

GRANTS PASS PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2017 at 3:30 PM
Courtyard Conference Room

Members in Attendance:

Dick Matti (Chair)
Cliff Kuhlman (Vice Chair)
Jan Battersby
Gary Still
Marian Szewc – Arrived late
Robert Cartmell - Absent
Rick Chapman – Absent
Bill Reinert

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

Valerie Lovelace (City Council)
Lora Glover
Jeff Nelson
Susan Seereiter, Economic Development

Guests:

None

I. Business – Continuing:

- Chair Matti opened the meeting.

A. Approval of Minutes: November 10, 2016 meeting.

Correction: Several references to Gary Still as “Vice Chair” made as well as Cliff Kuhlman as “member”. Those should have been member Gary Still and Vice Chair Kuhlman.

MOTION/VOTE

Member Still moved and Vice Chair Kuhlman seconded to approve the minutes as amended from the December 8, 2016 meeting. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:
Members Matti, Battersby, Kuhlman, Still, Cartmell, and Reinert. “NAYS”: None.
Abstain: None.

Absent: Board members, Szewc, Cartmell and Chapman.

The motion passed.

B. Riverside Master Plan updates

- The Parks & Community Development Department is waiting for Justin Gerlitz to complete his piece on the project. Hopefully it will be complete by the next meeting.
- The City is a co-recipient for Riverside West LOC Duck Derby funds (approximately \$40k) as well as well as the 4-H. Funds will go to the Spray Park. Chair Matti mentioned when it comes to supporting the Duck Derby next year, perhaps the board can find ways to promote sales.
- Valerie mentioned that the Spray Park in Central Point was able to obtain grant funding and the planner at the City was willing to help us. Our Grant Coordinator, Scott Lindberg, will be responsible for that part of the project.

- There was discussion about using recycled water and who would make the decision about using City water, recycled water or treated water and sanitary issues.
- Member Still suggested the idea of an ice skating use for the Spray Park as well, making it multi-use.
- Member Reinert asked about the trails along the freeway and stated he never sees people riding the trails. Vice Chair Kuhlman explained the Greenway is a very successful trail system. However, the biggest challenge has been bringing it to Grants Pass. The trail currently stops at the Depot Bridge in Rogue River.
- Jeff Nelson gave the staff report. They have been working on the following items:
 - Picnic table renovations.
 - Shrub pruning and picking up limbs and branches. A few hazard limbs have been removed.
 - Wood chips are being placed on trails and around trees.
 - An RFP (Request for Proposal) has gone out for right of way maintenance. There are five areas needing maintenance: The Rogue River Highway area, Redwood Avenue from Dowell to Darneille, some around Hubbard and Willow, the sound wall along the Parkway, Baker Park at the old fire station and the confluence area at D and F streets. There will be some smaller areas included in that contract.
 - An order for trees is being put together for the tree canopy program so they can start getting those planted. Memorial trees will be ordered too. Including the trees for Fruitdale Park, about 96 trees have been ordered.
 - Replacing the removed tree at Newman Methodist. Member Battersby asked if there is a tree that could be planted as a replacement. There are but it will have to wait until next season (year).
 - A Performance Audit for the Parks Department and the Community Development side will be taking place. It will start late January or early February. They will likely want to speak to some members of this board. Member Battersby asked if the auditors might suggest another full-time parks position. Lora Glover stated they possibly could.
 - Lora Glover and David Reeves (Assistant City Manager) spoke with Travis Boersma (Dutch Bros). Discussion included his plans for the infield at the Fairgrounds racetrack and the interests of the Sports Complex Task Force. The River Road Reserve was discussed as to why it cannot be used as an urban park. Meaning a soccer field complex would not be a permitted use. Lora Glover will provide more information that was provided by letter from the state to this board.
 - There was discussion as to the cost of changing the soccer field at Reinhart Park from grass to turf. There are only two turf fields in Grants Pass and they are at Grants Pass High School. Average life of a turf soccer field is ten years and can be very expensive.
 - Board wants the City Council to know they are looking for more soccer fields for the future and in keeping with the growth of this community.
 - Jeff Nelson suggested a few options of changing the field at Reinhart to a turf field and making some field's multi-use for baseball and soccer both. They also have the fields at Parkside Elementary close by.

MOTION/VOTE

**Member Szewc moved and Member Battersby seconded the motion to consider placing artificial turf on the existing soccer field at Reinhart Park with the possibility of using Giskey Field as a multi-use field. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:
Members Matti, Battersby, Kuhlman, Still, Szewc, and Reinert.
“NAYS”: None. Abstain: None.
Absent: Members Chapman, Cartmell.
The motion passed.**

II. New Business:

- Member Still asked what the next step would be if we want to use the River Road Reserve as a park. Where do we start? Is adding turf to the soccer field a higher priority than the Active Club Pavilion? This board can make the recommendation to the City Council as to which is the highest priority. Priorities need to be added to the Riverside Master Plan.
- What is the priority and time line for this board’s goals? The Spray Park has a timeline due to grant funding that needs to be spent within 12 months once grant is awarded in 2018. The replacement for the Isaac Walton building will not happen in time for Boatnik this year. Marian suggested completing the Riverside Master Plan as their first priority.
- Councilor Lovelace asked if funds have been budgeted for the soccer fields. The budgeted funds are for the design of the fields not the build.

III. Next meeting: February 9, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm

These minutes were prepared by Donna Anderson, Administration, City of Grants Pass.