

MINUTES  
Warrenton City Commission  
&  
Parks Advisory Board  
Joint Work Session – January 14, 2019  
5:00 p.m.  
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers  
225 S. Main  
Warrenton, OR 97146

Mayor Balensifer called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

City Commissioners Present: Mayor Henry Balensifer, Pam Ackley, Tom Dyer, Mark Baldwin, and Rick Newton

Parks Advisory Board Members Present: Bert Little, Jim Dutcher, Carol Snell, and Kailee Kobe

Staff Present: City Manager Linda Engbretson, Community Development Director Kevin Cronin, Public Works Secretary Nancy Ager, Public Works Director Collin Stelzig, and City Recorder Dawne Shaw

Others Present: Tessa Scheller; Justin Kobe

Mayor Balensifer opened the meeting and explained the purpose of the work session; to ensure the boards goals align with the City Commissions goals. He noted the parks board meeting packet and agenda, and suggested having the City Commission portion of the meeting first, then adjourn so the Parks Board can have their meeting.

Mayor Balensifer stated the City Commission has been focused on a livability agenda; and noted how it related to walkability in the downtown, trail use, access to city assets/ parks. He noted the proposal the Parks Board has been working on. Public Works Secretary Nancy Ager stated the Parks Board made proposals for Capital Improvement Projects; these are recommendations they would like to find funding for:

Tansy Point viewing dock – brief discussion followed on the dock replacement.

Honeysuckle Park – \$25,000 was suggested for fencing and weeding, as a good place to start. It was noted there has been no success reaching people at Forest Rim. Ms. Ager stated the city may have to come up with a concept plan for the park. She noted the \$25,000 will do about 1000-1200 feet of fencing (& installation) with access gates. Mayor Balensifer asked about the concept plan; Ms. Ager noted it can be done in house. Mayor Balensifer suggested calling a town hall for that area/project. Discussion continued on a possible maintenance agreement, as the property is quite large. Jim Dutcher suggested an HOA to help with maintenance costs. Mayor Balensifer

stated when the Parks Board is ready, let him know and he will call town hall. Commissioner Newton suggested a community cleanup day to have residents help cleanup, and have ownership. Brief discussion followed and it was noted staff will put together information and then a date will be set in February for a town hall.

Skipanon River Dog Park – Ms. Ager proposed \$30,000 for cleaning up, fill and parking; she noted it could be fenced as one big park. It was noted this will give people a place downtown to take their dogs, instead of the baseball fields. Discussion continued. Mayor Balensifer noted concerns about compatibility with the master plan and the kayak launch. He stated there has been interest in putting in a seasonal trailer with kayak rentals, and noted he does not want to preclude that opportunity when putting in a dog park; kayak use is in master plan.

Ms. Ager noted other proposals include Skipanon River Park interpretive signage; and improvements to Triangle Park in Hammond, which includes a “welcome to historic Hammond” sign and landscaping. Discussion continued on the Hammond area. Mayor Balensifer noted Warrenton is an amalgamation of 6-9 different towns/districts which are now annexed into Warrenton. He stated he would prefer to find out where all the districts were and create signs for all; adding a QR app for further information was also suggested. Discussion continued on involving the school in researching and creating the signs.

Ms. Ager noted additional plans for park/trail enhancements as outlined in the Parks Board agenda packet. Commissioner Ackley noted the two task forces are combining efforts and are having a meeting to plan on how to move forward, lay the foundation and then bring parks and trails in. (Commissioner Newton left the meeting at 5:44 p.m.)

Discussion followed on the Tansy Point to Point Adams trail connection. It was noted there is a revetment issue, and an easement is a complicated issue. It is an old railroad right-of-way, and the city will need legal action to clarify. Ms. Engbretson noted all has been sent to Legal Counsel. Discussion continued on Board to investigate on who owns what - in hopes to get the trail connected. Mayor Balensifer suggested good neighbor agreement with Pt. Adams to have trail access, unless they are in operation. Discussion continued on the trails to Fort Stevens; Mayor Balensifer asked the board to look at the trails and advise on which path is desired – then we can go forward to legal counsel. Discussion followed on Seafarers Park and improvements at the Hammond Marina.

