

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2006 – 6:00 PM - City Hall, 716 SW Evergreen

Members Attending: Gary Jackson, Richard Green, Susan Marceau, Gary Parks, Peter Seitz

Members Absent: Julie Price, Jon Wood

Staff Present: Jeff Powers, Parks Manager; Cynthia Hollerbach, PW Admin Assistant; Curt Peterson, Parks/FM Operations Supervisor; Rick Torassa, City Arborist

Others Present: James Booth, Tony Hill, Eric Calicdan, Gail Wood, Katy Ruddiman, Walt Ruddiman, Allen Pearce, Jerry Wheeler, Tom Bull, Amy Jo Bellew, Doug Bellew, Jim Tobish, Mike Prescott, Donald Eckart, Ryan Lane, Michael Thille, Trish Pinkerton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Parks Commission Members: Susan Marceau and Richard Green were introduced and each gave a short synopsis of their backgrounds and why they are interested in serving on the Parks Commission.

Dry Canyon Vegetation Management Update: Jeff Powers passed out a general schedule highlighting vegetation management efforts planned for the Dry Canyon which are to be carried out over the next three months. A notification will be sent in the next couple of weeks to residents adjacent to the Dry Canyon to let them know about a canyon walking tour in which vegetation management and ladder fuel reduction issues will be pointed out. The plan includes dividing the Dry Canyon neighborhoods into groups to participate in a spring clean-up along the Dry Canyon.

Jeff met with Joe Stutler, a Deschutes County forester, to discuss the Dry Canyon thinning and ladder fuel reduction plans to date. Joe shared what Deschutes County has done with regards to ladder fuel reduction on county land. Joe encouraged a plan for annual mowing and re-vegetation with bunch grass. Both, Joe and Jeff are apprehensive about prescribed burning. Joe advocates planting ponderosa pine and producing a long-term management plan for fire prevention and noxious weed control.

DECISION ITEMS

Minutes: Gary Parks motioned to approve the minutes of November 21, 2005 and Peter Seitz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

Rotary Club Proposal for Stage in Sam Johnson: Allen Pearce, Rotary President, and Rotary members Michael Thille and Eric Calicdan presented their proposal for a centennial project for which the Rotary has been saving money for several years. They are proposing to build a performing arts stage in Sam Johnson Park for school plays, music on the green, dances troupes, etc. The proposal is for an elevated covered stage 50 feet wide and 40 feet deep. The proposed location is just north of the tennis courts and slightly west of the current "music on the greens" location. It would include 'light bars' to place overhead lights and an 8x38 foot storage space in the rear. It would be built to accept 3-phase power for lighting. "Canyon Arts Pavilion" is the preliminary name.

The Rotary will pay for things that cannot be donated; otherwise the plan is to have construction come from in-kind donations. Design of the stage should be complete by next month and include a materials list and cost estimates; it is being designed to conform to the current pavilion and restroom architecture.

Jeff Powers stated this is a wonderful community project. He added that the City would like to be involved in parking issues and a permit process would be necessary. Since the structure would be turned over to the City for maintenance, the permit fees may have the potential of covering event related maintenance costs. Gary Jackson cautioned about noise and traffic issues. He believes it is important to discourage parking on residential streets and encourage parking at the high school. Representatives from the Rotary Club figured that about 900 parking spaces were available at the high school, middle school and spud bowl combined. They also felt that a large event of 1500 plus participants would occur perhaps once a year and that they anticipate much smaller events on a regular basis.

The Rotary would like to begin construction this spring and have it completed by this summer. Jeff Powers stated that the City would go through the appropriate public process since this park amenity has the potential to bring large volumes of people/vehicles into the park.

Potential Disc Golf Course Locations: Mike Prescott was asked to come back to the Parks Commission with ideas for potential locations for a disc golf course. The proposed location is the North Dry Canyon. A potential course would begin at the parking lot, consisting of 9 holes meandering through the trees and another 9 holes working back to the parking lot. Eighteen holes can be of tournament quality. The course would locate off to the west side since the east side is denser with trees; it was mentioned that the discs hitting trees can remove bark. The course would also take in the canyon sides to get different angles. Other potential locations mentioned were the old Juniper Hills Golf Course (they were not aware that this property belongs to the airport and its not available) and the BMX course. The North Dry Canyon is preferred over the BMX area since it would be easier for more youths to get to the canyon area. As brought up by Gary Jackson, Gary Parks, and Peter Seitz, the general consensus was for the Commission to have a separate discussion about this type of mixed recreational use (pedestrian walkway/bikeway and disc golf) and the larger vision of the master plan for the North Dry Canyon. The cost can be as high as \$10,000-\$15,000 to construct the course; yet ideas for keeping these costs down were mentioned.

Tree Board: The Commission was provided with a draft permit and asked to bring their comments to this meeting. Gary Jackson asked what the process is when requests for a permit are denied; his concern was for consistency in giving approval or denial of permits. Rick Torassa responded that the ordinance dictates when trees can be approved for removal and