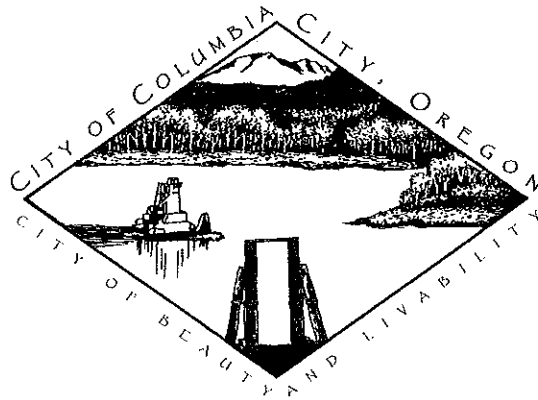


The City of Columbia City

In Columbia County on the Columbia River



PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 8, 2024 - 6:00 P.M. City Hall Council Chambers – 1840 Second Street

Present:

Katrina Claridge, Committee Chair
Karen Shervey, Committee Member
Jim Wills, Committee Member
Sally Ann Marson, Committee Member
Kim Karber, City Administrator
Micah Rogers, Public Works Superintendent

Katrina called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Carolyn King Park: Parks Committee members visited Carolyn King Park, and their observations were: It is a clean park with a great view and people do use it. Tim Lammers is doing a great maintaining the Park. Currently there are no flowers, maybe an addition of some flowers or bushes in the beds. There is irrigation up there, but the soil is not great (clay). See attached for other observations.

Datis Park: Parks Committee members visited Datis Park, and their observations were: Another great little park with a view. Improve sitting area, possibly a picnic table with a cover, but would need to consider how it would affect the view. Removing the prickly bushes and replacing them with something else that is easier to maintain. Put in some type of access to the river? Parking is a concern, where should they be parking?

Other Park updates or reports: None.

Other Business:

- Sally Ann has received several phone calls stating that Marson's Garden is looking good!
- Park Committee members will look at Harvard Park for the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Datis Park

Observations:

Small park with a bench located on top of riverbank with exceptional views of the Columbia River, Cascade Mountains including Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams. A thick green rope threaded through round topped posts creates a perimeter on the south, east, and north sides of park. The Strand St. creates the west border of the park. A hedge of living shrubbery, possible Barberry, lines the perimeter following on the outside of the green rope. The river bank from the park to the beach is steep possibly between 75 -90 degrees steep. Blackberries grow on the river bank as well a few small shrublike trees at the beach/bank interface. The north side of the park abuts against a residential dwelling. On the south side beyond the green rope and hedge is an undeveloped space about 20 feet wide from Strand St. to the top of the river bank. This space is bordered on its south by a residential dwelling. Within this space are located large Fir trees and a large Oak tree. An unimproved path along a buried rain water drainage pipe goes down the steep river bank to the beach where rain water flows out of the pipe and onto the beach. City signage includes; Datis Park sign, large rock with historical information about the steamship Datis, and a 'No Beach Access' sign is placed along the unimproved path leading down the bank to the river.

Maintenance:

1. Lawn mowing
2. Shrub hedge trimming.
3. Blackberry removal.

Possible Improvements:

1. A fishing pier/viewing deck has been on the Parks five year budget for years.
 - a. If this ever materializes care must be given to the neighbors to maintain their privacy and protect their existing views from those who would use the fishing pier/view deck.
 - b. A fishing pier could be more problematic than a viewing deck
2. Because unique topography of the park a viewing deck could be constructed over the river bank at the required flood regulations height.
3. If the view deck extended east over the river bank to the edge of the foundation on the residence to the north, an unobstructed view of the Columbia River to the north and south would be available.

Datis Park continued:

4. Being on the beach, Datis Park is tied into the Columbia City Loop path system. Based on the maps included in the Parks Master Plan, the trail loop system includes River's Walk ,following McBride Creek up to 9th street then downhill to the river. At the river the trail follows on the beach north to Trestle beach and up to River's Walk along McBride Creek.
 - a. Datis Park should be an Access point to the river beach section of the loop.
5. A path built to code should be extended from the top of the river bank to the beach. The beach of the Columbia River from the mean highwater mark to the water is public property. The only exception is the beach north of Datis park for approximately 150 feet. This section of beach was exempt from the state lands law OAR 141-082-0260 (3) & (4) as it was in use prior to statehood.
 - a. The City should consider negotiating an easement over this approximate 150 feet of beach to allow greater public access.
6. A water fountain should be installed at the park.
7. The living hedge should be trimmed on the north to provide a privacy barrier between the park and the residence. On the east and south sides, the living hedge should be trimmed and maintained at a height below the top of the rounded posts that hold the green rope, so the green rope and posts are clearly visible.
8. The river bank should be kept clear of vegetation that would block or interfere with the view from the park.
9. Any development in Datis Park needs to avoid reducing or obstructing the existing view of residents along the Strand and H Street.
10. The speed limit along the Strand should be a maximum of 15 MPH as the Strand is one of the narrowest streets in the city and Datis Park is a walkin park used by pedestrians.
11. Vehicle parking should be prohibited at Datis Park as it obstructs the view of the residents along the Strand and on H Street.

King Park

Observations:

Small park with covered picnic table, bench, and some plantings along perimeter, located next to city water storage tanks. Panoramic view of the Columbia River, Cascade mountains and the Vancouver plain.

Maintenance:

1. Keep lawn mowed and watered.
2. Keep plants watered and trimmed to avoid obstructing view.

Possible Improvements:

1. Drinking fountain.
2. Bathroom in northwest corner of property and shielded from view of neighbors.
3. Trail around perimeter of city property behind water storage tanks.
4. Increase protection for infrastructure controls this could be combined with #2.