



PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

Monday, June 17, 2024 at 4:00 PM

HYBRID: Council Chambers & Zoom (details below)

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1 - Approve March meeting minutes
- 2 - Approve Special meeting minutes

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

NEW BUSINESS

- 3 - Review Conduct of Chair Lynne Pettit - Lathrope
- 4 - Removal of Chair Lynne Pettit - Lathrope
- 5 - Referral of Chair Lynne Pettit to City Council - Lathrope
- 6 - Milton Creek Reserve - Standing Item
- 7 - New Urban Trail Subcommittee Member - Belcher
- 8 - Annual report to City Council - Jacobson
- 9 - Japanese Gardens - Pettit

OLD BUSINESS

STAFF REPORT

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97540710873?pwd=zc7wXHDkxx2FxoI3zhDIOpB3jZg2uJ.1>

Meeting ID: 975 4071 0873

Passcode: 007862

Phone: 253-215-8782

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to City Hall at 503-397-6272.

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PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

Monday, May 13, 2024 at 4:00 PM

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Lynne Pettit
 Commissioner Jerry Belcher
 Commissioner Howard Blumenthal
 Vice Chair Scott Jacobson
 Commissioner Dana Lathrope
 Commissioner Paul Barlow
 Commissioner Nick Hellmich

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Jacob Woodruff

STAFF PRESENT

Brandon Sundeen, City Councilor
 Melisa Gaelrun-Maggi, Parks Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER 4pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1-Approve April Minutes
 Edit Dana as chair.

Motion made by Commissioner Blumenthal.

Voting Yea: Chair Pettit, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Jacobson

NEW BUSINESS

2-Welcome new Commissioners - Pettit

Pettit welcomed Nick to PTC and asked if there were any parks he would like to work on. He stated McC nob and Campbell.

The awarding of the Oregon Parks Foundation grant of 2500 for signage was discussed.

3-Milton Creek Woodland Reserve Sub-Committee - Jacobson

Scott began his Milton Creek presentation.

Scott spoke with Dana and Nick and would like to appoint them to the Milton Creek sub-comm. Dana had some questions about the project first as she received a call from Lynne. Dana was under the impression that everyone was in cooperation on the project and now has heard that there is conflict and wants clarification. Lynne would like to hold a special meeting about all those issues and not talk about them now. Scott would like to talk about them now as it concerns an appointment of the subcommittee. Lynne told him to wait and stop. Scott told her to stop and read the bylaws. Scott asked for discussion at this time.

Roberts Rules of order was pointed out that in order to close or end the discussion you need a 2/3 vote. Scott asked Dana to repeat her question and concerns.

Dana wants to know if there is a clear intention of what the project is suppose to be. Scott feels that proposal outline is clear and that it has not changed since day one. Dana says that is not what Lynne said and that she has resigned and is started her own project for that same area. Scott stated that for that to happen she would have to start her own sub-committee or dissolve the current subcommittee.

Dana asked for Jerry's input. Jerry stated that Lynne has been working on that project for a long time but that while Lynne was on vacation the Port asked for a presentation that had a positive response. Jerry stated that in his opinion this will be a long endeavor and there is room for both Scott and Lynne's projects. If the City even gives them the land. But at this time they are not working together. He feels at this time there should be just one sub-committee that deals with the City and the Port. Both Lynne and Scott have done a lot of good work and the project is important.

Jerry asked Brandon how he thinks they should resolve and work forward? Scott wanted to clarify that he has asked Lynne multiple times to come back to the sub-committee.

Brandon stated that if this project goes before the council it needs to be as a unified front. Under the articles the sub-committee chair is in charge of delegating tasks. He thinks it okay for different people to work on different parts of the project but it should be one sub-committee.

Jerry shared how his Urban Trail sub-committee has worked.

Brandon thinks that a special meeting just about this topic would be a good idea as there is much to discuss.

Dana would like to make a motion to halt discussions until a special meeting.

Scott seconded but Scott pointed out that there is now two meetings which he has been tried to be stopped from discussing his project.

Jerry feels he should be able to make his presentation.

Paul feels that if we are going to have a special meeting about it why don't we save everything for that meeting. Lynne pointed out that we have 15 items on the agenda. Dana pointed out that she in no way meant to stifle Scott but that she is concerned about

Nick asked Scott what would make him feel more comfortable. Scott said he would feel better to do his presentation and make his points.

Dana redacted her motion. Lynne asked if he could do his motion in less than 10 minutes. Scott pointed out that Lynne took an hour to do her presentation last meeting.

Blumenthal stated that he does not like what is going on at this meeting and he does not like saying it, but he feels the presentation should wait.

Jerry told Scott to just get on with his presentation.

Scott picked up with his presentation where he left off on page 2. Went over the timeline as he knew it. He asked for feedback before moving on to his future vision for the area. He then asked for feedback before giving his timeline for the future.

