



**CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Calapooia Room, City Hall
Wednesday, March 4, 2009
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Commission members present: Mike Graham, Sharon Edwards, Russ Allen, John Vandepas, Jill Van Buren

Commission members absent:

Staff present: Ed Hodney, Parks & Recreation Director; Katie Nooshazar, Parks and Recreation Program Manager; Dick Connolly, Parks and Facilities Maintenance Manager; Tari Hayes, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant

Guests present:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2009

The minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting were approved.

3. BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC – None

4. ACTION ITEMS - None

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Bike Park Report to City Council – Hayes (handout)

The Commission was provided with a copy of Bike Park Task Force report that was going to be presented at the March 9 Council Work Session. Rob Romancier, Hayes and a small group of kids will give the presentation. They will discuss the group's vision for the park and provide an overview of the location discussions that have taken place this far, with pros and cons of each location. The group has been developing a design that will fit all skill levels. The group has done some preliminary research on alternative funding sources such as grants, donations, and sponsorships and is encouraged by their findings. The group will ask for Council input on the planning completed so far, and for suggestions on next steps for the Task Force to take.

b) Request to increase number of appointees to the Parks and Recreation Commission

Hodney shared that the City Council may be open to adding a Commission member if the Commission feels additional representation is needed. In the past the Commission had difficulty maintaining a quorum at their meetings and expressed the desire to expand the Commission. That does not seem to be a problem now. The Commission discussed the possibility of adding a youth liaison position on the Commission. The School Board and various task forces have youth representation and it seems to be successful. If the Commission expands to 7, the student could be ex-officio and they could add two members, or they could

give the youth full voting rights and add one additional Commissioner. Additional Commissioners could alleviate concerns held by Commissioners when they can't attend meetings or have scheduling conflicts. The Commission would prefer to have the student be a full member with voting rights. They also suggested that the term last at least a year. Commissioners are appointed for 3-year terms. Commissioner Graham would like to see a minority added to the Commission if a new position is created.

If the Commission decided to expand and articulates their needs, the Parks Department will assist in carrying that message to the Council. The Commission voted to add two members to the Commission, one being a youth appointment and the second being from the general public.

ACTION ITEM: Hodney will provide some alternatives and recommendations for the Commission to consider.

6. REPORTS AND UPDATES

a) Capital Projects Report – Hodney (handout)

Eades Park- Acquisition of a 33,000 sq. ft. parcel to the east has been completed. The project is designed and is scheduled to go out to bid in April, with construction starting in spring/summer. Minimal work will be done outside of the park area, such as brush clearing. Neighborhood partnerships will be set-up to assist with occasional clean-up projects.

Kinder Park – Construction is 70% complete. If the weather continues to cooperate the project should be completed slightly ahead of schedule.

East Thornton Lake Nature Area – Oregon Water Enhancement Board (OWEB) has given staff some feedback on the grant application, awards are to be announced in a few weeks. The grant request submitted was larger than most other submissions and there is only so much money in this particular fund. OWEB provided the grant group with a resource for a much larger financial resource and the group will pursue that. In the meantime, the group needs a formal decision from OWEB before moving forward. Negotiations are at a sensitive stage with the owner of the land. There is still considerable community interest. Some negative feedback has been received as well.

b) YMCA Project Report – Hodney (handout)

Commissioner Van Buren stated that she's been getting questions from the public on the YMCA planned to go in at Timber Linn Park. Hodney provided the Commission with a time-line of Council actions on the YMCA project. City Council just recently reaffirmed the City's desire to proceed with the project.

Hodney, using the Timber Linn Master Plan (TLMP), gave the Commission an overview of the project. One of the elements of the TLMP calls for a community center in the park. It made more sense to put it at the north end of the park rather than the south end in order to use the optimum space for sports fields in Timber Linn Park. Parking partnership opportunities with the Fair Expo would be possible at the north end rather than the south end.

The partnership with the YMCA came about after the TLMP was created. The YMCA proposal includes a city-owned and managed gymnasium, the City's first. The building will belong to the YMCA; the gymnasium inside the building will belong to the City. You don't have to have a YMCA membership to use the building.

The building will sit on a 4 acre parcel of property in the park. The City would convey that tract to the YMCA. The only way the conveyance could happen would be if the City received something equitable in return. In exchange for conveyance of the 4 acre parcel, the City will receive a 9 acre parcel on the east side of the park and the gymnasium. The City is providing some investment, primarily improvement in

parking lots and grounds, to the project. By law, the City not only has to receive something in return for the conveyance but also has pay for the gymnasium. These improvements meet that need. The City will also negotiate on an annual basis for use of other resources in the building such as class and meeting rooms, aquatic facilities, etc.

The new parcel helps the City acquire some of the property needed to build the softball complex called for in the TLMP. The site will also provide some access from the east side, off of Gold Fish Farm Road. The site does protect some wetland and environmentally sensitive areas.

Hodney stated that the project can be complicated to understand. The thing to remember is that the City is going to receive a parcel of property worth more than they conveyed property. There has been some opposition to the project, primarily from property owners directly across from the park. At the same time, there are some property owners who are supportive of the project. We've received more positive response than negative, primarily from the people who participated in the TLMP and the project planning.

Commissioner Allen asked if some of the field improvements for the ball fields could be completed in one of the early phases, in order to improve the fields currently being used by youth soccer. Hodney stated that improvements for a ball field would not provide the needed improvements to the soccer fields.

Before the ball fields can be built, the soccer fields need to be relocated to the new Community Park, which is awaiting funding sources.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Van Buren shared that she's been getting comments from the public on Park and Recreation items that she's unsure how to answer. She asked where she could bring up these discussions on the agenda. The group decided that there were various ways to share public comments with the commission. One is to add it to the agenda for the next month via the "Call for Agenda Items" email that is sent prior to the meeting. Additionally, a commissioner can contact Hodney with any questions or concerns prior to the monthly meeting. Commissioners are advisors to both the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Department. They are also liaisons between the Department and the community. Additionally, the Commission decided to add a line item on the agenda titled "Business from the Commission".

Commissioner Graham stated that the East Albany Lion's Club certificate of deposit is due to be renewed. Hodney will double check the Capital Improvement Program for next year to see when the project is scheduled.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is April 1, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Calapooia Room in City Hall.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tari Hayes, Administrative Assistant

Albany Parks and Recreation