



# **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Monday, September 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM

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## **APPROVED MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Jerry Belcher  
Commissioner Howard Blumenthal  
Commissioner Jacob Woodruff  
Chair Lynne Pettit  
Vice Chair Brandon Sundeen  
Commissioner Scott Jacobson  
Commissioner Dana Lathrope  
Commissioner Carmin Dunn  
Commissioner Paul Barlow

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder  
Melisa Gaelrun-Maggi, Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant  
Tory Shelby, Parks Field Supervisor  
Shanna Duggan, Parks & Recreation Manager  
Doug Morten, City Council President  
Mouhamed Zaher, Public Works Director  
Rachael Barry, Government Affairs Specialist

### **OTHERS**

Emily Martin  
Casey Garrett  
Steve Toschi  
Jennifer Pugsley

### **CALL TO ORDER – 4:02pm**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve Minutes of July 11, 2022  
Motion made by Blumenthal to approve minutes, seconded by Jacobson.  
Voted yea: Belcher, Blumenthal, Woodruff, Sundeen, Jacobson, Lathrope, Dunn.
2. Approve Minutes of August 08, 2022  
Edit made by Pettit to change Barlow to present since he was just late, and to edit members not in attendance at the Sand Island visit to Dunn, Lathrope, Barlow, and Sundeen.  
Motion made by Jacobson to approve minutes, seconded by Blumenthal.  
Voted yea: Belcher, Blumenthal, Woodruff, Sundeen, Jacobson, Lathrope, Dunn.

**TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR:** From attendees not otherwise of the agenda

- ❖ Steve Toschi talked about Keith Locke's property and wanting to preserve it for the public. He is adamant about preserving parks and public access. He referenced Brenda's talk about more access for people with mobility issues. He clarified that he is here as a resident and not as a Planning Commission member.

**NEW BUSINESS****2. Addition of benches and trail extension to Nob Hill - Blumenthal (10 min)**

Blumenthal asked when the next bench will be added. Shelby said maybe within the next week or two. Blumenthal mentioned wanting to gravel up to the new bench. Pettit inquired if this was done with a grant. Blumenthal clarified that this was just volunteers and hoped to get more benches.

**4. Crosswalk at Columbia & N Bradley - Barlow (10 min)**

Barlow stated that he has had close calls at that crosswalk with cars. He does not know why. He wants to advocate and bring it before the City. He wondered if anyone had anymore to add. Dunn agreed that it was a weird corner and her husband had been in an accident near there. Blumenthal wondered if the police had any grant funds. Duggan suggested that the Commission push forward a recommendation to have Public Works look at it. Zaher stated that a similar subject came forward and they restriped, but people still need to follow the rules. Woodruff wanted to know if they could get flashing lights or speed bump. Zaher said it would then run into cost and if the cost would outweigh the deterrent. Barlow agreed that he would like something done that would be more of a deterrent. Maybe a recommendation for a short-term solution and then a recommendation for a long-term solution. He feels that with all the businesses in the area it needs something done, maybe even a traffic change barrier. Zaher thanked him for bringing it to their attention, he will investigate the problem. Jacobson asked about the possibility of a 3-way stop. Zaher stated that traffic changes require ODOT and have a lot of rules and regulations that are not within their power, but some action will be taken. Pettit asked if they need anything else to make a recommendation. Scholl stated that because Zaher said he would work on it they don't have to.

**5. Intergovernmental Agreement - Pettit (10 min)**

Pettit wants to look at this more closely, what the budget line is, and to open it up to discussion. Jacobson wanted to know if there was another agreement prior to this. Pettit said yes there was last year that did not come before the Commission. Dunn remembered the IGA from last year and did not feel that the Commission was being left out. Asked Pettit if there are any areas that she feels were missed. Dunn does not feel that the Commission members are experts or that it is their job.

(Barlow arrived late at 4:15 pm)

Dunn asked Duggan how the IGA first came about.

Duggan said that Scappoose Watershed focuses on parks that effect watersheds and are the ones that assessed the parks and created expertise base and volunteer resources. The contract from one year ago was just a starting point that was renewed and adjusted this year to include other parks. Duggan referred to Emily Martin of Scappoose Watershed for any technical questions.

Pettit says she saw the IGA at the City Council Work Session and wants the Commission to talk about anything they might want to change about the IGA. Sundeen feels that a lot of things get done in parks that do not come before the Commission and doesn't know anything about the budget but feels they could do more if they had more tools. Pettit pointed out that some of the dates and signatures on the IGA need updated. Lathrope asked if this type of document should have come through the Commission and had previous documents come through in the past?

Pettit and Dunn explained that previous documents had come through before but felt it was more of an informative manner. Lathrope agreed that in the future she would like to review and comment on future documents if not only for proofing. Blumenthal and Lathrope expressed gratitude for the Watershed Council, they provide help and expertise, but would like more communication.

Belcher feels that if routine maintenance needs to be done, that sort of thing does not need to come before the Commission. Pettit feels that any agreement that involves the Parks & Recreation, especially one that concerns money, should come before the Commission.

