

ST. HELENS PARKS COMMISSION

Minutes for Meeting of August 8, 2016

Council Chambers, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacob Woodruff, Chair
Howard Blumenthal, Vice Chair
Elisa Mann, Commissioner
Stan Chiotti, Commissioner
Phillip Roddy, Commissioner
Jerry Belcher, Commissioner
John Brewington, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

Neal Sheppard, PW Supervisor
Thad Houk, Parks Supervisor
Sheri Ingram, Secretary

GUESTS

MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNCILORS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Morten

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Woodruff at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chiotti made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2016 meeting. Motion was seconded by Blumenthal and approved unanimously.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Morten stated he would like to see them not only report on the parks but would also like them to talk about the Parks Commission overall and give any insights and brainstorm on ideas for the Commission. The City received a letter from the Greater Parks & Recreation District (Eisenschmidt Pool) about leasing Civic Pride Park to possibly put some kind of splash park or similar activity to exist with pool admission. Roddy asked if they would charge people extra admission for it. Brewington thinks it should be accessible to everyone. He approves the concept but thinks it's too early to discuss details. Doug said the Greater Parks & Recreation District would maintain it. Woodruff asked where the lease money would go and if it would go back into the general fund and Sheppard said it wouldn't even be enough money to matter.

Brewington made a **motion** to recommend the City to approve the concept and enter negotiations for the Greater Parks and recreation District to take over the property. Motion was seconded by Roddy and approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Flower Garden Adoption: Ingram stated Morten brought this up at the June meeting which wasn't an official meeting since there was no quorum. He thought it would be a good idea to let people adopt flower beds or flower garden areas in the parks and take care of them for a year and the people who were at the meeting thought this sounded like a good idea. Nelson brought up the idea of putting signs on them so people would know who was taking care of them. Ingram said she can laminate signs and Houk can put them on stakes since they will be temporary.

No Smoking In Parks: Another thing on the June agenda was Blumenthal had brought up that people were smoking in the parks and Houk has "No Smoking" signs so he was going to work on putting them up.

Morten stated he would favor in the long run a kiosk at the entrance to each park with all of the park rules posted on it instead of having signs spread out everywhere. Brewington said it would be great to have a map of the park on a kiosk. Belcher stated they should think about a kiosk at McCormick that says something like "Visit St. Helens City Parks" and a map with all of the parks and their amenities. It would be a good selling point for people driving down Old Portland Rd. They could put it in the gated area down by the golf course so people could access it without having to drive into McCormick Park. Morten said it might be possible to put something like that by the FARA building and at the Chamber of Commerce and Columba View Park. He would like to see them make recommendations to the Council so they can put these things in the budget. Brewington said they should adopt it as a goal in the next six months. They could also have local businesses sponsor kiosks. He wondered if they could use tourism funds for that. Blumenthal suggested they could also have brochures in waterproof boxes strapped to fences.

McCormick Trail Maintenance: Roddy stated the Lions Club would like to take over the maintenance of the trails and signs along the exercise trails at McCormick. They have a guy who makes signs and they would like to put one up that says the Lions Club maintains it. Sheppard said he didn't see a problem with it but if they wanted to do anything outside the scope of regular maintenance, they need to talk to him or Houk for approval first. Roddy made a **motion** to recommend Council approve the Lions Club take over trail maintenance at McCormick Park. Motions was seconded by Mann and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Report to Council: Brewington stated he and Blumenthal and Belcher delivered the report to the Council and it went well.

Old Portland Rd. Triangle: Belcher said he would like to see the triangle at 14th St. turned into some kind of little park. Sheppard stated that is part of the transportation plan and that whole area is probably going to get changed around.

Homeless Campers: Houk said they found a hidden camp at McCormick and there are homeless people camping on Sand Island. Should the parks employees just look the other way if they aren't causing problems? Sheppard said we have had complaints and we should have a new code enforcement officer hired soon who can deal with these issues. Belcher thought it might be more appropriate to let people camp on Sand Island for three days instead of seven but Sheppard said a lot of people do stay that long to fish.

OTHER MATTERS

Chiotti said there are some big dead limbs in the tree at Walnut Tree Park and it makes him nervous to be under it when he mows. Houk said they would go look at it.

Blumenthal said they had a demo garden at Nob Hill with native plants and someone pulled them out.

Mann said people have asked why there is gravel on the trails instead of chips. Sheppard said the chips break down in the wet weather and the trails turn to mud.

Belcher thought if we were going to divide up the parks and talk about each park at the meetings, it would be nice to have a schedule. Chiotti will give a report on Walnut Tree Park and Woodruff will give a report on 6th Street Park at the next meeting and Ingram will send the list of parks and who has them to Woodruff so he can make a schedule.

Sheppard said there are a lot more people using McCormick Park now that they banned camping. He said they also got approval to install pay stations for the showers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 10, 2016, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheri Ingram
Secretary

2016 ATTENDANCE RECORD**P = PRESENT / E = EXCUSED ABSENCE/U = UNEXCUSED ABSENCE**

Meeting Date	John Brewington	Elisa Mann	Jacob Woodruff	Jerry Belcher	Stan Chiotti	Howard Blumenthal	Phillip Roddy
2/08	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
4/11	A	P	P	P	P	P	P
6/13	NO QUORUM						
8/8	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
10/10							
12/12							