

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2023, at 3:30 PM**  
**Council Chambers**

**Member Attendance:**

Chad Thorson (Chair)  
Michael Sellers (Vice Chair) - Virtual  
Jan Battersby  
John Blackett  
Rebekah Nugent - Virtual  
Shane Hickman - Absent  
Brad Converse

**City/Staff/Council Liaisons:**

Josh Hopkins – Parks Superintendent  
Chad Westbrook – Parks Supervisor

**Guests:**

Jeff Thompson – GP Relics  
Chris Walker – True Juice  
Cat Bostwick – Dutch Brothers  
Augustus Ogu, City Attorney

**1. Roll Call:**

- Chair Thorson called the meeting to order at 3:45 pm and roll was taken.

**2. Introductions:**

- None.

**3. Public Comment:**

- Jeff Thompson ~ Jeff works with GP Relics, a 50+ baseball league. He would like to be added to next month's meeting to discuss options of having to pay for field usage when they maintain the fields.
- Cat Bostwick ~ Cat works for Dutch Brothers as a Tech Project Manager. She would like to start a community garden, have a tool library, plant food, and teach people to be self-sufficient.
- Chris Walker ~ Chris is the owner of True Juice. He also coaches sports at Fleming. He is really interested in the idea of a community garden and would like to be a part of helping people make healthier choices.

**4. Approval of Minutes:** January 12, 2023

**MOTION/VOTE**

**Member Battersby moved, and Member Blackett seconded the motion to approve the minutes from October 13, 2022. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Thorson, Vice Chair Sellers. Members Battersby, Blackett, Nugent<sup>1</sup> and Converse. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Hickman. The motion passed.**

**5. Discussion:**

- **Homeless issues ~ Augustus Ogu, City Attorney:** Augustus discussed the homeless situation and how the City ended up in the situation that it is in. Wade vs. Grants Pass was filed in 2020, at the District Court in Medford. If no shelter space is available, police can not enforce park camping. Member Converse asked when Augustus thinks it will be resolved. Augustus said it could be 5-6 months to a year and a half. Member Battersby asked if they get banned for drug use and if they do can they come back? She was told that the police can make them leave for 30 days if they are caught with drugs or other illegal activities.

**6. Action Items:**

- **Master Plan Update and Bin List Project Updates:** Parks Superintendent Josh Hopkins told the Committee that he has a red line version of these and will send out to the Committee Members before the next meeting.

**7. Matters from Committee Members and Staff:**

**a. Project updates:**

- **Riverside Stage:** Parks Superintendent Josh Hopkins went over updates on the Riverside stage.
- **RVP Playground Grant:** The City should receive the playground grant by March 23, 2023.
- **Dollar Mountain:** The Flagging Consultant is finishing up the final 8 miles.
- **ODF:** ODF is doing field reduction work.

**b. Staff Updates:**

- The Urban Forester Candidate is going through the background search and will start in March.

**7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:**

- Project Updates
- Master Plan Update
- Community Garden Discussion ~ Chris Walker and Cat Bostwick

**8. Adjournment:** Chair Thorson adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

**Next scheduled meeting: March 9, 2022**

Minutes prepared by Jayme Hyatt, Community Development Department.