

The City of Columbia City

In Columbia County on the Columbia River



PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 27, 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
Leahnette Rivers, City Administrator/Recorder
Mike McCoy, Lions Club
Melissa Howard, Citizen

Lions Club - Memorial Bench Placement: Mike McCoy said the Lions Club would like to place a memorial bench on a concrete slab somewhere in Columbia City. The Parks Committee Members suggested the Lions Club consider the following locations for the placement of their memorial bench:

- Along the bike path to the west of the Veterans Park above the future lower picnic area, which will also be an access point for the future McBride Creek Trail system.
- In Harvard Park under the new shade sail that is scheduled for installation this season.
- Somewhere in or near Jim Bundy Memorial Park.
- Anywhere along the bike path - except for the section between Penn Street and the Veterans Park.

Mike will contact Sally Ann for a tour of the site options.

Mattie/Park Street Property: The Parks Committee continued discussions about the property to the west of Mattie and Park Streets and reviewed the results of the citizen survey. Members noted that the idea for a BMX pump track on the lower level section of property received little to no support, due mostly to the remote location of the site. Leahnette said staff recommends the lower level property be sold because it's too remote to be safe for most park uses, would require a significant investment of time and materials to make it properly accessible for mowing purposes, and would require a lot of maintenance due to the open field grassy conditions of the site. Melissa Howard said she and her husband are interested in purchasing the area, which would make a perfect extension of their yard. Members noted that a property survey would need to be completed and specific public property disposal procedures would need to be

followed in order for the City sell the property. MOVED (MARSON), SECONDED (HARRISON) AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH RESEARCHING HOW TO SELL THE LOWER LEVEL PROPERTY AREA THAT IS ABOVE THE BANK.

Veterans Park: Nell said the Garden Club did some maintenance work in the park yesterday. She said the magnolia tree was damaged during a wind storm and needs some pruning and support. She said some of the California lilac is sick and dying, and she is taking a sample to the Extension Service to find out what's wrong with it and how to treat it. Nell said the Garden Club will return again on April 23rd to do more maintenance work. Leahnette will solicit volunteer help during for the April 23rd work party.

Leahnette said coordination of the Memorial Day Ceremony is moving along nicely. Senator Betsy Johnson will be our Welcoming Speaker and Doug Hayes of the Port of St. Helens, retired US Army Battalion Commander, will serve as our Master of Ceremonies. She said CC Rider will provide shuttle service for a fee of \$500, Mark Mullaney will play his bagpipes for no charge, Frank Hupp will perform the Missing Man Table and Honors Ceremony, and local citizen Maria Burns will read her winning VFW Voice of Democracy Speech. She said all of the other arrangements are in the process of being finalized.

McBride Creek Trail System: Leahnette provided an update on the status of the technical assistance work. She said the group is still focusing on options for parking areas and highway/railroad crossings for both pedestrians and vehicles. She said this is a very complicated project involving a lot of different agencies and many meetings, conference calls and site visits. She said the Port of St. Helens is committed to making improvements to the Trestle Beach area and working with the City on the parking areas and highway/railroad crossing issues. She said the Port has hired a consultant to help them with design ideas for the Trestle Beach improvements.

Regarding the construction of Phase I (extending from the Veterans Park to the north end of Sixth Street) she said we'll be applying for a Recreational Trails Program grant again in April. She said Dan Miller from the National Park Service will walk the area with her in the near future and assist her with trail design ideas and cost estimates for the grant application.

She said a Town Hall meeting will be scheduled at some point in the near future to present the Port's ideas for the development of the Trestle Beach area along with the recommendations for parking and vehicular/pedestrian access.

Other Business: Members discussed scheduling a volunteer clean up day for ivy and blackberry removal along the railroad right-of-way area - especially to the north of the L Street bridge. Concerns were raised about whether or not we could get enough strong-bodied volunteers to show up because this project will involve some pretty difficult work. Leahnette said she'll check with the railroad to see if they might take care of the ivy problem on their own.

Leahnette suggested the Parks Committee Members take a look at some property at the west end of Penn Street and let her know if they are interested in it for park purposes.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.