

Veneta Parks Board
Minutes, February 7, 2007
4:30 - 6:00 P.M.
Veneta City Hall

Board Members in Attendance: Ruth Germain, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Gail Wilkie, Craig Soderberg, Robert Hladky and Lee Taylor-Loewe.

Council Member: Sharon Hobart-Hardin

City Administrator: Ric Ingham

R.A.R.E. Intern: Taunya Jones

I. Public Comment:

None

II. New Business

None

III. Approval of minutes from January 3, 2007

Ruth moved to adopt, Craig seconded, all in favor.

IV. Easter Egg Hunt Update.

Logan Loftus, who is using the Easter Egg Hunt for his Eagle Scout project, gave us a progress report:

Event will take place at City Park on Saturday April 7th beginning at 10:00 A.M. Logan is working on getting cash donations from local and Eugene businesses to purchase prizes. He will reserve the Veneta Community Center for Saturday, March 31st at noon for all the volunteers to stuff the plastic eggs with candy and prize vouchers.

Digital photos of the Easter Egg participants with the Easter Bunny will be sold during the event. It was thought the photos would be posted on the City's web site for viewing and ordering.

Logan will contact the two churches adjacent to City Park to arrange to use their Parking lots during the event.

V. Introduce Phillip Carroll

Phillip Carroll is a new City intern who is going to work on updating the City's tree ordinance. He has been an arborist for eleven years and active with the Eugene Tree Foundation. He said a city needs to determine how it wants trees to fit within the community. The first step to making that determination for our community will be a survey. It will be available in paper form and on the City web site. It will address such tree issues as public vs. private trees, greenway vs. parks, preservation, tree removal permitting, street trees, fall color, etc.

Sharon asked him if he could help the Parks Board with the trees in Ralph Johnson Park. We would like help identifying the health, appropriateness, pruning/thinning or replacing of the trees on the site. The Parks Board is going to meet at Ralph Johnson Park on March 3rd at 11 A.M. Phillip has agreed to join us. He cautioned us not to rely too heavily on his input. He also said that it may be difficult to make any firm assessments because the trees will probably not be leafed out yet.

V. Introduce Phillip Carroll (cont.)

Phillip is only going to be with the City until the end of March, when winter term is over. He's hoping to have 75% of the tree ordinance update in place by then. His job is in the concept, not the actual code changes. The City Council is the body that will adopt the code changes in May.

VI. Introduce R.A.R.E. Intern Taunya Jones and Ralph Johnson Park Beautification

Taunya Jones is one of two R.A.R.E. interns currently working for the City of Veneta. Her focus is developing a volunteer base for the City. She recently attended a SOLV volunteer action training workshop. In return for the training she needs to create her own SOLV project within a year. She is asking the Parks Board to be part of her project. She would like to have an activity in connection with Earth Day, April 22nd. Since the Parks Board is looking at upgrading Ralph Johnson Park she thought her project could work in conjunction with ours.

At this point we decided to include our agenda item of Ralph Johnson Park into this discussion. We need the overall project for Ralph Johnson Park broken into phases and specifics before we start putting any effort into the park. Phillip looked at the drawings we have from the U of O student landscape architects. He suggested that we need to revise the plans with practicality in mind. He also said we need to complete an inventory of what is on site. Ric Ingham said it would be best to have a professional firm do the design for us. Craig and Robert both want to do as much ourselves as we can. Sharon wants the park to be a showcase so she wants profession help.

Taunya's SOLV project for Earth Day will be too soon for us to start on Ralph Johnson Park. We will not have any plans ready by then. It was suggested that we just make a simple day of picking up trash and pulling weeds. Lee said that we could use the SOLV project to prepare City Park for the Easter Egg hunt instead. It was decided at this point to assign several board members to assist Taunya with planning her project. Lee and Gail will help her and they have set up a meeting for the following week. It was decided that Lee and Gail will speak and make decisions for the board in regards to the SOLV project.

VII. Fundraising

Cathy showed us the birdhouse that she purchased to raise money for the Parks Board during the Wings and Wine raffle. She is also donating handmade prayer flags. It is unknown whether board member Larry Larson is going to donate a painting to the raffle as he was not in attendance. Cathy would like to have posters around town with pictures of the raffle items. The posters would tell the reader where to purchase raffle tickets. Lee suggested that people would be more inclined to buy a raffle ticket on impulse if they were to see the items in person and be able to purchase tickets right then.

Veneta Parks Board
Minutes, February 7, 2007
4:30 - 6:00 P.M.
Veneta City Hall

VII. Fundraising (cont.)

Craig said we could take turns manning a table during the weekends leading up to Wings and Wine. Ray's Food Place is the most likely location for the table. Sharon wants to sell the tickets for \$2-3 each instead of \$1. We could offer 3 tickets for \$5. Cathy will plan the "traveling table".

Meeting adjourned.
Minutes taken by Lee Taylor-Loewe

Contact Information

Judy Colvard	935-3311	judycolvard@hotmail.com
Ruth Germaine	935-6352	n7pko@yahoo.com or RuJoge@Gmail.com
Gail Wilkie	935-5615	newbyg@earthlink.net
Robert Hladky	935-2737	
Lee Taylor-Loewe	935-8846	leejay2003@hotmail.com
Larry Larson	935-6329	capcrass@hotmail.com
Craig Soderberg	935-5427	lbs@att.net
Cathy Coulson-Keegan	935-9596	cathy@earthsteps.com
Sharon Hobart-Hardin	935-8252	sharonhh@cmc.net
Margaret Boutell	935-2191	mboutell@ci.veneta.or.us
Ric Ingham	935-2191	ringham@ci.veneta.or.us