

The City of Columbia City

In Columbia County on the Columbia River



PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 25, 2012 - 6:00 P.M. CITY HALL, 1840 SECOND STREET COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018

Present:

Shannon Fitzgibbons, Chair
Marian Calnon
Stan Hopkins

Jack Hruska
Leahnette Rivers

Entrance Sign Site: Leahnette said she's been unable to locate meidiland roses at a reasonable rate. She said many of the local nurseries have replaced them with carpet roses, which are similar in appearance and hardiness and are also low maintenance. She said they are selling for \$16 or more each. She said she found some meidiland roses on-line at a reduced sale price of \$5 each, but the nursery is closed for the season, so she will take a look at that site again next spring.

Leahnette said the Columbia County Corrections Crew will spend some time at the site digging the ditch for the electrical conduit and spreading bark dust around the rose bushes.

Bike Path/McBride Creek Trail System: Leahnette said during the next few months the Columbia County Corrections Crew will be working on developing the trail leading from the north end of the bike path down to the future picnic area, and clearing and parking out the picnic area. She said they'll hand dig the blackberry root balls from along the trail, remove all of the weeds, blackberry bushes, and woody debris from along the trail system and from around the picnic area, and remove the dead trees. She said they'll clear the berry bushes from around the upper rim of the picnic area to open it up and allow more light into the area. She said they will also either develop a path or a set of stairs with railing leading from the picnic site up the bank to the paved trail system for quick access to the picnic area. It was the consensus of the Committee Members that stairs and railing would be easier access, although more expensive. Leahnette said the crew will use the USDA Forest Service specifications construction and maintenance of trails for the trail development. She said the crew is prepared to continue with the trail development down along the bank and to the creek next spring. Leahnette will make contact with the owner of property on the north side of the

creek to discuss acquiring an access easement or acquisition of the property along the creek bank for the future trail system.

Committee Members discussed chipping the woody debris on-site and possibly using the chips for the trail surface or for other applications.

Stan will meet the work crew at the site on Friday, September 28th. Leahnette will put together an ice chest with water and soda for Stan to take to the site. Stan inquired about the access off of Highway 30 for trail head parking. Leahnette will check with ODOT to see if it can be used for that purpose.

Pixie Park/Datis Park: Jack inquired about public access along the full length of the river and beach adjacent to Columbia City. Leahnette said she believes a few of the homes own the tidelands, so the beach and water may not be accessible to the public adjacent to those homes. She will look at the deeds and/or contact the Division of State Lands. Jack said Pixie Park was heavily used this summer. Committee Members noted that the beach is nice and sandy now, and there were lots of people swimming at the beach in the park. Members expressed concerns about swimming there, considering the steep drop offs and very strong rivers currents. Leahnette mentioned the recent incident with the two 12-year olds that were on inner tubes off of Pixie Park and were swept downriver by the strong current. She said they were rescued by a Columbia City resident downriver. She said the DAR is currently working on installing a sign to warn swimmers about the strong, dangerous current, and stating that there is no life guard on duty.

Meeting adjourned 6:50 p.m.