



PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

Monday, December 11, 2023 at 4:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Vice Chair Lynne Pettit
Commissioner Jerry Belcher
Commissioner Howard Blumenthal
Commissioner Scott Jacobson
Commissioner Brian Long
Commissioner Jacob Woodruff
Commissioner Paul Barlow
Chair Dana Lathrope

STAFF PRESENT

Brandon Sundeen, City Council
Melisa Gaelrun-Maggi, Parks Administrative Assistant
Buck Tupper, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
Jenny Dimsho, Community Development Project Manager

CALL TO ORDER 4:00pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of November 2023 minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Blumenthal, Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

Voting Yea: Vice Chair Pettit, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Woodruff, Commissioner Barlow

NEW BUSINESS

2 - Display of Canoe - Belcher

Commissioner Belcher stated that Doug Morton would like to work with two native American tribes and display the eagle canoe that the City has in storage.

Jenny Dimsho had some input about the display idea in the new Waterfront area. However, with the budget cuts that might not be an option anymore, she asked if the Commission still wants it to be in the design or does the Commission want to remove it from the plans and do something on their own. Keeping in mind that if it is installed it will be an art installation and it would likely get weathered and/or vandalized. She also pointed out that the canoe has no connection to any Native American tribes as it was made by a group of kids. If the Commission is looking for a connection to local tribal history, they should find something else.

Belcher said that he feels it looks like canoes that natives have made and could be a teaching tool for Lewis and Clark.

Questions were asked about who carved the canoe and their history. Blumenthal would like to see it kept in shape so that it can be used in the water. He feels it will rot after 10 - 15 years.

Jacobson said that he felt it would be inappropriate to ask tribes to be involved and Belcher agreed.

Belcher made a motion to allow the City Council to make the decision on how they are going to present the canoe. Pettit seconded. Lathrope agrees with reservations. Dimsho says that she will take these comments into consideration when planning and budgeting the Waterfront walk.

3 - Expansion of Botanical Gardens - Belcher

Commissioner Belcher brought up the fact that years ago the Commission wanted the City to buy or trade more land to expand the Botanical Gardens. The City declined to do so at that time. Belcher is now asking for the City to ask the current owners of the surrounding land if they would like to sell their land. Buck declared that he does not see that happening during the current budget crisis.

4 - Tolles Resignation - Lathrope

5 - Interview Committee - Lathrope

Lathrope reminded the Commission that Tolles resigned and that they needed to form an interview committee to decide which of the two current candidates would be best. Pettit, Barlow, and Woodruff volunteered. The committee will decide on dates and then inform the secretary to arrange meetings.

6 - Future budget items - Lathrope

Lathrope noted some items she remembered from previous meetings and was wondering if the Commissioners wanted to move forward with any specific items. Pettit pointed out that in a previous meeting they had already approved replacement signs for Dalton Lake, Civic Pride, and the BMX trail. Lathrope pointed out that those items come out of this year's budget and the \$1000 t-shirt sales.

Blumenthal wants another kiosk at the base of the Nob Hill stairs due to the possible increase in traffic after the completion of the river walk. He also wants to replace the trail bridge. Blumenthal feels that the expansion of the trail and the area that will someday be the Urban Trail near 5th street gets flooded easily and wants work done. Tupper asked if gravel would help, and Blumenthal said it would not be enough. Blumenthal would also like to see an update to the Park's Masterplan.

Belcher wants a concrete stamp for the potential future Urban Trail. Tupper said that he has been looking at them but that they cost around \$300. Lathrope and Jacobson would like to see how much is left over from the T-shirt money that could go towards the stamp.

Belcher would also like a kiosk for the Botanical Gardens. He feels the city could make it for cheap.

Pettit asked if a kiosk would be better than a sign for Civic Pride Park. Tupper thinks that the members should talk about how they want their signs to look for uniformity.

Lathrope would like members to bring their items to the next meeting with cost estimates.

STAFF REPORT

Tupper said that the veteran's memorial is almost done except for the flagpoles. The park's activity is slower due to the weather, but the cleanup of leaves, limbs, and transient garbage has increased.

Lathrope asked if we should install sharps containers in the public bathrooms. Tupper's concern is that if teens will break toilets from the floor, they could easily break off a sharps container and injure themselves with the used needles.

The homeless tent in Campbell Park is still there and the police have told them there is nothing they can do.

Lathrope asked about the flooding in the parks, Tupper said that there is no more than usual. Some ponding under the swings in McCormick Park, but they must wait until spring to fix.

Two park's employees have just finished Playground Equipment training and they expect to make some upcoming changes.

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Sundeen has been working on some historical signs for Dalton Lake.

He asked if the Commission needs anything from the City Council.

Pettit said that she needs a new path around Dalton Lake as it is surrounded by private property. She also wants bee houses and a bird viewing platform.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The motion made at the previous meeting was presented back to the Commission to pass with amendments. Questions were brought up about the gray area in the motion, and what "well behaved dogs" means. Buck Tupper advised that they refer it Safety Committee.

Pettit made a motion to refer it to Safety Committee, seconded by Belcher, Voting Yea: Vice Chair Pettit, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Woodruff, Commissioner Barlow, Chair Lathrope.

The 2024 meeting calendar was brought forth for discussion. It was decided to move the November meeting to the third Monday of the month.

Blumenthal made the motion, Jacobson seconded, **Voting Yea: Vice Chair Pettit, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Woodruff, Commissioner Barlow, Chair Lathrope.**

Lathrope wants a report from the City about the Sand Island financials. She also wants Brad Hendrickson to come to the next meeting. She plans on extending an invitation to him and the Finance Director.

Belcher feels that the recent article in the newspaper that spoke of the Waterfront Riverwalk fits better with his future urban trail plan. He wants to meet with people to try and get grants to fund his trail. Tupper reminded Belcher that any grants need to be run by Dimsho first.

Jacobson has talked with Tina Curry about the possibility of adding a Parks website.

Blumenthal mentioned that he added a swale to Nob Hill and wants to add more to divert water. He also asked for another scoop of gravel from the Parks maintenance department. Tupper said he would take care of it.

ADJOURNMENT 5:26pm