Lynne asked to stop and move on to other agenda items. Scott said that it was agreed to hear the presentation. Jerry agreed.

Scott went on with his presentation. When done with his presentation Scott agreed to hold off on his observations in the interest of time. Members are doing a field trip on the 25th of May.

Lynne brought talking points about Milton Creek Project. Scott objected as they all agreed to only do the presentation not discussion. Lynne stated that they are talking points not discussion items. Scott asked Lynne ignored him and Scott asked

4-Park Assignments - Jacobson

Scott feels that there should be two people on each park not just one. Scott made a motion that there should be two people. Dana seconded. Lynne feels that this is a burden. Paul feels this is unnecessary as well as a rule. He prefers it as a recommendation.

Lynne asked Dana which park she wanted to be assigned to. Dana stated she wanted to keep Grey Cliffs and be back-up for Japanese Gardens.
Scott withdrew motion.

5-Memorial Process - Jacobson

Scott wants the city to come up with the process for memorial benches in the parks. Scott made a motion. It was recommended that wait until buck is available.

6-Urban Trail Sub-Committee - Belcher

As the other new member is not in attendance he will wait until the next meeting to try and get new members.

7-Phone Booth in McCormick - Hellmich

A citizen asked to put an old phone booth in McCormick Park as a universal prayer place. Jerry would like the citizen to come in person and give her vision, he would also like Buck's input.

8-Disc Golf maintenance - Hellmich

Stated that he would like to start some sort of volunteer rotation for maintenance of the golf course. We will discuss with Buck when he returns.

9-Grey Cliff off-leash area - Blumenthal

Was told by citizens that they were attacked by a large off-leash dog. He feels that the area is not well marked with signs. He would like code enforcement to patrol the park. Dana would like to meet with howard and look over the park.

10-Pedestrian traffic during construction - Blumenthal

Howard does not feel that the contractors are placing their signs well for sidewalk traffic in the construction zone downtown. He asked if Brandon could bring this concern back to Council. Brandon does not believe that the council would have anything to do with that. He pointed Howard towards Public works or engineering department. Dana stated that the city has been great updating local businesses about construction changes.

11-Dalton Lake presentation - Pettit

12-Walnut Park presentation – Pettit

Park presentation saved for next month in the interest of saving time.

13-City Council Annual Report - Pettit

Lynne will be giving the annual report to the council next month, so she needs park updates from last year.

14-SUP Impact Assessments - Lathrope

Dana wants a post special use permit impact statement on the environment that includes (see last page of the slide)

Jerry asked if the event is done every year, do they have to take actions to mitigate the items from previous report? dana confirmed and said that she thought about this because of the talk about 13 nights being moved to the park. Paul stated that the city takes almost all of these into consideration already and that all this does is force them to provide it to ptc. Dana said that while she agrees that it is on the permit she does not feel that the post event follow up takes place. Howard feels that the more people that are going to be in attendance the more scrutiny there should be.

OLD BUSINESS**15 - Milton Creek Proposal - Pettit**

Lynne brought in maps for the Milton Creek area and went through the markings, fields, creek, and trails. She stated that she has been working with a naturalist for the last year on identifying species.

Jerry asked how many acres she is asking for for her reserve. she stated about 45 as well as space for parking. Brandon pointed out on the map the portions that the city is looking to sell.

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Reminded everyone the Columbia View Park will be closed for at least a year for construction, but the docks and bathrooms will be open. Jerry is concerned that the construction zones will disrupt his Urban Trail kiosk plans.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Lynne would like to create an onboarding process for the new commission members. She would like them to get a tour with Buck.

Howard would like everyone to start thinking about a summer field trip. Jerry feels that the May 25? trip could be the summer field trip.

ADJOURNMENT 6:26pm



PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 4:00 PM

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Lynne Pettit
 Commissioner Howard Blumenthal
 Vice Chair Scott Jacobson
 Commissioner Dana Lathrope
 Commissioner Nick Hellmich
 Commissioner Reid Herman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Jacob Woodruff
 Commissioner Paul Barlow
 Commissioner Jerry Belcher

STAFF PRESENT

Brandon Sundeen, City Councilor
 Melisa Gaelrun-Maggi, Parks Administrative Assistant
 Buck Tupper

CALL TO ORDER 4pm

OPENING COMMENTS FROM CHAIR PETTIT

Pettit went over her recollection of events on this topic from February to present. She also laid out how she would like the meeting to go and laid out her agenda. She then turned the floor over to Councilor Sundeen.

Sundeen thanked everyone for coming and expressed that he thinks it is a worthwhile project but feels everyone should work together. He mentioned that he is already aware of a proposal that Jacobson has to move forward.

Jacobson made a motion to propose a different approach to the Milton Creek Woodland Reserve project. Herman seconded. All voted yea.

Jacobson would like to make it an entire Parks & Trails commission project instead of a sub-committee project with no project chair. He would like to make it a standing agenda item and put together a plan draft. He sees this as an opportunity to expand the project beyond the Master Plan and partner with the Port. He would like a unified front and a fresh start. Jacobson asked for questions and discussion.

