

The City of Columbia City

In Columbia County on the Columbia River



PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 28, 2012 - 6:00 P.M. CITY HALL, 1840 SECOND STREET COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018

Present:

Shannon Fitzgibbons, Chair
Marian Calnon
Stan Hopkins

Nell Harrison
Leahnette Rivers
Kathleen Devlin

Harvard Park: Kathleen Devlin provided the Committee with neighborhood survey results associated with Harvard Park. According to her survey, 10 people volunteered to help with planting, and members of 5 households agreed to help with trimming and pruning as needed. She said members of one household claimed the City was supposed to put in plantings to disguise the fence and potty. She said members of 2 households supported the potty and were neutral about the placement of the potty and the view, members of 3 households felt negative regarding the placement of the potty and view, and members of 3 households felt extremely negative about the placement of the potty and view. She said she received input about concerns that the plantings might have too much foliage and could screen unwanted behaviors, so they will need to be trimmed, and she heard other concerns about the plantings not providing enough foliage to properly screen the unsightly potty.

Leahnette said the porta potty was placed in its existing location because the trees and shrubs that were there would help to screen it, but she did not recall any plans for additional screen planting around the potty. She said the City did implement a planting plan around the playground area around the same time the potty was put in, and those plants and trees have now started to mature, but when the porta potty was originally sited there was no landscaping around the playground area.

Kathleen suggested the City consider removing the potty from the park, or at the very least remove the potty from Harvard Park from September to May, and replace it during the 3-months of summer to accommodate the children when they are out of school. She said this would free up revenue to allow the potty in Bundy Park to remain year-round to accommodate the walkers.

Kathleen said she purchased Japanese Maple, Cypress-Irish Eyes, Rhododendron, Viburnum-cranberry, Privet, Nandina, and Euonymus at a reduced price, and received a donation from the County Fair Board consisting of Photinia, Holly (Red and China), and Boxwood. She explained that based upon the input from neighbors, she'd like to expand the planting area in front of the potty, and she provided the Committee with a revised planting plan.

Leahnette will check with Hudson to see how much room they need between the planting wall and the potty to allow for servicing.

Kathleen said she plans to complete the planting between September 4 and September 17. Leahnette will contact Public Works to have them call for locates in the park prior to September 4. Leahnette will also have Public Works cut in a planting ditch for the planting wall. She will schedule the delivery of a load of bark dust in mid-September. Kathleen will spread the bark dust over a thick layer of newspaper to kill the grass between the planting wall and the potty so the area will not need to be mowed.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the revised planting plan submitted by Kathleen be approved as presented. Members thanked Kathleen for the amount of energy she had put into this process and commended her for her accomplishments. The Committee will send a thank you letter to the County Fair Board for the generous donation of plants.

Dog Park: Chair Fitzgibbons said the Forestry Department uses their vacant land for training exercises, so it is not available for a dog park. She expressed an interest in pursuing the development of a dog park on the Port property adjacent to "E" Street between Second Street and The Strand. Committee Members were in favor of the idea, and Chair Fitzgibbons will contact the Port of St. Helens to inquire about the site.

Entrance Sign Site: Leahnette said there's been no change in the status of the lighting fixtures since the last meeting. Committee Members said Sally Ann Marson has done an incredible job of keeping the weeds out of the roses. Leahnette has been in contact with ODOT about replacement plants, but has not received a response. Stan reminded members that we want to add bark dust along the bank. Stan has been mowing the site, along with the bike path, during the absence of mowing volunteer.

Pixie Park: Leahnette said the City has hired the Columbia County Corrections Crew for \$325 per day to work each Friday. She said the crew recently cleared out all of the blackberry bushes and cottonwood trees in Pixie Park.

Bike Path/McBride Creek Trail System: Leahnette said the Columbia County Corrections Crew removed the weeds and blackberry bushes from the bike path between Pacific Street and McBride Creek, and from the property around the bike path that extends from Highway 30 to Park Street. She said they will be available soon to begin the development of the McBride Creek Trail System. Stan said as the first phase of the project, he'd like to see them develop the trail between the existing bike path down to the flat area that the Committee recently identified for a picnic area. Committee Members agreed. Stan will coordinate phase one of the project directly with the crew leader, Thomas Bluhm.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 p.m.