

**Depoe Bay Parks Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 - 5:00 p.m.
Depoe Bay City Hall**

PRESENT: Chair Bill Spores, Michael Granat, Jim Hayes, Robert Hickerson, Ken White

ABSENT: (none - two vacant positions)

STAFF: City Planner Larry Lewis, City Recorder Pery Murray

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVE MINUTES – January 21, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Hayes moved to approve the January 21, 2015 minutes as written. Granat seconded.

VOTE: Motion passed.

AYES: White, Granat, Hayes, Spores, Hickerson

III. PUBLIC INPUT – None

IV. CITY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - None

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C. Scenic Park Grant – City Planner Lewis distributed a copy of Civil West Engineering preliminary plans for improvements at the southern portion of the project, between Whales Rendezvous B&B and Emerald Coast Realty buildings (copy attached to the original of these minutes), requesting the Commission's review and comments. He noted the following items for discussion: 1) decorative walk pattern stamp in concrete is included, which is typically more expensive than plain concrete, 2) recycled decking for the wall is the wrong size on the plan (plans show 2 X 4", actual size is 2" X 8" X 10') and he'd like input on the wall height, 3) there are no railings for the stairway, 4) the trail west-end split is pulled back from the trail's westerly terminus as identified in the Master Plan. He added that the B& B owners are very concerned about privacy and have asked for screening to prevent people from going further west than the trail. Discussion ensued, including: having a shorter wall for better visibility (2 ½ feet high, or 3 horizontal recycled decking planks high), the recycled decking planks are salvaged from Dock 1 after the 2011 tsunami damage and they are beautiful; placing sections of the recycled decking vertically rather than horizontally, or placing horizontally with no gaps between to avoid wall climbing; it was determined that railings for both sides of the stairs are necessary; and if funding is short to possibly eliminate the decorative walk pattern stamp. Lewis noted that this area is about 50% of the total project budget. Spores recommends saving where possible here to not short the rest of the project.

Lewis distributed copies of two photo-maps (copies attached to the original of these minutes), that he'd prepared to follow up on the Commission's request for information on potential trails: 1) an 8 ½" X 11" photo-map reflecting South Depoe Creek, the existing Park Nature Trail and a 50 foot riparian setback from the creek on the east side (private property), and 2) an 11" X 17" photo-map reflecting a potential trail as described by Skip Hoitink. Discussion followed, including investigating the possibility of acquiring scenic easements in riparian areas and making contact with the private property owner.

Lewis reported that Weidner is ready to order Hoitink's memorial bench as soon as the plaque wording is finalized. Spores will provide the wording in the near future. Murray referred to the order for David Barkhurst's memorial bench (copy attached to the original of these minutes), asking the Commission to review for approval of plaque wording and requested location. Spores clarified the proposed location, site # 12, is approved by the City Council. Brief discussion ensued on the plaque wording.

MOTION: Hayes moved to approve the plaque wording and placement location as requested. Granat seconded.

VOTE: Motion passed.

AYES: White, Granat, Hayes, Spores, Hickerson

A. Alsea Avenue Encroachment – Email correspondence dated February 2, 2015 between Patrick Mendenhall and City Superintendent Weidner, in which Mendenhall proposes purchasing the land his piers/rope fence is encroaching upon for an amount of \$35,000; and a photo-map of the area showing the street rights-of-way around Mendenhall’s property (copies attached to the original of these minutes) were reviewed and discussed. Fran Recht, Williams Ave., urged the Commission to move forward with a decision, and to reclaim public land from private property owners. She added that the Commission should also review the Ellingson Street encroachment. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Hayes moved to answer back to Mendenhall that the city take back its property and insist that the property owner move the piers back to his property, off the city property, and reject his offer. White seconded.

VOTE: Motion passed.

AYES: White, Granat, Hayes, Spores, Hickerson

B. Harbor Historical Sign – Jaci McKim handed out the “4th final” version of the sign layout with revisions from the last discussions. She suggests UV protection to avoid fade-out, especially of the photos. Fran Recht said that there is a sign material that not only prevents fading, but vandalism as well; it is the same material the Nature Trail signs are made of. The sign will be placed on posts, at a slant, in the grassy area at the seawall in the harbor near the USCG dock. Spores asked everyone to review and provide any changes to McKim by Wednesday of next week. McKim will make any revisions and provide to City Hall to order the sign.