Zaher think this is a miscommunication that the Commission should be included, especially when is comes to the budget, he thinks Parks & Recreation is doing a good job. He thinks the Commission could be included more in communication moving forward, and could add comments, maybe before it goes to City Council. Belcher asked what the typical cost for this type of project would be.

Emily Martin said that the contract was for spraying only, not her time. It was about building relationships. It did not include any future services. Zaher added that the IGA is a partnership that included a lot of volunteer time from Scappoose Watershed. Duggan referred to the agreement that has lined out items in the IGA. There is some carryover budget included from professional services from last year.

Woodruff stated that he would just like to know more of what the Parks & Recreation is doing so if people ask. Duggan agreed and referred to reports.

Blumenthal asked if this IGA funds came from the Park budget or the General Fund.

Duggan explained that this came from Park Budget which come from General Fund.

Barry said that the Commission is the greatest advocate for our Parks. When there are IGAs or other opportunities, while communication can always be improved, she encourages them to stay out of the weeds on the details, but to promote new partnerships. Zaher and Woodruff agreed that communication could be improved.

Emily Martin volunteers to provide more information and overlap resources.

Lathrope asked if it would be possible to get a current budget plan so she could get an idea of what is included in the coming year. Zaher replied that the budget is on the City website and is public knowledge and anyone is allowed to come to the City budget meetings.

Duggan followed up that fall and winter is a great time for her to get this information to people and work on projects that need maintenance.

Pettit wanted to pull everyone's attention back to the powers and duties of the Commission. She read them out loud for everyone. She asked that everyone read them and that she is working on three different grants. She does not feel that all the parks need spraying. She is working on educational walks for Dalton Lake. She says she will CC Duggan on all her projects. Sundeen wanted to know if anyone in Parks & Recreation has a certification of spraying.

Shelby replied that it is in the process and that it was slowed down during covid. We can spray in some ways but there are all kinds of different certifications.

Blumenthal suggests always using people who know which native plants should not be sprayed and avoiding collateral damage and choosing the correct time. He said the people Scappoose Watershed used did have that expertise.

Pettit returned to the signatures on the IGA. Duggan and Zaher agreed that the signatures need updated. Pettit said she wants the Commission's concerns addressed as well.

Lathrope and Dunn asked which items specifically Pettit had issues with. Pettit thought the entire IGA should be terminated and started over. Dunn did not think it was the Commission's responsibility to do so. Blumenthal stated he did not have a problem with the IGA. Lathrope agreed that the signatures need updated but did not want to terminate the agreement. Pettit asked about the potential 5-year plan and would the Commission be involved. Duggan explained that the 5-year plan would be with Scappoose Watershed to assess future watershed areas and a sustainability plan that would be discussed with the Commission before implementation. Belcher feels that the current IGA is good and just the signatures need corrected though he would like better communication.

**Motion: Belcher made a motion to accept the current IGA with the exception of incorrect signatures.**

Pettit asked for clarification of what the natural areas listed are. Emily Martin explained that is to clarify that they are just helping the areas within the parks that impact the watershed priority areas, not planter boxes. Belcher clarified that the part that referenced a 5-year plan is just developing the plan not implementing. And that the Commission would like to be included before the implementation.

Duggan says it will also include budget information. Lathrope says she feels comfortable with this IGA as long as communication stays open.

Belcher reminded everyone that there is a motion on the floor.

Pettit wants to know how many staff members from Scappoose Watershed will be working on this project. Emily Martin stated that it will mostly just be her part-time, but maybe some members from other Watershed or Estuary groups to judge sediment loss. Pettit asked Emily Martin how much the contractors charge per hour. Emily says that it varies depending on the task.

Duggan referred to the line items in the IGA plan and that most of these things would be explained in detail in the coming 5-year plan. Pettit wanted the professional services fund explained to her.

Duggan explained that it included many things like training, repairs, and tangible items.

**Motion: Belcher drew attention back to his motion, Dunn seconded.**

Pettit wanted to know what would happen if Scappoose Watershed got another director.

Duggan said they can always make an amendment.

**Asked for vote.**

**Voted yea: Belcher, Blumenthal, Woodruff, Sundeen, Jacobson, Lathrope, Dunn.**

## **6. Nob Hill handrail - Blumenthal (10 min)**

Blumenthal said it is great to have a handrail. It was a surprise to see it in the middle of the staircase. He feels it impedes family walking and thinks that people will walk over the edges of the stairs where he is working to get plants to grow to combat erosion. He is especially concerned with the growing traffic

of Halloweentown coming. He wishes for more communication between Parks & Recreation and Friends of Nob Hill. Jacobson stated that part of the problem is they don't know who to communicate with. Blumenthal says it all come back to communication with past and current issues. Pettit encouraged everyone to read their powers and responsibilities.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **7. HB3115 Homelessness & Public Spaces - Rachel Barry - Steve Toschi (20 min)**

Barry says this is about public space and shelter space in our community.

Steve Toschi introduced himself as a practicing lawyer familiar with HB3115 and other laws regarding this homelessness. He brought a slideshow.

