

ST. HELENS PARKS COMMISSION

Minutes for Meeting of June 12, 2017

Council Chambers, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT

Howard Blumenthal, Chair
Elisa Mann, Commissioner
Phillip Roddy, Commissioner
Jerry Belcher, Commissioner
John Brewington, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

Thad Houk, Parks Supervisor
Sue Nelson, Engineering Supervisor
Sheri Ingram, Secretary

GUESTS

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jacob Woodruff, Commissioner
Stan Chiotti, Vice Chair

COUNCILOR IN ATTENDANCE

■ ■ ■

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Roddy made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2017 meeting. Motion was seconded by Brewington and approved unanimously.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Morten was not present.

NEW BUSINESS

Nob Hill ROWs in Parks: Blumenthal stated when the City re-zoned Nob Hill to a park, they found out there are still street right-of-ways that go through there. Should we ask the City to vacate those so streets don't get put through there in the future? Roddy asked if any of the streets have even been run through the parks and they have not. Brewington said the first thing they should do is ask the City Planner. Blumenthal said he would e-mail Jacob Graichen and ask him if it's necessary to vacate those in the park.

Annual Report to Council: The annual report was originally supposed to be given to the Council on June 7th but has been rescheduled to July 19th at 1:00. Ingram asked for two volunteers and Blumenthal and Mann said they would do it.

Park Report: Belcher gave a report on Dalton Lake starting with the history of the property. There was a survey conducted in 1853 and he had copies of that information. There is a creek that runs through the low area into the lake called Harry Creek that used to go to the lake and run out through Brownlow beach. There was a sawmill at one time at the north end of the lake and there was a ship building company there. He passed around pictures of those and it was quite the developed area. He had heard that at one time, St. Helens was one of the biggest towns between San Francisco and Seattle. Nelson said she had heard if we had an easier shipping route to the Willamette Valley back then, St. Helens would have developed like Portland is now. Brewington said the mail ship used to come here because it was the deepest water port on the river but the whole dock mysteriously burned down in 1857.

After WWII, a Dr. Dalton owned 80 acres in that area. He was a British army physician and they had a house somewhere in the Grey Cliffs area and his wife had a huge garden. At one time the County owned the property and back in the late 1980s, when ODOT widened the highway, it was used as a mitigation site for wetlands. He used to go down there a lot and he thought there was more wildlife in that area before the mitigation than after. It is in the urban growth boundary and has potential as a nature park. Brewington asked if there were limitations on what could be done in a nature park and Blumenthal said he thought there were restrictions on what could be done by ODOT since it's a mitigation area.

He read part of the Master Plan that said there is potential for it to become a full nature park and the City needs to add 15.9 acres of nature parks to meet the State's recommended level in their 2010 analysis. By 2020, they would recommend adding 22.3 acres of nature parks. Dalton Lake is a total of 56 acres and the Parks Commission would like this property to be owned by the City and added to the park inventory. Once added to the parks inventory, further development and improvements could occur. The Parks Commission would like to increase collaboration with Friends of Dalton Lake to cut down on maintenance costs to the City. There is also the possibility to collaborate with the School District to do class projects such as identifying native plants, etc. The City has recognized the importance of developing that area further and making it more accessible to residents.

The plans talk about a future trailhead at the end of Madrona which he doesn't think is necessary, and one at the Humane Society and one at the far end by the Water Plant. The bike trail goes all the way through there and trails go off of that to the lake. There is a rough road on one side for Vector Control access.

The past two years, Pat Birkle, who is in charge of Friends of Dalton Lake, has had a cleanup down there on Earth Day. Belcher and his neighbor went and cut ivy off of trees. From last year to this year, there were probably four large trees by the lake that had fallen because of ivy. He took a chainsaw this year and they cleaned off trees that had huge amounts of ivy on them. There are a few more down there they would like to finish up or they will end up falling too. He says there are hundreds of trees down there with little bits of ivy on them and he recommends they get a Boy Scout troop to clean them off while it's easy.

