

Depoe Bay Parks Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 2015 - 5:00 p.m.
Depoe Bay City Hall

PRESENT: Chair B. Spores, M. Granat, J. Hayes, R. Hickerson, R. Gilliam, R. Salazar

ABSENT: K. White

STAFF: City Recorder P. Murray, City Planner L. Lewis

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Spores called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 5:03 p.m.

II. APPROVE MINUTES – July 15, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Granat moved to approve the July 15, 2015 minutes as written. Hayes seconded.

VOTE: Motion passed.

AYES: Granat, Hayes, Spores, Hickerson, Gilliam, Salazar

III. PUBLIC INPUT –

Beanie Robison, Chair of Depoe Bay Salmon Enhancement (SE) Commission, reported the Commission released 15,000 fingerlings in South Depoe Creek. He and the Commission appreciate the respect given to the creek when the trail improvements were completed. He said that due to the native run, they don't normally release in South Depoe Creek, but it is a great creek because of water temperatures and the tree canopy. He asked the Parks Commission to think about planting/maintaining trees along the creek. He said the SE Commission plans to clean up their signs. He spoke about future development, working together to protect the watershed, but not impede development. Spores said he and White had discussed a new sign on salmon life cycle and general history. Robison noted that the Depoe Bay S.T.E.P. is one of the oldest programs in the state. The SE Commission has salmon crossing signs, it would be fun to put them back up. Discussion followed on the existing interpretive signs the SE had placed in the City Park that were originally obtained and installed with assistance from ODFW. Cleaning, replacing, relocating, maintaining, were all discussed. Robison suggested a sign on the history of the hatch box program could be placed by North Depoe Creek near the USCG Station.

Fran Recht, 66 NE Williams Ave., said she wanted to speak about the recent clearing at the Scenic Lands Park. She has spoken with Brady and voiced her dissatisfaction with the work that was done. Her understanding, from the Parks Commission meeting where the arborist report was reviewed, was that there would only be ivy and brush removed, yet quite a few trees were removed. Alders, elderberry, willows and salal were cut. She provided a brief history on her work to acquire the lands, noting that it was never intended to be grass or buildings, but to be natural. She feels that a lack of communication, or lack of respect for what was worked so hard to accomplish, is the problem. She suggested that the Parks Commission write out a plan to help avoid miscommunications in the future. She expects the trees to be replanted, no more grass to be added and no more cutting of the grass.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Smoking in City Parks – Spores said this item will be postponed to a future meeting.

V. CITY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - None

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Highway 101 Open Space West of Bradford Street – Scenic Lands Park Improvement Project – Spores reported the City Council had approved putting out the advertisement for construction bids at last night's Council meeting. Lewis noted the trail terminus has been pulled back from the planned western end

to the end of Forbis' fence. Spores offered that the City keep the Forbis' informed of the construction schedule. Dian Forbis asked if the construction workday could start later, possibly 9:00 or 10:00 a.m. and stop work by 5:00 p.m. in consideration of her B & B guests.

B. Lee Street Lookout Trail - Scott Glass said he frequently walks the North Point trails, and when he learned the mid-area was public he started using it because it is easier access. Sometimes he parks there and sits in his car to watch the ocean. A couple weeks ago he saw that big rocks have been placed in the parking area. He is upset at the lack of consideration for people with disabilities. Now he has to park on the street when there are already two cars there. He doesn't want to be forced to use other accesses, which are very difficult for him. He feels the City could better spend money on improving accesses for the disabled and others. The rocks restrict access, limit parking and are a tripping hazard. Salazar agreed that area is a great spot to access and view the ocean, the path can be enhanced by adding steps with handrails, could move the rocks further apart to provide wheelchair access, and the area could be improved into a park area instead of a parking area. Glass likes it the way it is, the more man-made improvements, the further away from nature. Spores referred to Lewis' handout (copy attached to the original of these minutes), a drawing reflecting a conceptual plan for the Lee St. Lookout Trail. Lewis said this is the concept that he and Salazar discussed and is provided for the Commission to review. Gilliam said he lives on North Point and his experience is that as there are more improvements encouraging access, there are more problems, including that residents feel their space is being infringed upon. Glass commented that residents and property owners are aware there are public areas. Fran Recht said the Commission should stipulate that only native plants be allowed, and when encouraging public use there is the need to inform the public to respect the fragile habitat, stay on the trails, and the area is vegetation sensitive. Lewis feels that vegetative screening is not needed since neighboring property owner fences provide adequate visual screening. Glass asked what will happen when more than a few cars are there, restricting parking spaces will add to the problem. Granat encouraged Glass to continue to give input to the Commission, noting that he does not agree with the parking restriction.

C. Stone Signs - Hayes reported that the sandblasting is done, and painting will be completed by next week. He will meet with Brady on the foundation for the sign and anchor.

VII. PARK COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Granat apologized for not being on top of the brochures, he's working on what he and Jaci talked about. Everyone got copies of her questions she wanted feedback on. Hayes said the Whale fountain needs repair, Graham and Vista trails are overgrown and handrails are still needed. Spores said that is on the Lincoln County Crew work list. Lewis reported he has started the letter to the property owner regarding a trail along South Depoe Creek, there is no word on any development plans, but the owner would sell for \$1.2 million. Spores suggested there is potential of outside funding sources. Salazar asked if the state is doing anything on the Oregon Trail. Spores has called Rocky Houston to see if the state is maintaining of if volunteers are needed. He said there is a proposed RV Park development between Little Whale Cove entrance and South Point Street. If a sidewalk will be put in, it may impact the trail. Lewis said that on a previous development proposal along the highway, the City spoke with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) about a forest trail vs. sidewalks and ODOT was okay with that. Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) always hopes that local volunteers will maintain the Oregon Trail. Spores asked Lewis to speak to Houston about viewing at the curve to enable seeing the seals in Big Whale Cove.

VIII. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Bill Spores, Chairman

Pery Murray, City Recorder