

Depoe Bay Parks Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2011 - 5:30 p.m.
Depoe Bay City Hall

PRESENT: Chairman B. Spores, K. White, G. Engleman, W. Johnson
ABSENT: J. Hayes
OTHERS: City Planner L. Lewis, Fran Recht, Skip Hoitink

CALL TO ORDER

Spores called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES – April 20, 2011 Meeting

Motion: B. Spores moved to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. G. Engleman seconded.

Vote: Motion passed.

Ayes: B. Spores, K. White, G. Engleman, W. Johnson

PUBLIC INPUT

Fran Recht, 66 NE Williams Ave., said she uses the City Park Nature Trail and very much likes it. She is aware the city is working on extending the trail across the creek and has concerns about the location of the trail. She has spoken with ODFW regarding mitigation efforts where people have created cut-through trails (not intended to be trails) to and along the creek, damaging the riparian area. These cut-through trails need to be blocked off to allow regrowth of vegetation. She suggests using brush or some other deterrent to make it difficult for people to access the unintended trails. She believes the city will have to be continually vigilant to protect the area from these intrusions. She noted there are coho salmon, an endangered species, present and the city has an obligation to try to use, and not abuse, the area. She offered to walk the area with commissioners to discuss protection measures. Spores said Terry Owings has been working closely with ODFW on the trail project and the city has done replanting. Recht would appreciate the city placing some brush to act as an access deterrent, and “unpack” the ground to allow regrowth of vegetation.

Recht spoke to the Parks Master Plan work, relating the obligation to treat the Scenic Lands differently. She observes that more and more of the area is being mowed, turning it into more of a park and less of a scenic view area. Lewis provided an update on the master plan work, the commission is discussing concepts and improvements for all of the open space and scenic view areas in the city in a low impact way. He has been working on a draft concept/work plan for the Scenic Lands and of the four areas he has looked at three, two of which are proposed to be left exactly as is. Better access to the middle one is being proposed. Recht said the plan looks okay, but the expanding intrusion of mowing is eliminating natural vegetation which helps keep people back from the bluff. She encourages keeping the area as natural as possible, in keeping with the intent of the scenic areas, so people can experience what the coast once was. Brief discussion followed on the existing “scramble” trails to the rocks that fishermen use, one north of the Emerald Coast Realty building and one north of Tidal Raves Restaurant by the bench, safety concerns and not make these trails inviting. Recht suggested not mowing, placing logs, allowing vegetation growth to not eliminate access but to not encourage either. She thanked the commission and requested copies of drafts of the master plan work.

CITY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT Spores will address the report later in the meeting to go to the Parks Master Plan since Lewis is here. He informed new member Johnson to feel free to ask questions at any time during the discussions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – PARKS MASTER PLAN

Lewis noted that at the last meeting there was a comment on the Scenic Lands area north of Tidal Raves, that there is an existing grass trail that was not reflected on the draft plan, he has since added that trail to the plan. He reviewed the draft Highway 101-West of Berg Street SVA (copy attached), which is the one north of Emerald Coast Realty. He noted existing improvements, with recommendations to remove ivy and dead branches from trees and place “public view area” signs. Discussion included the existing two picnic tables and bench and should there be more, safety concerns of the trail being minimal, not recommending steps; the objective of the scenic

lands being to maintain views and the natural area, deed restrictions, awareness of the public of these areas, the mowed grass trail being an attractive nuisance, review mowing plan, place logs, proper ivy removal methods. Spores noted that Fran Recht was instrumental in the city obtaining the scenic lands properties. Lewis said the next area for review will be the single lot north of the Whales Rendezvous B&B, noting the difficulties relating to terrain of this lot, asking for input. There is a flat bench area which would be great for a view area, but access would require a series of steps from the sidewalk, do we want to be more aggressive in providing access on this lot. Hoitink suggested a rock wall with steps, a landing at the top, a path to the tree and a bench. The area needs to be cleaned up and it will be more costly to develop access at this site than others. It was suggested to make access a lower priority due to cost. Lewis will continue to work on drafts for the commission's review, meetings to present the entire draft master plan to the public will occur later this year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS NATURE TRAIL

Spores spoke with City Superintendent Owings who reported the city has acquired plants from ODFW and has planted with guidance from OFDW. The city is working on installing the creek bridges, the current plan is to cut the poles in sections for transport up the creek and fabricate connectors for installation. A building permit will be required, Owings has contacted Andy Stricker, an engineer, to assist with structural design. Spores reported that the OPRD grant for the City Park Bridge replacement has been funded, Owings is reviewing current costs to ensure the grant funds will be adequate to complete the project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS CITY PLANTERS

Spores said nothing has been done with the big planters at the boat launch parking lot due to wet weather conditions. Dirt needs to be brought in and plants obtained since none of the former plants were saved. He asked Owings to look at the barricade behind the Community Hall by the bench, possibly replace with something more aesthetic. He asked commissioners to think of ideas to replace the barricade.

Spores said the Bay Street Project is scheduled to begin September 19th, to lessen the impact on businesses during the summer. There was brief discussion on the project.

Flowers have been planted in the planters at Whale Park, two of the small planters at the park have been redone, one remains (Kids Zone) to be done. The city may seek assistance from the garden club for the planter areas in front of city hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS DOG PARKS

Spores referred to Pery's memo relating to Dog Parks (copy attached), noting that the matter had been discussed briefly at the City Council meeting last night. The city's insurance company considers dog parks as any other public park facility. He said his son has designed dog parks in California and his son feels that having separate dog parks actually reduces liability. The dog parks are fenced, include a sign-in area, are self-supervised, self-cleanup and his only suggestion would be separating small dogs from big dogs. Discussion included fencing requirements, potential state or county guidelines, dog parks are becoming more prevalent (located on public property), installing dog "playground equipment" such as ladders, raised platforms, etc. would be of concern to the insurance company, if there is sign-in would it include a waiver of responsibility, park size and possible location. Spores summarized that the commission is not opposed to creation of a dog park if the council can find the land; the Parks Commission says yes to a dog park, if the council supplies the land the commission will go from there. He will let Pery know to pass on to the council

PARK COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

White suggested using debris from the nature trail clearing to place in sensitive areas along the creek, allowing for vegetation regrowth. Hoitink said the city is going to spread chips and haul wood out when the area dries.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. (estimated)

Bill Spores, Chairman

Pery Murray, City Recorder