetery employee who did most of the grave-digging and set up most of the services.

Dietzman stated that when most of the people had concerns and wanted the city to take over the cemetery, what she heard from them was that they wanted it to look better and be better maintained and she thinks that's definitely happening now. In response to Dietzman's question, Levison suggested that a master plan can help in ensuring that the city doesn't lose money on the Cemetery.

In response to Nickerson's question, Levison stated that they have done 68 interments to date. In response to Jonason's question, Levison stated that they are offering uprights for historical and customer service reasons. There aren't any maintenance issues where the new uprights are, the biggest issue is vandalism.

Levison stated that the Finance Department is taking all records and entering them into a database and once they get all records on paper, they are going to start to do field verification. They also want to try and identify unmarked graves. Once they have this information, they want to get it into their GIS to produce maps to help families find loved ones.

A motion was made by Lorenz and seconded by Erickson to accept the new proposed cemetery price list as written.

Levison asked the board if there is something that they'd like to see more discussion about. Erickson stated that he would like to see the staff take the proposed plan as soon as possible. Nickerson recommended looking more Washougal memorial service charges more in depth. Levison mentioned that Washougal does full service and he explained that our City currently does strictly lot sales and maintenance, the funeral home handles all of the other arrangements.

PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS SIGN

Acheson explained that there's a copy of the sign included in the boards packet and what the City is trying to do is get the parks to be a little more uniform in their signage. The sign was reviewed by Jim Gant in the Maintenance Department and also by the Police Department. They are trying to make the wording a little more people-friendly. In response to Lorenz's question, Acheson said they are going to start out with 5.

Smith mentioned that Crown Park needs a sign that says "No Dogs". In response to Bradley's question, Erickson mentioned that Crown Park needs a sign because it's so heavily used by the public for events.

A motion was made by Jonason and seconded by Lorenz to accept the new Parks rules and regulations sign.

ASH CREEK PARK DESIGN:

Acheson mentioned that some things have changed as far as the construction estimates for Ash Creek Park. The gentleman who was going to come through with a development and was going to have a lot of excess material has changed his plan and is not going to have near the material the City was looking for. What the city was looking for in excess material was about 80,000 cubic yards.

Acheson suggested a recommendation from the Parks Commission to go back to the planning group, the Ash Creek Park Design Committee, to see if they want to spend money to build this field or see if there are any other options.

In response to Erickson's questions, Acheson mentioned that it's a 9-acre parcel and it is designated as a neighborhood park. Gast mentioned that when they were approached 4 years ago to see if they wanted to trade, they responded with wanting to keep it as a non-field situation and have more open space. Acheson mentioned that back then they also didn't have the fields-committee partnership with the schools like they do now. Erickson suggested looking further into the cost factor and that with the combination of Prune Hill Park less than half a mile away and new field programs in the next 5 years, the field may not be needed.

The Commission suggested going back to the planning committee to take a further look and see what some other options are.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Prune Hill Sports Park: The trail has been installed around the soccer field through the partnership with the School District. Restrooms are budgeted for next year.

Heritage Park: The blackberry bushes were cleared.

Jonason mentioned that a tree had fallen behind JDZ along a chain link fence located on a walking path that goes to Round Lake. Acheson stated that they will look into it.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.