

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2023, at 3:30 PM
Council Chambers

Member Attendance:

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

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

Josh Hopkins – Parks Superintendent - Absent
Brad Clark – Community Development Director
Joel King – Council Liaison

Guests:

David Dapper

1. Roll Call:

- Chair Thorson called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm and roll was taken.

2. Introductions:

- None.

3. Approval of Minutes: April 13, 2023

MOTION/VOTE

Member Blackett moved, and Member Converse seconded the motion to approve the minutes from April 13, 2023. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Thorson. Members Blackett, Nugent, and Converse. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Vice Chair Sellers. Members Battersby, and Hickman. The motion passed.

4. Public Comment:

- **David Dapper** ~ He introduced himself stating that he lives next to Tussing Park. He wants to know what to do to get people to quit handing out food, Narcan and needles in the park? There has got to be some way to approach this. He feels that the people providing all of these things are enabling these people. Brad Converse commented that every time the City tries to find a location that can be used as a dedicated spot for those kinds of resources, but the nearby neighbors don't want it in their own back yards. We cannot prevent people from staying in the parks based on the injunction. Joel King stated that the State Legislature just codified the injunction to apply to all cities, the count of beds vs. people that are homeless no longer apply. They have the right to be in the park. The decision right now on the part of the nonprofits operating in the park is what they decided. They are the ones that decided that because that was in their interest to serve their clientele, they have the flexibility to serve them in other places, but they choose not to.

5. Discussion: None.

6. Action Items:

a. Master Plan Update:

- Community Development Director Brad Clark went over the Master Plan updates that Josh emailed to the Committee members. He went over the red lines that the Committee saw before with a couple of new changes. They discussed making a motion to Council recommending the changes but decided that they would like to see the maps and more information before they make a motion. The Committee went over several items that they want to change or improve. They discussed Signature Parks. They may decide to include the Skate Park as a Signature Park. The Committee is going to speak to Josh at the next meeting regarding the Signature Parks. They also discussed the Loveless/Beacon Park name and what it should be. Brad let the Committee know that he will get the maps for them before the next meeting.
- Chair Chad Thorson let the Committee know that Member Jan Battersby who was absent wanted to make sure that the use of eminent domain is not recommended for the Greenway. Josh made sure that it was added in the Master Plan.

b. Morrison Park Safety and Clean Up:

- The Committee discussed the condition of Morrison Park. The Parks crew has been working very hard cleaning and maintaining the park.
- Brad Clark said they had a Fruitdale Area Economic Development day where several businesses came by. The homeless situation has been a big concern for the business owners along Rogue River Hwy. He was at Morrison Park for 20 or 30 minutes looking around and it looked good. There were several people on the ball fields. We really had issues with the dugouts before. The homeless were living in the dugouts. They are going to put locks on the dugouts. The park looked good last week.

c. Park Funding Options:

- Moved to the next meeting when Parks Superintendent Josh Hopkins is present.
- Council Liaison Joel King stated that he had one item that is going to come before City Council regarding the Caveman Pool. The City is not in a position to fund everything. The swimming pool is funded through Arbor Dollars and Urban Renewal dollars of roughly \$7.5 million. That whole amount could possibly go to the Water Treatment Plant to bring down people's water bills. The question before Council is what the highest priority is for the \$7.5 million. Council will be deciding in June. Brad Clark shared that the City Council did approve a \$180,000 contract to design the new pool. That contract was already approved, and the money has been spent. They have completed 95% of that work and they are going to make a presentation on the options for the new pool design. Caveman Pool will be open this summer.

7. Matters from Committee Members and Staff:

a. Riverside Park Sign Install

- Brad Clark shared with the Committee that the Riverside Park sign on 7th Street was installed last week. The Historic Commission, because that park is on the National Register, wanted to see more signage at the main entrance there.

b. Westholm Park Updates:

- The Westholm Park Playground is making good progress. The tiles are down, and they are finishing things up. They will keep us posted.

8. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:

- Project Updates
- Master Plan Update
- Riverside Park Community Garden Options ~ Discussion
- Park Funding Options ~ Discussion

9. Adjournment: Chair Thorson adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting: June 8, 2023

Minutes prepared by Jayme Hyatt, Community Development Department.