E. Stone Signs - Hayes reported the Old Stoners have provided three different lettering designs with cost estimates (copies attached to the original of these minutes). The draft designs were reviewed, White suggested that “*Worlds Smallest*” be in different font style for the proposed harbor entrance sign by the Community Hall. Hayes is not sure of the size of the rocks for the Scenic View Areas (SVA), but they will be smaller than the one at the Scenic Lands Park, and due to the size, it is not suggested to include the city logo. The Commission reviewed the cost estimates: 1) *Depoe Bay Scenic Trail* w/o city logo \$390.00, 2) *Depoe Bay Scenic View Area* w/o city logo \$439.00, and 3) *Depoe Bay Harbor – Worlds Smallest* with city logo \$1,641.00, and 4) a general estimate for the smaller SVA signs from \$390 to \$500 each. It was noted that the rock for the proposed harbor entrance sign to be placed in the curve of the Community Hall parking lot would be larger than the proposed SVA signs. Lighting this sign was discussed. Hayes and White said they’d like to see this move forward. White said signs are needed at the Graham St. SVA, and once the encroaching piers are removed from the Alsea Ave. area, one needs to be placed there. Spores said a bench could also be placed at that location. Fran Recht said she supports people enjoying the outdoors, but voiced her concerns about people’s safety and habitat impacts. She said there is a fine line between affording public access and public safety/ trampling of vegetation. She suggests having well-defined trails with something to encourage people to stay on the trails, not a lot of signs, but something to advise people of the hazards and impacts. White referred to the proposed harbor entrance sign, we need to decide if the Old Stoners will put their logo on it. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Spores moved to submit to the City Council for their approval two stone signs, one for the Graham St. SVA and one for the harbor entrance at the Community Hall parking lot, with *Worlds Smallest* in different font. Hayes seconded.

Discussion: Hayes offered to provide a write up on each rock sign with associated costs for the Council. White noted the cost estimate does not include lighting for the sign at the Community Hall.

VOTE: Motion passed.
AYES: White, Granat, Hayes, Spores, Hickerson

Hayes will prepare an information packet to take to the City Council for their second meeting in March.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Spring Projects – Spores reviewed items/projects he has, 1) install handrails along the trails at Graham St. and Alsea Ave. SVAs, 2) install a dog station in the North Point area, 3) work on trails along North Depoe Creek, 4) organize a volunteer crew to help keep the Oregon Trail maintained in our area, which includes outside the city limits. He asked other members for input. Fran Recht said the Oregon Parks Department is currently working on master planning for state parks. Murray reported that City Planner Lewis is serving on that advisory committee. Spores added he'd like to develop/open more SVA areas in the next year. Granat noted there are muddy spots on the Nature Trail, which should be addressed. Recht thanked Pogo for cleaning out the walkway under the Hwy 101 bridge, he had said that the state had the walkway pressure washed, and it is unusually clean. Spores would like to talk to the Coast Guard about removing the power line that spans the channel entrance. Discussion ensued.

B. 2015-2016 Budget Priorities – The following items were discussed: 1) budget money for future park land acquisition; 2) set up dedicated funding for acquisition of land, or easement, on the east side of South Depoe Creek, for expansion of the Nature Trail; 3) stone signs for SVAs - \$5,000; 4) develop/open more SVAs - \$5,000; 5) harbor entrance and Graham St. stone signs if not completed this year; 6) after completion of grant project at Scenic Lands Park, \$5,000 for additional work there; 7) more historical signs and benches in the harbor area - \$6,000; 8) redo trail brochures, adding waterfront and Nature Trail information - \$2,000. There was brief discussion on adding wording to trail brochures to advise people to be careful and to be respectful of plants, and potential revenue sources for the city parks system. Spores asked Commissioners to bring their ideas for further discussion at the next meeting.

VII. PARK COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS - There were none.

VIII. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Bill Spores, Chairman

Pery Murray, City Recorder