

The City of Columbia City

In Columbia County on the Columbia River



PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FEBURARY 27, 2018 - 5:00 P.M. COLUMBIA CITY VETERANS PARK, COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018

Present:

Sally Ann Marson, Chair
Nell Harrison, Committee Member
Leahnette Rivers, City Administrator/Recorder
Nancy Girard, Citizen
Carol Storm, Citizen
Lance Howard, Citizen

Mattie/Park Street Property: The Committee reviewed the survey results dated February 12, 2018. Some support was shown for the development of a picnic area along the upper level behind the drainage swale at the corner of Park and Mattie Streets (16 in favor, 5 not in favor, 2 undecided). However, little support was expressed for the development of a BMX pump track in the lower level area (4 in favor, 13 not in favor, 5 undecided.) Nancy, Carol, and Lance (residents near the Mattie/Park Street property) spoke in opposition of the development of a BMX track on the lower level. Leahnette said the lower level area is very secluded, which does not make it a very good place for children to congregate due to safety concerns. She said it is also not a good site for walking or hiking trails due to maintenance requirements associated with weed and blackberry control. In addition, she said there's currently no easy way to access the site. She suggested the Park Committee consider selling the lower level area to one or more of the neighbors. She said the proceeds from the sale could be used for another park project. Because only two Parks Committee Members were present, no decisions were made as to how to proceed. This item will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Veterans Park: Chair Marson said Betsy Johnson will be our guest speaker this year and Maria Burns will read her winning essay. Leahnette said the bagpiper has confirmed his participation. Members recommended we proceed with finalizing a program similar to last year's program.

McBride Creek Trail System: Leahnette provided an update on the status of the technical assistance work. She said the group is currently focusing on options for parking areas and highway/railroad crossings for both pedestrians and vehicles. She said this is a very

complication project involving a lot of different agencies, and as a result, the project is likely to get some attention from the State of Oregon's Regional Solutions Team.

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 this spring.

Update Park Project List for Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan: Members agreed that next year's Veterans Park project will consist of the construction of a fifth veteran wall. All of the remaining projects will remain the same and be pushed out one year. Members were not ready to add a project for the Mattie/Park Street property to the Five-Year plan - they felt further discussion and consideration about the use of the site is needed.

Other Business: The Committee considered a request from Mike McCoy requesting permission to place a Lions Club Memorial Bench in the City. The bench would be made of recycled plastic and would be bolted to a concrete slab. Members were pleased with the idea and will come up with some ideas about where it might be placed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.