

Minutes of the Veneta Park Board

May 4, 2016

Board Members

Present: Matt Horowitz, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Jody Kenney, Robert McCarthy, Marie Pickett, and Craig Soderberg

Absent Members: Stephanie Fuller, Josie Hedenstrom, Brad Renfro

Others: Kay Bork, Community Development Director; Darci Henneman, City Recorder

I. Chair Craig Soderberg called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

II. Public Comments
None

III. Approve Minutes for April 6, 2016
Cathy motioned to approve the minutes, Matt seconded, all approved.

Marie and Jody introduced themselves.

IV. New Business

a. Review Asset Survey Results

Kay reviewed the survey results with the Park Board.

In response to a question from Craig, Kay said the Bolton Hill fields and Ralph Johnson Park are listed twice because two people surveyed them. She said once all the surveys were in, she averaged the scores - Fern Park scored the highest score of 4 out of 5 and Oak Island Park had the lowest score of 2 of 5. She also said there was no bike racks in any of our parks except City Park. She said Kyle will review the results with his public works crew and work on a plan with the Park Board so the Board understands what are repairs and future projects.

Jody said the Skate Park has many very large cracks.

Kay said the City just completed a park risk assessment which didn't include cracks in the bowl of the skate park. She will update Kyle.

Craig said he would like to find a way to install signage at Bolton Hill fields that dogs are not allowed during events only. He said many residents use the park with their dogs when there's not an event or game happening.

There was a thorough discussion about dogs at Bolton Hill Park and how to address signage.

Kay said that is something that Kyle and his crew will work on.

Matt said most of the trees at City Park will need to be removed. He said the ground is saturated and every tree that failed was not because of decay but because of the water logged soil.

In response to a question from Jody, Kay said Kyle's observations will be reviewed by the Park Board; maintenance, projects, and prioritization of projects, including big projects.

In response to a question from Cathy, Craig said we need to hear back from Kyle how he plans to address maintenance and repairs at the parks which will be done before any landscaping is done.

Marie suggested contacting Ford Family Foundation (FFF) to talk about getting the particulars on the bike racks they made.

Kay said the Park Board isn't going to design parks, but prioritize projects.

Cathy wants to set up a subcommittee to address landscaping.

Robert said the Park Board can provide input and ideas along the way.

Craig said the City encourages input from the Park Board but it's a work in progress and we'll learn as we go when and how to address all that we want to do.

Kay said the Park Board could be involved in developing the seven acre park in the new Hayden Homes subdivision by possibly outreaching to residents and discussing what could go in the park; wetlands, a dog park, open space, etc.

b. Review Community Profile

Kay said she puts this together every year based on the census survey. She said in a nutshell Veneta is a young community. She said Veneta's household sizes are larger than Lane County averages; our largest populations consist of residents nine years old and younger and residents 60 and older; and we have a higher home ownership average than Lane County. She said last year's profile is on the City's website if anyone is interested in comparing the two.

c. Organize Storage Cabinets at Community Center (plastic Easter Eggs)

Darci said there is still a large box of plastic Easter eggs and suggested all of the Park Board cabinets be inventoried.

Cathy said Sharon from the Library indicated she would take the eggs.

Craig and Cathy agreed that when they get the eggs for Sharon, they will organize and inventory all of the cabinets.

Cathy said there are also a lot of books for next year's Easter egg hunt that are being stored at the public works yard which may get damaged. She will work on getting those in the Park Board cabinets at the Community Center.

Marie said she can carry some of the Fernopoly games at the Farmers Market.

V. Old Business

a. Recap of Easter Egg Hunt

Cathy suggested story time should start at 10:00 a.m. and end at 10:45. She said Robert lead everyone out to the hunt while playing the bag pipes. She said attendance was down this year likely due to the weather but there were still about 300 kids that participated. She

said the way Mayor Larson started the hunt was a much smoother process and some of the prizes were not claimed so she suggested they somehow advertise the free gift give-a-way.

Kay suggested making the posters larger and include the gifts on them.

Cathy asked if the Park Board wanted to permanently remove the 11 to 12 year old age group since that age group is already over at the middle school. She said the set up was organized well and she would like to do it the same way next year. She also suggested making the balloon strings a different length – either longer or shorter.

Robert said 11 to 12 year olds can still participate in the event by assisting with hiding eggs or other tasks and they would get a chocolate bunny.

Jody said she would like to see the 11 to 12 year old age group stay but we will talk about it later.

b. Recap of Earth Day

Because Stephanie could not attend today's meeting, the recap will be postponed until next month.

VII. Other

Craig suggested maybe the Park Board could purchase bike racks for the parks from the fundraising account.

Craig and Cathy will count the Fernopoly games at the Community Center.

Cathy suggested the Park Board could host an annual fundraising event. She said residents would likely want to participate if they knew the funds would go toward City parks.

Robert suggested having a fern-opoly championship and use real money as a fundraiser. He said the radio station fundraiser was a great success.

Marie reviewed the budget summary.

There was a consensus to start talking about the Fall Tree City event.

VIII. Next Meeting – June 1, 2016

After a brief discussion, there was a consensus to cancel the July 6, 2016 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.