

Minutes of the Veneta Parks Board April 7, 2010

Board Members Present: Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Gail Wilkie, Marie Pickett, Barbara Nelson, Robert Hladky, and Daphene Sampson

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Brian Issa, Community Services Director; Kyle Roberts, R.A.R.E Intern; Mayor Hobart-Hardin, Council liaison; and Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder

Chair Gail Wilkie opened the Veneta Parks Board meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Robert Hladky presented his letter of resignation and then excused himself from the meeting.

I. Public Comments

None

II. Approve Minutes for March 3, 2010

Cathy motioned to approve the minutes. Barb seconded. All approved.

III. Old Business/Status of:

a. Status of Subcommittee Reports

1. Earth Day/Arbor Day

Barb said things are going well. A letter was sent to all participants. The Parks Board budget is a concern for the subcommittee and they would like to confirm the funds available for the Earth Day lunch which will probably be more expensive to keep the luncheon organic and local.

Marie said the Earth Day lunch budget was sent to Brian. The total cost for hamburger is \$199.80, minus the \$50 pledge from Still Point Farms, \$149.80. The burger is \$6.99 per lb. and the hamburger patties will be 5 oz. each. This will make approximately 100 burgers. Cost for buns, condiments, and utensils, etc. will be \$368.25 which also includes \$150 to the Kiwanis for the use of their grills. Gail will purchase supplies for veggie burgers (\$20) to be reimbursed.

Lettuce for the burgers will be donated from Winter Green Farms.

In response to a question from Sharon Hobart-Hardin, Marie said the Kiwanis are aware they are not supplying any food items but will provide their grill for cooking burgers.

In response to a question from Barb, Ric said \$500 was spent last year to provide lunch for Earth Day volunteers. Advertising costs and trees will come from separate funds.

After a thorough discussion it was the consensus of the Board to charge non-volunteers \$4.00 for lunch. Ric said it should be advertised that locally grown beef and biodegradable products will be offered.

Marie said approximately 40% of the participants will be volunteers.

Daphene drafted a letter that will be sent out to all volunteers notifying them of the event.

Marie said volunteers need a contact person to go to for questions. Staff will be wearing "staff t-shirts" which Gail will bring from the Public Works storage area. The Board reviewed

the letter and decided to list Barb and Daphene as contacts on the letter and provide Brian's cell phone number the day of the event.

Marie said a master mailing list will be provided at the next Parks Board meeting. The subcommittee will decide how to create the master list for mailings and the Board needs to decide if the Earth Day notice should be emailed or sent regular mail.

Ric said County Transfer & Recycling (CTR) agreed to pay for the Earth Day advertisement in the Shopper. Marie said the advertising deadline is 11:00 a.m. on Fridays. Brian and Darci will take care of getting the ad to Pam at the Shopper.

Kyle Roberts took care of the Earth Day ad for the Register Guard and the Eugene weekly.

The next Earth Day meeting will be Thursday April 15th at the Bolton Hill Sports Complex.

Brian and Kyle will make 25 Earth Day posters and hand outs to distribute throughout the area.

2. Easter Egg Hunt

Gail said the Easter Egg Hunt was a great success. They will be meeting Friday, April 9th to regroup and tweak their process for next year. They would like to work with the School District on keeping the Egg Hunt at Veneta Elementary. Ric said he would submit a permanent request to the School District as the City Administrator to request annual usage of the school for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Cathy said Heather, the story teller from the Library, gave out individual bags of alfalfa sprouts donated from the Kiva Health Food store in Eugene. Cathy made the packets and has more sprouts to be bagged and handed out at Earth Day. Ric said because we made them up, we need to make sure they are safe. Skipping Stones Bookstore donated 65 various aged children's books and Dr. Tracy Robinson, a local dentist donated toothbrushes.

Ric wanted to make sure a thank you ad and/or an acknowledgment gets put in the Shopper. Gail said pictures have come back and she sent thank you's to specific people relating to their group. She will give Darci a thank you list to be published in the Shopper.

Dave Lorenz from the Oregon Department of Forestry will announce the designation of the City of Veneta as a Tree City USA at the beginning of the Earth Day celebration.

In response to a question from Barb, Kyle said the Earth Day banner is not large enough but several people recall having seen a large vinyl banner. Gail would also like to order a large Parks Board banner.

Kyle Roberts and Ric will check with Kyle Schauer and Brian to see if staff can locate the Earth Day banner.

In response to a question from Sharon Hobart-Hardin, Gail said they did not count the number of kids who attended the Easter Egg Hunt but 255 balloons were handed out. She also said there were many kids without a balloon. It was further discussed how attendance numbers could be gathered (a clicker at the front gate or do a head count when kids are put into age groups).

IV. New Business

- a. Members Craig Soderberg and Cathy Coulson-Keegan were reappointed by Mayor Hobart-Hardin on March 22, 2010.

b. City Parks tour on May 5, 2010

Ric asked Darci to include in the May 5th packet a park map and the individual park goals, park assessments, the parks assessment report Denny Capps created, and the deficiency report. He said the objective of the tour is to orient the new members to the City parks, review the Parks Master Plan, and the suggestions provided by the University of Oregon students.

Kyle Schauer and Denny Capps will meet the Parks Board members at the public works yard at 4:00 p.m. on May 5th and start the tour by reviewing the park as well as the new pool.

c. Discussion of Rotary participation in the Easter Egg Hunt

The Fern Ridge Rotary Club was invited to assist with the disability area. Linda Boothe was the only Rotary person assisting. During the planning of the Hunt, a disabled advisory group suggested we not have a designated disabled area because it gives the idea of segregating the children. It was suggested the Parks Board ask the Rotary to collaborate in a different event in the future.

Gail asked the Parks Board members to weigh in on having the Rotary and Kiwanis participating at the same events. Evidently there was some tension between the two groups. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Board to have the Rotary and Kiwanis assist with separate events and not combine the two entities at the same event.

Marie said Key Bank of Oregon is promoting a \$5,000 pledge grant. Applications can be picked up at Key Bank. Financial assistance is available for community projects that would benefit neighborhoods and are considered "shovel ready", meaning the projects are ready to be started as soon as funding is available. Project just be completed by May, 2010.

Cathy read her tree poem.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.