



**CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Calapooia Room, City Hall
Wednesday, March 5, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Commission members present: Mike Graham, Sharon Edwards, Keith Underdahl, Russ Allen, Jill Van Buren

Commission members absent: None

Staff present: Ed Hodney, Parks & Recreation Director; Katie Nooshazar, Recreation Programs Manager; Rob Romancier, Recreation Programs Manager; Debbie Little, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF February 5, 2014

MOTION: Sharon Edwards moved to approve the February 5, 2014 minutes as presented. Keith Underdahl seconded the motion, and it **passed** 5-0.

3. BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None

4. ACTION ITEMS:

None

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Proposed FY 2014-2015 Budget

Hodney reviewed projected revenue and expenditures. Projections include \$300,000 contingency, and carry forward of increased revenue generated, which will be budgeted in Parks Administration. Contingency has been increased minimally to guard against unexpected expenditures. Hodney mentioned outcomes with police and fire bargaining units and arbitration cases that have lead to added expenses to the budget that current revenue in the general fund is not able to cover. The Parks & Recreation budget is not currently one of the options are being looked at for a solution, but that could change. Brief discussion followed.

- i. Park Administration: all Central Services charges from other programs are budgeted in the Park Administration budget.
- ii. Park Maintenance: budget includes new Natural Resource Specialist position.
- iii. Recreation: budget reflects staff adjustment in Adult Recreation needed for additional programming responsibilities for Foster Grandparent grant, restructuring Maple Lawn classes

to incorporate pre-kindergarten readiness, and continued fireworks display during the kickoff concert for River Rhythms.

- iv. Aquatics: locker room rehab.
- v. Capital Improvement Program: Sunrise Park redevelopment is the only project in FY 2014-2015 budget.

The Budget Committee begins meeting in May and the Commissioners are welcome to attend.

6. REPORTS AND UPDATES

a. Capital Project Update

Hodney reviewed the Capital Project Summary. No new developments.

Dog parks: Meeting date has changed to March 6, 2014 at City Hall. Create one or two fenced dog parks in Albany parks, pending selection of one or more locations. Hodney hopes to create a "Friends of Albany Dog Parks" group to assist with establishing and enforcing park rules and maintaining the sites.

Park shelters at Gibson Hill, Takena, and Lexington Parks are scheduled to be installed spring 2014. Equipment is being purchased.

b. Oregon Festivals and Events Conference report

Nooshazar reported the Parks & Recreation Department and community partners received five Ovation awards for the events held in 2013.

Parks & Recreation and partners received awards:

Volunteer of the Year: Lise and Chuck Grato of Albany

Best Festival or Event with a budget under \$150,000: River Rhythms

Best Music Program within a Festival or Event: Foreigner concert at 2013 ATI Northwest Art & Air Festival

Vendor of the Year: E.C. Company

Sponsor of the Year: Oregon Freeze Dry

Nooshazar and recreation staff took the lead for planning, organizing, securing workshop presenters, and overall execution of the conference. Attendance was up from the last several years.

c. Staff Reports

Romancier provided an update on the Sports and Aquatics programs.

- Women's softball registration is open.
- ACP will host a water polo tournament.
- Family move night will feature "Turbo," March 7, 2014.
- Activities currently at ACP include water polo, water awareness, and swim lessons.
- New spring basketball league.

Katie Nooshazar provided an update on Recreation programs.

- Children's Performing Art Series concludes March 15, 2014.

- Northwest Art & Air Festival has secured hot air balloons, Joey and Lilly, "The Little Bees."

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
None

8. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION:

Hodney provided a brief update on the process of hiring a Natural Resources Specialist position. Applications are being review and the plan is to interview 6-8 candidates over the next couple weeks.

Edwards has received feedback from residents regarding Periwinkle Park not being maintained properly. Hodney has spoken with a couple residents about this concern, and noted the issue is mainly about the lawn directly along the creek, which stopped being maintained several years ago. Hodney told Edwards to share his contact information with the individuals concerned and he would be happy to speak with them.

Hodney commented on a recent letter to the editor printed in the *Albany Democrat-Herald* regarding people playing on the snow-covered softball fields at Timber Linn Park. Hodney is still gathering information about the incident, but wanted the commission to know he was aware of it.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday April 2, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Debbie Little, Administrative Assistant