

**Depoe Bay Parks Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 20, 2013 - 5:00 p.m.
Depoe Bay City Hall**

PRESENT: Chair B. Spores, C. Bond, J. Hayes, B. Hickerson, D. Metz, V. Thomas, K. White (arr 5:13 pm)
STAFF: City Planner L. Lewis (5:00 – 5:30), City Recorder P. Murray

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman B. Spores called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 5:00 p.m.

II. APPROVE MINUTES – January 16, 2013

MOTION: Hayes moved to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2013 meeting. Hickerson seconded.

Vote: Motion passed.

Ayes: Hickerson, Hayes, Spores, Metz, Thomas, Bond

III. PUBLIC INPUT – none

IV. CITY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - Spores provided a few minutes for everyone to read Owings' report (copy attached to the original of these minutes). Discussion followed relating to: bench locations, the City Park Nature Trail, the recently cleared Graham St. Trail needing another step at the top and a bench placed at the site, more work is needed at the North Point Trail for safety (tree roots/tripping), the brush cutting/clearing work done at Whale Park and the Scenic Lands Park looks good, development of a Depoe Bay Walking Trails brochure.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Selection of Commission Secretary – Meeting Minutes – Thomas asked what this assignment entails and said she would think about it.

Spores asked if there was any objection to discussing the New Business agenda item so the City Planner could leave the meeting early. There was no objection. City Planner Lewis reviewed his memo (copy attached to the original of these minutes) regarding the OPRD Grant opportunity. Staff identified a potential project as improvements to four areas of the Scenic Lands Park per the Parks Master Plan Update. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Hayes moved to recommend to the City Council that staff prepare a grant application for funding improvements in the amount of \$25,000 to the Scenic Lands Park as described in Lewis' memo. Hickerson seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed.

Ayes: Hickerson, White, Hayes, Spores, Metz, Thomas, Bond

Lewis left the meeting.

B. Bridge at Dam – City Park - Discussion included a question of design options, the presence of bats under the bridge, expected life span of the bridge, need to replace the existing bridge (placed 1984), the new bridge will accommodate motor vehicle traffic – emergency passage only. Spores reported that Owings will provide the engineer's design with the commission when received.

Hayes reported the City Council approved the sandblasted stone sign for the Scenic Lands Park, as recommended by the Commission. Once ordered, it will take 3 – 4 weeks for the sign to be produced. Thomas asked what is Depoe Bay's definition of "park", where are the parks. Murray provided a brief explanation of the difference between a park and pedestrian improvements (trails, benches) on platted street rights-of-way. The City identifies three parks, the City Park, Whale Park and the Scenic Lands Park. Spores asked everyone to introduce themselves, which each commissioner did, providing a brief background of themselves.

C. Nature Trail Project Report – discussed previously (City Superintendent Report).

D. Work Crew- 5 Scenic View Sites – discussed previously (City Superintendent Report).

E. Signs

– **Stone Sign – Scenic Park** – Hayes said the sign will be completed in about a month.

- **Scenic View Area and Trail Signs** – Bond reviewed the discussion from the previous meeting and noted the sample designs/shapes for emblems on posts provided by staff (copy attached to the original of these minutes). She feels the city needs to mark these trails so people can find them and is looking at inexpensive, recognizable, low maintenance identifiers. Presenting a sample which she'd prepared, she explained that white PVC pipe provides visibility, is inexpensive and low maintenance, the logo and wording would be on the pipe and with a cap it resembles a lighthouse. Bond strongly recommends developing a brochure "Depoe Bay is the Place to Walkabout" to inform the public about the trails and parks in Depoe Bay. Discussion followed on the Commission's previous attempt to provide walking maps and local residents' concerns of parking/traffic congestion, privacy issues, and dog owners being responsible, the need for garbage cans, doggy doo-doo bags and signs at the trail sites. It was suggested to wait on the brochures until all trails are developed to avoid the need to revise the brochure as trails are completed. An audience member noted that nature trails and signs (by nature) should be unobtrusive, uniformity is an important identifier tool, brochures are a good idea, but keep the entire effort low-key to avoid the areas being overrun and sustaining damage.

MOTION: Bond moved that each commissioner will provide their brochure ideas by the next meeting. Hayes seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed.

Ayes: Hickerson, White, Hayes, Spores, Metz, Thomas, Bond

It was agreed that Bond will bring a draft to the next meeting, Thomas offered to work with Bond. Bond was also asked to research prices of wood and recycled plastic post materials for a 6" x 8" post.

- **Harbor Historical Sign** – Spores encouraged resident participation by taking White's draft from the previous meeting and speaking with persons to obtain narrative and photos. It was suggested to speak with long-time residents such as Fred Robison, Helen Eliassen, Russ Hunter, Betty Taunton and Tony Wisniewski. He asked White, Hickerson and Metz to work on gathering information for the sign.

F. Plantings/Screenings at Scenic View Sites Park – Hickerson reported that Blake's Nursery recommends using evergreen huckleberry as a vegetative barrier, or other sturdy, low maintenance shrubs including escalonia, Japanese sage, rosemary, white heather. He reviewed costs of different the plants. Fran Recht, present in the audience, expressed her distress over the recent clearing and cutting that was done along the highway (Scenic Lands Park), noting her family memorial bench is now totally exposed. She questioned the removal of trees and elderberry, but not ivy and asked what the commission's vision is, and how she can participate in the process. Development of a city vegetation plan was suggested.

G. Memorial Bench Program – Murray reported the city cannot decide to not maintain city property (benches), she will bring insurance information to the next meeting, and check with OPRD regarding the memorial benches on their property (deeded back by the city). There was brief discussion on possible additional sites for memorial benches and it was agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) Local Government Grant Opportunity – Discussed earlier in the meeting. Fran Recht, who'd arrived after the discussion of this item, asked what the Commission decided. She noted the deed requirement to consult an arborist before any tree or brush removal or trimming is done at the Scenic Lands Park.

VII. PARK COMMISSIONER'S CONCERNS

Thomas would like to see more people attend meetings. Spores reminded commissioners of assigned tasks: Bond and Thomas will work on the walking trail brochure, White, Hickerson and Metz will work on the historical sign.

VIII. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Bill Spores, Chairman

Pery Murray, City Recorder