Steve Toschi feels that everyone in St. Helens is treated equally. He stated that rules in public spaces are there so that everyone can enjoy those public spaces. He feels that the City has taken care of the problems on Sand Island and the docks. He feels that HB3115 is harmful to cities. He states that the verbiage of the law itself allows for too much interpretation. He feels the word "reasonable" in a law is strange. Steve has asked the Planning Commission to study this law. The City need to develop a humane policy for removal of homeless. There are procedures to implementing these policies under Exemption 203.079. We are currently using state laws that define violations as misdemeanors. This can include jail time.

Barry is not aware of any lawsuits in Oregon yet. She thinks it is a good idea to have a strong network of knowledge.

Lathrope wanted to know if this will address panhandling.

Steve Toschi believes that our current laws already comply and are already humane. He says that there are already laws that address limiting movement that are a misdemeanor that could address panhandling. He feels that City Council need data to study these laws more to be able to prove that they are objectively reasonable. Including laws on boats, cars, and what it really means to be homeless.

Steve Toschi feels that we need to be reaching out to help those with mental illness who need help. More discussions need to be started. Steve Toschi spoke of Martin Vs Boise, and the application of the 8th amendment. He stated you cannot punish a person for sleeping if your city has no place for them to go. If you do not want it to be the Parks, you need to have a space for them. The City needs to create that space.

Belcher asked about Grants Pass, did they have a shelter, and if Steve Toschi knew the details about that case.

Steve said that he heard it was because of drugs. Steve feels that Martin Vs Boise was a misinterpretation and a unique liberal application. Belcher asked if Columbia County Mental will be involved.

Steve replied that a lot of people will need to be involved, and that he is not an expert on the homeless, but he feels that shelters will have to become more drug friendly.

Morten asked if Steve had heard of any city using their jail space as their safe space? Steve thinks that is a great idea and is open to creative solutions. Belcher is concerned about the River Walk area.

Steve feels that all areas could be a concern. He thinks that Portland and San Francisco are magnets and are overwhelmed.

**STAFF REPORT****8. Summer Reservations**

- Duggan reported to the printout that showed the summer reservations.
- Duggan spoke about the Scarecrow Build partnership with Main Street Association.
- Duggan referenced the 150,000 grant for summer that allowed for more hiring of summer help, contractors, summer enrichment, supplies, and art teachers. This also allowed us to contract with Griffins Place which works with Developmental Disabilities which is not usually in our wheelhouse.
- A \$15,000 grant from NW ESD Parenting Hub for this fall allows us to hire a part time early learning specialist.
- The National Guard helped clean out the old camping area in McCormick Park.
- Berry Global came out and helped during their employee banquet.
- Our new volunteer program will be launched in April with new swag. Including special park specific merchandise.
- The basketball program launch will be coming up.
- Afterschool program is maxed out, as well as a lengthy wait list due to some providers closing down.
- The IGA with Scappoose Watershed for 5-year plan is being fleshed out.
  
- Shelby reported of new benches at Nob Hill and Campbell Park as well as a Memorial Bench at McCormick.
- There is also a new drinking fountain in McCormick. They poured some concrete at McCormick and are looking at new BBQs.
- Blazers will be at McCormick Park this Thursday from 4-6pm. They will be donating to SHARP After School Program.

**COUNCILOR'S REPORT**

Morten likes hearing about communication. He encouraged Commissioners to act on their requests so that they get to the City Council Agenda.

He liked the communication from Parks & Recreation to the Commission about past and future programs. He encourages Commission to recommend, not demand, needs with budget time coming.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Lathrope said that she appreciates updates and that she is still learning.
- Duggan brought budget booklets for everyone and warned everyone that it is slim. She mentioned that Recreation runs on a lot of grants and Parks grants can only be capital improvements. Duggan is hoping to get different user groups to come in and talk at future meetings. Duggan mentioned that four kiosks were fixed due to donations by different groups.
- Belcher says he played pickleball and there were eight others there. Belcher stated that Pettit, Blumenthal, Dunn, and himself walked the Urban Trail. He feels that the money for this trail is

probably going to have to come from a grant not the City, therefore we need to know how much it is going to need to cost. Morten stated that if he is going forward with grants, he needs to keep track of in-kind hours. Belcher says that there are many things that he and Blumenthal are willing to do as volunteers.

- Pettit asked Zaher who would be best to connect with over at Public Works. Zaher says he has great respect for the Commission but feels that the Urban Trail is very complex but not impossible. We need to be aware that the Waterfront Project will affect the Urban Trail. He says that Buck Tupper would be the best contact as well as Dave Alder. Belcher wants to follow the chain of command and tries not to bother City Hall; he feels that when he puts together a request at Commission it should be up to the City to push through those requests. Zaher agrees, but states that there is seasonal work, schedules, and cross-departmental communication to take into consideration. Duggan said that she and Zaher will be talking.
- Dunn stated that she will be resigning from the Commission as of this month. Pettit asked if she will be finishing the year. Dunn stated that she will not but will still be volunteering.

**ADJOURNMENT at 6:26pm**