

Minutes of the Veneta Parks Board June 2, 2010

Board Members Present: Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Marie Pickett, Barbara Nelson, Gail Wilkie, Daphene Sampson, Craig Soderberg, Savannah Church, and Olivia Ponce`

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder; and Kyle Roberts RARE student

Chair, Gail Wilkie called the Veneta Parks Board meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. Craig made a motion to approve the April 5, 2010 minutes, Cathy seconded, all approved.

Marie had two donations to the Parks Board; a \$25 donation from Stillpoint Farm and \$25 from Saturn Farms. The City will provide receipts.

Olivia Ponce` attended today's meeting with Savannah Church. Olivia is thinking about being the student representative next year.

Old Business:

- a. Recap of Earth Day/Arbor Day
Daphene forgot to bring the master contact list but she will email the list to Darci so she can save it to the server.

Daphene recapped the Earth Day barbeque. She said the buns and burgers were dry (all of the burger patties were cooked ahead of time and kept warm). The cheese was not melted and the condiments should be expanded. She suggested having a written policy to address who gets a free lunch. Many vendors felt they shouldn't have to pay for lunch. The kids table could be better utilized.

It was expensive to have the Kiwanis provide the barbeque and many board members felt their presentation wasn't worth the cost.

Craig suggested we help with assisting them making the presentation more appealing. Marie suggested appointing a Parks Board liaison to work with the Kiwanis on the barbeque.

Ric said Dennis Paronto has been Kiwanis president for many years and he is the person to work with the Kiwanis.

A complete list of where the Earth Day posters will hang and who has been contracted to provide the public service advertising are needed. A Parks Board banner needs to be purchased and better signage is needed for the kids table. The Key Club could help with the kids' tables, and the Board would like to see the library and schools become involved. Craig asked if the Board has the funds to purchase a banner or two, a smaller one to hang in front of a table during Parks Board events and a larger one to hang over Luther Lane. Purchasing a banner large enough to hang at Luther Lane and not be specific to one Parks Board event will be cost prohibitive. The Parks Board would also like to participate in the light parade in December.

The Board briefly discussed next year's calendar of events. Easter is April 24th with the Easter Egg Hunt being held on Saturday, April 23rd. Earth Day is April 22nd and Arbor Day is April 29th. It was suggested that maybe these two events could be combined. Ric reminded everyone that the Wings & Wine event is May 14th and staff is very involved with that event. If the three other events were combined, it should be in April and not try to have the combined event in May. It was the consensus of the Board to add this to next year's Strategic Plan. Board members had many good ideas for next year's Earth Day/Arbor Day, i.e., include more farmers, music, high school, bird calling and songs, health and wellness vendors attend, expand the kids table and create a specific area. Canopy tie-downs will be needed and better signage.

Darci agreed to email Rebecca a draft invitation for the invitational. Also she will scan the Earth Day contact information and "thank you letter" to the server.

b. City Park Tour

Barb really enjoyed the parks tour. She didn't know where some of the pocket parks were. She felt many of the parks have problems with inappropriate use and it was very discouraging.

Ric said there were nine arson fires started at different City structures, i.e., park benches to port-a-potties.

The Board discussed different ways to engage area youth in more positive activities. Marie said we need to teach them ownership of their community. The Key Club is involved in cleaning up schools. Savannah said many of their projects are out-sourced and she suggested getting freshman students involved. Further discussion on youth engagement is needed.

II. New Business

a. New Member Dennis Paronto was appointed by Mayor Hobart-Hardin on May 24, 2010. Dennis could not attend today's meeting due to an illness.

b. Role of the Tree Board

Veneta has become a Tree City USA. One requirement is that a Tree Board needs to be formed which the Parks Board could do. Kyle suggested adding two more paragraphs to the Powers and Duties in the Parks Board Bylaws.

Craig motioned to include paragraphs eight and nine of Kyle's Tree City USA memo to the Powers and Duties of the Parks Board Bylaws. Barb seconded, all approved.

Kyle said the Tree City USA plaque is displayed in the lobby of City Hall and the Tree City USA street signs have been placed under the Veneta population signs. A Tree City USA flag is displayed at City Hall.

c. Discussion for a volunteer/late summer event held at a City Park

It was the consensus of the Parks Board to postpone this discussion until the next meeting.

- d. Request from Fern Ridge Rotary/Fern Ridge Leadership for July 3rd event
Mid Lane Community Partnerships, Territorial Sports Program and the Fern Ridge Rotary requested the Parks Board participate with a fundraising event at the Bolton Hill Sports Complex on Saturday, July 3rd. They will have games, a garage sale, vendors, and a children's parade. The Kiwanis will barbeque. The event will focus on families in need, specifically the Gilberts.

Events the City is already involved in include the Distinguished Service Awards, All City Clean on May 7th, and the Light Parade on December 2nd. The Chamber of Commerce would like to start up the chili cook off on August 14th and the N4RG skateboard contest will be August 28th. Also the Farmers Market begins June 4th and runs through September. The City also hosts the Zumwalt Campground for the Oregon Country Fair.

After a thorough discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to support the event through attendance only. Many board members will be getting ready for the Oregon County Fair and will not have the time to dedicate to the event. They decided to forego this year's event and possibly participate next year.

- e. Strategic Review – What does the Parks Board want to be involved with
Daphne suggested having Geo caches (scavenger hunts) in the parks. Trinkets could be made or purchased and the Parks Board would hide them throughout the parks. These events would be advertised.

It was agreed to have some kind of community wide clean up day for the parks and to supply lunch to the volunteers.

III. Next Meeting July 7, 2010

Have more in-depth discussions on spring events and the skateboard event coming in August will be at the next meeting. Possibly by outreaching to the Garden Club or Neighbors 4 Responsible Growth to assist the fire department with the helmet give away. Youth involvement should be included in the strategic plan.

Cathy will not be at the next meeting and it was decided in order to be involved with the skateboard event there should be an August meeting (August 4th).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. by Craig, seconded Cathy, all approved.