

Minutes of the Veneta Parks Board August 4, 2010

Board Members Present: Sharon Hobart-Hardin; Cathy Coulson-Keegan; Barbara Nelson; Dennis Paronto; Marie Pickett; Daphene Sampson; and Gail Wilkie

Others: Brian Issa, Community Services Director; and Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder

I. Public Comment: None

II. Approve Minutes:

Chair Gail Wilkie called the Veneta Parks Board meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Cathy motioned to approve the June 2, 2010 minutes and Dennis Paronto seconded the motion. All approved.

Gail wanted to change the order of the agenda and introduce Dennis Paronto to the Parks Board. She did so and everyone introduced themselves and welcomed him to the Parks Board.

III. Old Business:

a. Approve updated Bylaws to include Tree Board language.
Dennis motioned to approve the updated bylaws, Barb seconded. All approved.

b. Discuss hosting a fall event (postponed from the June 2, 2010 meeting)
Cathy really liked the idea about Daphene's scavenger hunt and suggested combining it with some kind of clean up effort at the same time.

Marie said Zac is putting together a Harvest Festival as a fundraiser for the service center and the Ford Family Leadership classes.

Sharon said it makes sense to do a coordinated effort with another group or event and not try to do an event on their own. She agreed with Marie that the scavenger hunt is a great idea.

Daphene said she had not been able to contact the main contact for the geo cache but they could still have some kind of scavenger hunt in the park(s).

Marie suggested the Parks Board have a booth at the Harvest Festival where people could sign up for the scavenger hunt. The Harvest Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 25. It was suggested to have a volunteer orientation session the week before the event and provide a park handout for all the volunteers.

It was the consensus of the Board to create a subcommittee for this event. Marie, Cathy and Daphene volunteered. Many ideas for the hunt were provided (sign people up at the booth and send them to the park(s) to find things; take obscure pictures and have people identify at what park they were taken; give clues to a prize and have them hunt for it; have an onsite quiz about City parks for those who cannot travel to a park. The subcommittee will meet and bring ideas to the September 1 meeting. It was agreed to keep the event simple the first year.

On another note, Gail said the stop sign on Dunham Street at the Ralph Johnson Park is totally obscured.

- c. Discuss combining spring events (Earth Day and Arbor Day)

Because Easter (April 24th), Earth Day (April 22nd), and Arbor Day (April 29th) are so close together it was suggested combining Earth Day and Arbor Day as one event but have this event further out from the Easter Egg Hunt.

After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Board to create subcommittees for each event, focus on recruiting volunteers for each event, and have the Easter Egg Hunt on April 23rd and combine Earth Day/Arbor Day on April 30th. Everyone agreed the past subcommittees have made a lot of progress to get these events organized. The key to staying organized would be to start planning early (January or February).

IV. New Business

- b. Skate Park Event – August 21, 2010 at Territorial Park
 - 1. Discuss assisting Lane County Fire District No. 1 with helmet give away

The Skate Park Event will be held at Territorial park on Saturday, August 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The City donated family pool passes as prizes.

Sharon said the Fire Department hasn't had much assistance with the helmet give away.

Dennis said the Kiwanis has put forth a lot of effort for the helmet give away but it's disheartening to go by the park the next week and see the kids not wearing helmets.

After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Board to forgo participation with this event and concentrate on the Harvest Festival.

In response to a question from Barb, Marie said the Harvest Festival is an outreach and fundraising effort by the Fern Ridge Service Center Partnership to raise funds for construction of the new Service Center.

Sharon said in order to comply with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application the CDBG requires a percentage of the funds to be fundraised.

It was suggested to have Olivia Ponce` speak to the Key Club to see if they would like to volunteer at the parks for the Harvest Festival scavenger hunt. Barb said she would contact the Garden Club to see if they would be interested in participating as volunteers for the scavenger hunt.

V. Other:

Sharon provided information on portable play structures that can be stored, locked, and moved from park to park. It would be great for daily events like the Easter Egg Hunt and Earth Day. The structure for toddlers is approximately \$6,000 and the cost increases for older children. The parts are removable soft foam so different things can be built. A concern is that they can be carted off without supervision.

Cathy suggested the Board make their own and also came up with the idea to designate a park a month for a teenage musical event. She thought area youth could be invited for an "open mike concert" at one park every month. She suggested talking with Cathy Marshall who could provide a sound system.

The Board all agreed this would hopefully create a sense of ownership of our local parks for our area teens and agreed to include this idea on next year's plan and goals. Dennis would like to get the schools involved in the program. It was mentioned the Territorial Park (the skate park) is the only park with accessible electricity.

The Board will discuss the Harvest Festival, and subcommittees, and the teen night at the parks at the next meeting.

Chair Gail Wilkie adjourned the Parks Board at 5:35 p.m.

VI. The next Parks Board meeting will be September 1, 2010.