

The City of Columbia City

In Columbia County on the Columbia River



PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MARCH 15, 2011- 5:00 P.M. CITY HALL, 1840 SECOND STREET COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018

Present:

Shannon Fitzgibbons, Chair
Sheila Bauer
Marian Calnon
Nell Harrison
Jack Hruska (arrived 5:12 p.m.)
Leahnette Rivers

Service Level Cutbacks: Chair Fitzgibbons said City maintenance activities within the parks will be reduced to bare minimum mowing along the bikepath and new sign area. She said she recently met with Jonathan Hule, who plans to submit a proposal for an Eagle Scout project in Ruth Rose Richardson and Pixie Parks. She said the proposal will be subject to the review and approval of the Parks Committee and the DAR. She said she's also made contact with Darrell Smith of the Mormon Church. Darrell is working on coordinating another clean up event in Jim Bundy Memorial Park. Chair Fitzgibbons said she plans to hold a Garden Club luncheon in one of the parks, and many members would be willing to do some maintenance work in the flowerbeds during the event.

Leahnette explained that the Council has been reviewing the City's financial condition, and is faced with making difficult choices in order to balance the budget for the next year. She said at this point, the Council has directed her to prepare a budget that provides for very basic mowing within the parks - just enough to stay in compliance with the City's grass and weed height requirements - and maintaining trash containers, and making repairs as required. She said the City crew will no longer work in the DAR parks. She said the City is working on increasing volunteer support within the parks - including the DAR parks. She said watering will be significantly reduced, and the staff will not work on any projects or detailed maintenance activities.

Chair Fitzgibbons said the porta-potties in Harvard and Jim Bundy Memorial Parks will be removed beginning in November, and replaced April 1st.

ODOT Right-of-Way Area - Entrance Sign: Leahnette said it will cost about \$1,000 to add power to the site, and initial estimates for lighting fixtures for the sign and flag pole have come in at \$1,900, not including installation. She said this project is now on hold due to the budget cuts. Jack suggested the project be added to the Five-Year Capital Plan for parks. Nell suggested that someone may want to take on the project as a memorial.

Nell said a friend of hers would like to purchase a purple locus tree to plant behind the sign along the bank. It was the consensus of the Committee that the request be approved. Leahnette suggested someone be identified to water the tree during the summer months.

Jim Bundy Memorial Park: Members discussed the trillium, which is just beginning to bloom. Leahnette will run an article about trillium in the next newsletter, and send a suggestion for an article to both of the local newspapers.

Harvard Park: Jack showed members photos of the really nice rock that sits along Highway 30, as well as two large rocks at the north end of the bike path. Leahnette said the rock on the Highway is too big for Public Works to handle. She will ask ODOT if they can move it for us - they may want to get it out of the highway ROW to improve traffic safety. Jack said if that doesn't work, maybe Public Works could move one of the other rocks when the ground dries out.

Datis Park: Nell provided the group with a condensed version of the history of the commercial ship, the Datis, which was put into service from the Sommerstrom Builders of Columbia City back in 1919. Members had previously discussed constructing a kiosk in Datis Park to display the history. However, in light of current financial concerns, it was the consensus of the group that the history be placed on a stainless plaque and mounted on a large rock instead. Leahnette will get a quote for the stainless plaque.

Meeting adjourned 5:32 p.m.