Mayor Balensifer asked if the board thought about community events; Bert Little stated they had talked once about using the tennis courts for a Sunday market type event. Mayor Balensifer noted the city just redid the event application form; and stated the Parks Board could identify ideas to throw out to the community to spark events. He noted the project list - Skipanon Dog Park is a good idea; interpretive signage; Forest Rim Park; district history signage; trail connection to Fort Stevens; Seafarers Park improvements. Ms. Engbretson noted that Quincy funds will be opened up to other non-profit groups. She suggested looking to Oregon parks grants. Mayor Balensifer noted at Skipanon Park, there are lots of birds; we could possibly get

the Audubon Society or ODFW involved in donating for interpretive signs – to alleviate the city budget. Tessa Scheller noted success using RARE students, and Oregon parks and recreation (OPRD). Commissioner Dyer suggested making pamphlets and putting QR codes in the pamphlet; this could inspire people to come visit.

Ms. Ager noted the Quincy Robinson grant application, and noted the various additional funding sources.

Mayor Balensifer asked the Parks Board what their priorities are - Carol Snell – wants to see Skipanon dog park; Bert Little - Skipanon dog park and Honeysuckle park, noting the kids need somewhere to play; and connecting the trails; Jim Dutcher – wants to attend as many city meetings he can and see what input the Parks Board can have – stay ahead of the game. He briefly discussed parking at the kayak launch, and noted his focuses of last year.

Commissioner Ackley noted the Hammond marina is on the top of her list. (Commissioner Ackley left the meeting at 6:22 p.m.) Kailee Kobe stated the Skipanon River Park is a favorite place to hang out, but noted safety concerns due to “sketchy people.” She stated putting in a dog park will make it feel safer. She stated she also likes idea of events. Justin Kobe noted he would like to see events incorporated into the parks. Discussion followed on movies in the park. Tessa Scheller stated the trails organization would love the Hammond Marina trail connection to Fort Stevens.

Commissioner Dyer stated the Parks Board is doing a great job, and noted he likes the idea of another dog park. He also stated he would like to get a trail or path from Hwy 101, near Shilo, to along the power lines to the shopping centers. Commissioner Baldwin stated the Parks Board has done great job, and he supports them in a new dog park. He would also like to see the trail completed in Hammond. Public Works Director Collin Stelzig stated the trails are most important, but the dog park is something we can do quickly. He suggested lighting on Second Street for safety. City Manager Linda Engbretson noted the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee could combine with the Parks Board to help with lighting and Downtown improvements. Ms. Ager stated she would like to see a sidewalk on SE 3<sup>rd</sup>; from S. Main to Skipanon River Park, to connect Quincy Park to Skipanon Park. She noted she liked the idea of lighting, which could be done with street improvements. She also liked the idea of a dog park. She stated interconnectivity is important.

Mayor Balensifer noted interconnectivity is a good point. He stated the Parks Board is doing a fabulous job; continue doing what you’re doing. He noted he was glad to see energy between Point Adams and the marina. He would like to see ideas for more use of the parks for events, and for the Parks Board to push their ideas. He stated he does not want the boards to get discouraged. He encouraged them to continue coming with ideas, and send a report to the Mayor (every quarter) that he can bring to commission. He stated he was glad to see meshing interests in the commission and Parks Board.

Ms. Engbretson noted the Chamber wants to have an event in Warrenton; she will get them to connect with Parks Board.

Discussion followed on the process for advisory boards' minutes. Bert Little discussed access to Ft. Stevens by the cemetery.

Ms. Ager noted concerns that the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee put together a full plan for the post office park and no one on the Parks Board was in on the plan at all. Brief discussion followed and Mayor Balensifer noted boards should be integrating better.

There being no further business, Mayor Balensifer adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

APPROVED

  
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Mayor, Henry A. Balensifer III

ATTEST

  
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Dawne Shaw, City Recorder