Hellmich asked who the interested stakeholders would be. Jacobson mentioned the Port and said that Pettit had some parties interested as well.

Lathrope feels that this approach is better so that they can review the video and minutes from the meetings instead of word of mouth from those who could not attend.

Pettit wants to make sure the name of this project is not the same as her project. She believes the name was changed previously in a sub-committee meeting to "trail". Jacobson stated he never agreed to change the name. Sundeen thinks that the name of the project should be agreed upon by everyone at this time going forward. Lathrope feels that this sort of past nuance is not the collaboration that is needed to make this project cohesive.

Hellmich asked what the current name is. Pettit stated that the name was changed to "City of St. Helens and Port of Columbia County Proposed Joint Milton Creek Trail Project" so that it wouldn't be confused with her project and presentation. Hellmich said that seemed like too much of a mouthful.

Lathrope said that Pettit has mentioned "her" project twice now and is confused as to why they are having this meeting if Pettit is doing her own thing for the same area. Pettit stated that she has been working on her project for some time now and it is for a "reserve" not a "trail". Pettit feels that this meeting is about clarifying the name of the "trail" project not joining the projects. Blumenthal said they should be one in the same. Lathrope does not feel she can support a commissioner doing their own separate individual project when the rest of the group is working on something else. Jacobson was surprised that Pettit's individual project has become so extensive.

Hellmich asked if they can at least agree on a name. Jacobson and Lathrope don't feel that the name is the issue. Lathrope is more concerned that the commission can't agree what aspects the group is working on and if the group is putting forth a unified message. Lathrope does not feel that Pettit should be going out on her own. Jacobson and Blumenthal agreed. Pettit stated it was already decided when an HB3115 statement was written up in June to the Planning Commission.

Lathrope and the rest of the commission have no recollection of this statement. Blumenthal feels that is in the past and they should move forward unified. Pettit says she does not understand where everyone is getting the idea that her project should be joined with the rest of the group.

Lathrope asked Pettit directly if she would combine the projects and work cooperatively. Pettit said that the commission has always worked cooperatively. Lathrope asked again because she felt that was not a direct answer. Pettit responded that back when she was on the Urban Trail sub-committee the process was followed. Jacobson stated that in the March meeting there was discussion about approaching the Port. Pettit said she didn't know that because she was on vacation. Jacobson said it was in the meeting video. Pettit said that it wasn't in the minutes. (Secretary note: there is mention of Jacobson discussing the Milton Creek Project in

the approved march minutes.) Jacobson reminded her that the minutes are not a word for word recount and that he also emailed her.

Pettit began to recount her recollections of the past events of this topic again, Jacobson interrupted to say that if they are going to continue to rehash the past there is no reason to continue the meeting.

Sundeen suggested that they all work together and that maybe Pettit's project could be phase one and they move forward together into phase two similar to the way the city is doing the Riverwalk project in phases.

Lathrope made a motion to dissolve the old sub-committee and adopt the new project approach as outlined by Jacobson and that the scope includes all things related to the Milton Creek area and any actions the Parks & Trails Commission takes in that area.

Hellmich seconded.

Open for discussion.

All voted yea

Pettit moved on to the next agenda item which was "the renaming of the project".

Jacobson pointed out that the motion just made the rest of the agenda irrelevant, and he feels they should move to adjourn the meeting.

Pettit stated that she had some things she wrote and wanted to read about the scope of the project.

Lathrope pointed out that they just settled all of that. Pettit said that she didn't get to address any of it. Lathrope pointed out that there was time for discussion. Pettit told Lathrope to "calm down" and continued to read her statement that the projects should remain separate and should continue to remain separate.

Jacobson told Pettit that her comment to Lathrope was unfair.

Pettit stated that there needed to be a motion to put the project on the next agenda. She was corrected by multiple members. Pettit interrupted Lathrope to ask if anyone else had comments before she adjourns.

Lathrope made a public statement that the current Chair Lynn Pettit's behavior is unkind and inappropriate, and she wanted to discuss how to move forward. Pettit spoke over her and said she didn't get to read her paper. Jacobson spoke up and said that Lathrope just made a public comment, and it should be addressed. Pettit spoke over him and asked if anyone had anything else. Sundeen stated that the concerns should be addressed and now is the time and place to speak up if there are any issues.

Jacobson and Lathrope both feel that the current chair has been speaking over other commissioners and limiting their ability to speak up at meetings.

They pointed out multiple ways in the code of ethics that the current chair Lynne Pettit has blocked open discussion, been controlling, refused to recognize a commission member, mistranslated the rules, and arbitrarily delaying discussions.

Lathrope is unsure how to move forward and would like to talk to HR to not make it public.

Jacobson made a motion to end the meeting.

Pettit adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT 4:50pm