

The City of Columbia City

In Columbia County on the Columbia River



PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 2018 - 5:00 P.M.

COLUMBIA CITY VETERANS PARK, COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018

Present:

Sally Ann Marson, Chair

Nell Harrison, Committee Member

Jack Hruska, Committee Member (departed 5:45 pm)

Leahnette Rivers, City Administrator/Recorder

Paulette Lichatowich, Port of St. Helens

Claire Catt, The Public Health Foundation of Columbia County

Smoke Free Parks: Claire Catt, Prevention Coordinator for the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County, spoke to the Parks Committee about the benefits of providing smoke free parks to the community. She said, 1) tobacco free parks promote healthy outdoor recreation; 2) tobacco free parks protect users from exposure to unsafe secondhand smoke; 3) tobacco free policies protect youth from exposure to dangerous emerging products; 4) tobacco free parks are good for the environment and wildlife; and 5) tobacco free policies save money. She discussed the idea with the Parks Committee at length. She said Public Health has funding to support the needed signage for the parks, and will recommend placement in cost-effective locations, such as on existing sign posts. It was the consensus of the Committee to support Claire's recommendation for smoke free parks in Columbia City, and it was the consensus of the Committee to recommend approval to the City Council. Claire will attend the February 1st Council Meeting to present the request.

Veterans Park: Regarding the construction of a fifth veteran wall, Leahnette said we cannot apply for a Columbia County Cultural Coalition Grant this year because we've received an award within the last three years. However, she said the project fits the criteria for a National Society DAR Special Projects Grant, which is only available to 501c3 nonprofits, so she prepared a grant application on behalf of the Mount St. Helens Chapter DAR to help fund the fifth veteran wall. Leahnette reported that the drinking fountain should be installed by the end of February, which will complete the Phase III improvements within the park.

McBride Creek Trail System: Leahnette reported that the County work crew removed the morning glory from the hillside behind the veteran walls a few months ago. She said the public

works crew has been dumping fill in the ravine at the north end of Sixth Street, which will improve our ability to construct the trail between the north end of Sixth Street and McBride Creek. She reported that the National Park Service has selected our project for technical assistance, which we will receive throughout the current federal year. She said a project kick-off meeting was held in November with representatives from the National Park Service, Columbia County Planning, Port of St. Helens, Portland & Western Railroad, Oregon Department of Transportation, Knife River, and the Parks Committee. Since that meeting, she and Dan Miller of the National Park Service have been working through a number of options associated with vehicular parking and access for the project, as well as how to safely get pedestrians across the highway and railroad tracks, and she provided the Committee with an overview of the options currently under consideration. She also reported that the Port Commissioners seem to be committed to pursuing public access to Trestle Beach, and their staff will be soliciting proposals for consultant services to help develop a conceptual plan for the site. Paulette agreed that the Commissioners are supportive of investing in some sort of park and trail development at Trestle Beach, but they have not come to an agreement about what level of development should occur.

Ruth Rose Richardson/Pixie Parks: Leahnette said the DAR has contributed another \$2,000 towards the ongoing maintenance costs associated with the DAR parks.

Mattie/Park Street Property: This item was postponed until the February 27, 2018 meeting.

Update Park Project List for Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan: This item was postponed until the next meeting.

Other Business: Ivy Removal Project: This item was postponed until the next meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.