Last year, Ron Schlumpberger graveled part of the trail down there and he has other things going on this year so Belcher recommends they gravel the rest of it because if the trail is graveled, people have a tendency to stay on it more and don't tear the area up as much. There is also a trail that goes to the bluff and that could be an overlook but he doesn't know what the responsibilities are for that because it is a drop-off. There should be a fence or rail there.

He has talked about this before but would also like to see this as part of the trail system that they put on the internet for people to come and visit.

Next Parks Reports: Woodruff will be rescheduled to report on McCormick in August since he is not here and Blumenthal will report on Nob Hill.

OLD BUSINESS

Field Trip: After some discussion, the field trip to the old park on the Boise property is rescheduled for July 17th at 4:00.

Nob Hill 4th Street Entrance: Blumenthal asked if the City could get a survey to find out where the property lines are in regards to the house at 370 S. 4th St. The gentleman renting the house there has put up a sign and it makes people feel unwelcome. He mentioned it to Jacob and he came up with a suggestion that they could come up with money to make a parking area and move the trailhead a little bit. After some discussion on the wording, Belcher made a motion to ask the Council to approve getting a survey of the front and south property lines of 370 Plymouth Street and 497 S. 4th Street because of property conflicts. Motion was seconded by Brewington and approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Blumenthal said they had vandalism in Nob Hill again. Someone took a hammer to two birdhouses and destroyed them. They also tried prying the No Smoking signs off. He said there is also a patch of poison oak close to the trail he'd like to talk to Paul Gerdes about spraying. He also had a note from Carolyn asking if the Parks Dept. could do one or two mowings a year on the main trail.

Mann asked about getting a speed bump installed at the entrance of the park by the library. People speed in and slam on their brakes and kind of drift around that corner in the evenings. A couple of weeks ago, she saw someone do that just as two kids and their dad were coming around the corner and it was scary. They come in and spin around and leave so there isn't time for the police to come. Houk said they have brought up the idea of speed bumps before and they have always said no. Nelson said she would look at some other options besides speed bumps. They are not an ideal solution because they will slow some people down but others will try to go faster over them. Brewington said it might be a good idea to call Terry Moss and have an officer sit over there around that time of the evening if one is available.

Roddy said he was at McCormick on Memorial Day weekend and the new shelter was filthy. There were dirty diapers. Houk said they put garbage cans close to everything but people can't seem to make it that far. They also put up a No Smoking sign in the shelter since there were a lot butts lying around even though there are signs all over. He wanted Roddy to pass on their thanks to the Lions for all of the work they have been doing on the exercise areas.

OTHER MATTERS

Houk said the pay showers at Columbia View are averaging \$40 to \$50 a week and they are twice as clean with less vandalism and no reports of drug paraphernalia found in them now. The homeless were a big problem with taking showers and doing their laundry and someone could be in there for an hour but that all stopped when the pay showers were installed.

During past Memorial Day weekends, they would have two barges of garbage after the holiday. They did an experiment and took the trash cans off the island. They only had six bags of garbage after the weekend because people were packing it out.

He also had a high school student clean the trails and pick up trash at the Botanical Gardens for his senior project. Belcher said he could talk to someone at the high school about doing more things like that. Houk suggested someone could make dog park obstacles for a project.

Ingram said Dimsho requested she read them a couple of updates since she couldn't be there. The Veterans Memorial expansion project is forthcoming and Andrew Neimi will set up a work group meeting to discuss kicking off the project. They are hoping for installation by November 15th.

The Nob Hill kiosk is being built by Roger in the next few months and the pedestrian staircase will come in late August/early fall.

The final Columbia View park expansion site plan, created by the PSU students was adopted by resolution by City Council at the June 7th meeting. The final report is on the City's website on the Parks Department Page. Nelson reminded them that the report is just ideas and feedback they got from the community. Nothing is set in stone in the plan. It is a concept.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2017, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheri Ingram
Secretary

2017 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
2/13	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
4/10	A	P	P	P	P	P	P
6/12	P	P	E	P	E	P	P