

Minutes of the Veneta Park Board

September 7, 2016

Board Members

Present: Stephanie Fuller; Matt Horowitz; Jody Kenney, Robert McCarthy; Marie Pickett, and Craig Soderberg

Absent Members: Brianna Bryant; Bailey Frydendall; Cathy Coulson-Keegan

Others: Kay Bork, Community Development Director; Kyle Schauer, Public Works Director; Darci Henneman, City Recorder

- I. Chair Craig Soderberg called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.
- II. Public Comments
None
- III. Approve Minutes for June 2, 2016
Robert motioned to approve the minutes, Jody seconded, all approved.
- IV. Old Business
 1. Park Assessment Follow Up (Kyle Schauer)

Kyle passed out a possible prioritization schedule for each park. He said he and Kay suggested organizing fundraising efforts to get some of these projects completed. He asked members to review the prioritization schedule.

In response to a question from Robert, Kyle said the Skate Park has the largest sections of graffiti. He said the Skate Park gets hit the most and it's usually the play equipment. Kyle said if it's not removed right away, it seems to instigate further graffiti. He said there was an arrest out of the most recent tagging. He said years ago, offenders would go to the youth court and almost always restitution consisted of removing graffiti throughout town.

In response to a question from Matt, Kyle said most of the graffiti in Veneta is very juvenile and it's an ongoing problem. He said there is some graffiti resistant paint or a clear coat that goes over the paint that makes clean up much easier.

Kyle said many of the play structures are safe but very old. He said all the parks have some equipment that should be replaced and bike racks should be included. He said he has a new swing set but they would like to wait until the CityPark Master Plan is updated to determine where it should be located. Also engineered wood chips will be installed around all play structures.

Kyle said Bolton Hill Sports Complex (BHSC) is maintained by Territorial Sports Program (TSP) and not the City.

Craig said there should be a discussion about the City wanting a dog park at BHSC but TSP doesn't allow dogs on the fields. There was a thorough discussion about a dog park at BHSC.

In response to a question from Marie, Kyle said he's not sure what the strategy is for signage at Bolton Hill Sports Complex but the BHSC Master Plan calls for a small fenced playground area and upgrades to the ball fields.

In response to a question from Jody, Kyle said the Park Master Plan provides an outline to follow but first we need to identify what services are offered; existing playground equipment and facility amenities. He said the Plan is then reviewed and the idea is to update one park at a time, which sometimes takes years to complete because phases are done at different times. Kyle said his handout provided a list of projects he'd would like to do.

Kay said she and Kyle will do a cost estimate for each park and Board members could review and prioritize the projects.

Craig suggested giving staff some time to get some cost estimates together for the November meeting.

Kay said we could also bring some information to the Board about other funds available to fund park projects.

In response to a question from Jody, Kyle said he will bring an expert in to review the condition of the Skate Park bowl.

In response to a question from Robert, Kyle said some property adjacent to Oak Island Park will be developed. He said all developers are required to dedicate park land so Oak Island Park will be expanded. He said development is still in the early stages.

Craig suggested every other year the Park Board review the condition of the parks and the project list.

V. Event Planning

1. Arbor Day/Tree City Celebration Subcommittee

Kay said she, Marie and Matt met and decided on October 15, 2016 for the Tree Celebration. She said she will not be here but Ric, Marie and Matt will be working at the event. She said it will be at the Farmers' Market site on Broadway and Matt will have a tree identification and leaf pressing booth. She said he may talk about Douglas firs and the fungal growth that causes the needles to shed.

Matt said he may not do the leaf pressing if the leaves are too dry but he has other ideas he could talk about – what constitutes a healthy forest.

Kay said the event will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 15th. She said another idea Matt has is to create journal books and we will provide the supplies to assist with putting them together. She said the apple press will be there again and volunteers are needed for the apple press and the leaf pressing station. She said the Garden Club wants to have a booth and the Farmers' Market vendors will also be there. There will be a free raffle for market goodies and a bike. She said people riding their bikes to the event would get extra raffle tickets and five certificates will be given out for a tree give-away at Decker's Nursery.

Marie said the Park Board will have an information table.

Craig said people got really involved with the apple press. He said Robert did a great job with the tree identification board.

Robert suggested doing a tree whiz quiz.

Marie said park maps could also be handed out.

It was agreed that all of these ideas can be discussed at the subcommittee meeting immediately following today's meeting.

VI. Year to Date Financials

The Park Board reviewed the financials for 2015-16.

In response to questions from Robert, Kay said the Tree Fund is used for tree maintenance and funds are available if it promotes urban forestry. She said the Park Board already utilizes some of these funds for the Tree City Celebration and to purchase the Tree for the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Craig said we need to be wise about spending and prioritize projects so when we see something that makes sense, we know what our bottom line is and what funds are available. He said we may want to work on a fundraising effort.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to ask that staff provide more clarification on the status of the Park Board finances.

VII. Other

Kay said staff solicited proposals from landscape architects to redesign City Park because of the damage caused by last year's storm. She said two responses were received but staff hasn't made a decision and at some point community input will be solicited for redesign ideas for City Park including the expansion of four acres to the south of the water tanks. She said this will take off in October or November.

Matt said a representative from BMX USA told him that they will develop a track, run it and provide insurance if the land is provided for a track. He said we could use some of the acreage at City Park for a BMX track.

Robert said a track like that could hold other events.

Kay said the Kiddy Pool Committee has been meeting and the next fundraising effort will start soon. The City is taking donations for the glass tiles that will be engraved and hung in the pool lobby. She said another kids' fundraising project is planned. She said the glass tiles are made at St. Vincent De/Paul's glass foundry. The donation forms will be handed out at the tree event and she provided information about the tiles and their costs. She said the committee is working on another fundraising event at a winery. She said the City received a \$175,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. for the kiddy pool and construction should start next fall.

VIII. Next Meeting – October 5, 2016

Matt made a motion to adjourn, Marie seconded, all approved.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.