

City of West Linn
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Summary Notes
September 10, 2015

Members Present: Don Kingsborough, Steve Millage, Roger Shepherd, John Linman, Rob Waibel, Sarah Silvernail and Vicki Handy

Staff Present: Ken Warner & Ken Worcester

Council Liaison: Russell Axelrod

Guests: Bobbi Dennett, Debbie Jones, Rick Jones, David Baker, Cheryl Chubbick, Steve Viles, Karen Sims-Bundy, Gerald Main, Michael Gally, Andy Miller, Patti Keily, Serena and possibly a couple who did not sign in.

Meeting called to order by Don at 7:01 pm

1. Approval of tonight's agenda – Approved by the Board with addition of 2 items by Roger Shepherd

2. Community Comments

None

3. Approval of Summary Notes

Notes of the July 9, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Steve made a motion to accept Notes and was seconded by Vicki. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Proposal for all Park Off Leash Hours at Mary S Young Park

Don asked that everyone be courteous during the process. Everyone in attendance will be allowed to speak. Ken Worcester explained that based on City Ordinance the current off leash area is against the law. Something will need to be done to the code in the future. Ken explained that based on current State Park rules dogs are not allowed in most natural areas, rivers etc. The Stat will need to be contacted in regards to this issue as no one wants to jeopardize the agreement with State by violating conditions.

A brief summary of points made by speakers:

Karen Sims Bundy – petition gatherer of 522 signatures

Karen submitted Petition Letter Previously to Board – Petition letter and Signed petitions submitted

- The goal is to make both sides happy, set hours for each user groups at the park, Studies show natural area not damaged by dogs, leashes make dogs more aggressive, people are more damaging to park than dogs, only some people will follow any rules and this group will police themselves. If they get it, they will police even better so to not lose it.

Andy Miller – Lots of room for compromise

David Baker – Recently was chased by a dog, safety is the most important thing, if he had kids he would not allow them in the park with off leash dogs, restricts the use of the park for non-dog owners, dogs are unpredictable and not all owners are responsible.

Bobby Dennett – high quality of people in the park who monitor each other

Debra Jones – 20 years at park, 2 dogs every day, they police each other and would be willing to pay fee

Rick Jones – a great self-policing group

Gerry Main – without leash he is more considerate but because of leash is a trail hog, bad signage in the park especially at the beach

Mike Gally – Compromise is always good in a democracy – can help everyone

Patti Keily – lives near park for 20 years, attacked by pit bull, people on the trail do not always watch out for each other, dogs on trails are more unpredictable, City would incur high liability, has seen dogs in ponds/creeks and chasing animals, a safety issue for all.

Serena – divided on the issue and just listening

Steve Viles – frequent user of the park, dogs do not like off leash area, dogs like to run and chase squirrels

Cheryl Chubbick – hours would be great, everyone can still use park, her dogs have been attacked, beach area is nasty, her dogs just stand around in off leash area, more exercise when on trails off leash

Leashes do not solve all problems
Increased safety risk without leashes
Not all owners are responsible
Do not want to jeopardize the lease with Oregon State Parks

Mayor Axelrod thanked everyone for all of their input and communication on the issue. The two issues that stand out for Mayor Axelrod are safety and usability of the park for the most people.

5. Go Ape Proposal

As a follow up to the previous conversation with the Board Go Ape has sent a proposal for review. The question of the Board is do they want to continue the exploration of this opportunity. Questions were answered on the proposal. It was emphasized that we are very early in the process and many steps need to be taken. The Board agreed to have staff continue with exploration of the idea. Staff will begin the exploratory process of moving forward by contacting Oregon Parks and Recreation department to see if it is possible.

6. Environmental Education

Don had a conversation with a gentleman who has a bus and does traveling environmental education. Is this something of interest? Vicki expressed that this would need to be identified as a Strategic Initiative if desired and to explore all options. The Board did not move this initiative forward at this time. Many great opportunities around the area to see what is being done.

7. Stewardship Trailer – Roger Shepherd

The City of Lake Oswego has purchased a trailer that they fill with tools and resources that is loaned to local groups who are working to improve park system. The program is only a month old so details are scarce. While West Linn currently does the same thing (without a nice Trailer) the Board felt it might be a nice idea to promote what is being done.

8. Historical Centennial Event Roger Shepherd –

Presented an event being discussed by local historical groups to coincide with the Centennial of the merging of Willamette with West Linn into one city in 1916. The concept would be like “Sunday Parkways” in Portland where Willamette Falls Drive could be closed down from Willamette to the Falls area to simulate the bringing of the two cities together. Could include food booths, activities etc.

9. Other Project Updates

- a. Cedaroak Boat Ramp project: Funding from grants is being finalized
- b. The expansion of the Adult Community Center starts on Monday, September 14.
- c. Willamette Trail – Bids for phase one next week, start construction in October

Vicki commended all of the Parks & Recreation staff for a great job on all programs and event this past summer. It is amazing what happens with a very small staff.

Sarah commended the Recreation Staff at summer camps for their hard work and the ability to include all kids while not just babysitting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 pm