

Minutes of the Veneta Park Board

October 2, 2013

Board Members

Present: Cal Beach, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Penny Lacky, Elmira Louie, Dennis Paronto, and Carol Petty

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Brittany Boothe, City Council Liaison; and Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder

Vice Chair Dennis Paronto called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

I. Public Comment

Jim Merkner, 25125 Hunter Ave., Veneta, OR

Mr. Merkner said our area is badly lacking recreation activities for adults. He said he spoke to the City Council about the City building tennis courts at one of the parks. He said there's plenty of recreation for kids ages eight to 18 at the skate park but shouldn't some consideration be made for adult recreation?

In response to a question from Carol, Mr. Merkner said he really didn't have any ideas for moving forward with construction of tennis courts. Nor has he spoken to other entities about the matter.

Ric said the Park Master Plan made no mention of including tennis courts. However, at some point, the Master Plan will come back to the Park Board for adoption and a location and funds could be developed for the placement of one or more tennis courts.

In response to a question from Mr. Merkner, Ric said the bike and pedestrian paths could be utilized by adults as well as the seasonal swimming pool. Currently we don't have a Parks and Recreation District and the Park Board has limited funding. He said a tennis court would be a good idea and could be included in any updates to the Park Master Plan.

In response to a question from Mr. Merkner, Ric said the tennis court located on Territorial Rd. is a school facility and not the City's.

In response to a question from Mr. Merkner, Ric said the City could partner with the school district on a joint effort not necessarily in Veneta as long as it would benefit Veneta residents.

II. Approve Minutes for September 4, 2013

Cathy motioned to approve the minutes. Cal seconded, all approved.

III. Old Business/Status of:

1. Recap of Harvest Festival

Dennis said the Harvest Festival was well attended and it looked like the Park Board booth was a lot of fun.

Elmira said the booth went very well and she had plenty of volunteers. She said all volunteers made a medallion so they could show the kids how to make them. The wooden medallions were decorated with ink stamps and then yarn was used to make a necklace. She said the trivia questions were good and many residents said they learned something new about Veneta. She said 85 adults and 45 kids participated in the Park Board booth. She said they almost ran out of supplies and everyone thought it was great that they received some kind of prize.

Penny will submit her receipts and the reimbursement form. She said \$130 was spent at the booth. She said she ran into people after the event that said they really enjoyed the booth.

Ric said Elmira and all of the volunteers did a great job. He said maybe next year the booth could be on a corner – providing three sides for crafting.

In response to a question from Cathy, Penny said the Park Board information cards were attached to a City park map and provided as a handout at the booth.

At the suggestion of Craig, thank you cards were signed by Park Board members and sent to the Key Club members that volunteered at the booth.

2. Bylaw Quorum Question

Ric said the August meeting did not have a quorum and the members in attendance asked if the Park Board Bylaws should be amended to reduce the number of attendees in order to make a quorum. After reviewing the bylaws, which read that five members constitute a quorum and of those five, four shall constitute a majority vote, staff is recommending leaving the Bylaws the way they are.

Dennis said we don't have that many meetings in a year so it's shouldn't be that hard to get to the meetings. He said five members in attendance is easily attainable.

Ric said the Park Board continues to refine the Bylaws, adding student representatives, addressing non-resident members, board members that don't participate, etc. He said we've done quite a bit with the Bylaws and it was his opinion that no changes are needed at this time.

IV. Event Planning

1. Fall Planting – October 17th

Ric said the Park Board is the City's acting Tree Board in order for the City to retain its Tree City USA status. He said an annual planting of some kind got away from us when we moved Earth Day to Veneta Elementary. There was also a discussion to do a planting at the Fern Ridge Service Center (FRSC). With no planting opportunities at the FRSC staff is recommending that a tree planting activity take place in conjunction with the pipeline dedication. He said the Park Board is invited to attend the event on Thursday, October 17th at 10:30 a.m. at the community center. Also commemorative water bottles have been ordered and all Park Board members will receive one.

2. Light Parade

Dennis said he and Cal will be the Light Parade subcommittee.

Ric said he and Gina have yet to talk about when the light parade will be. He said the Chamber of Commerce calls the first Light Parade meeting and if she can't he will. He said the Light Parade has been an ongoing event for so long there's not a lot of extra activities for the Park Board to do. Ric said he thought it should be listed on the agenda because of the public safety issues. He said kids are jumping off floats (often times while it's still moving) and running across Territorial Rd. to the tree lighting ceremony at Luther Lane. He asked members what they thought about separating the tree lighting and the parade to two events. He said very soon three new businesses will be at the West Lane Shopping Center; First Call Resolution, an auto parts store, and the restaurant space vacated by Mckenzi's two restaurant will have a new tenant. Also Wineries without Walls is back up and running. He said it would be great if we could re-engage the shopping center partners and have the tree lighting at the fountain area which has good lighting and is easily accessible.

In response to a question from Penny, Ric said the Light Parade Committee has tossed the idea around to have the tree lighting on a different night from the parade.

Cathy suggested having the tree lighting at the fountain area before the parade. She said everyone would already be parked at the shopping center.

Ric said Lane County Sheriff's Office was very pleased when the committee changed the parade route and moved away from the intersection of Territorial and Highway 126. He said depending on what the Park Board wants to do, it would be nice to get the businesses of the West Lane Shopping Center more involved with a tree lighting. He said the owner of West Lane Shopping Center agreed to be a sponsor of the tree lighting. Ric suggested someone could call upon Ray's, Tiffany's, and the other businesses to do the same. He said the Park Board could still decorate a tree at the Luther Lane site and challenge the Fern Ridge Shopping Center businesses to sponsor a tree at that location as well.

Ric said Junction City's light parade is always on a Friday, Harrisburg's is Saturday and because Veneta joined in late, we get Thursday.

Dennis suggested having the tree lighting ceremony at the fountain on Black Friday.

Ric said the Park Board can be a partner with the Chamber for the light parade and maybe Gina could see the benefit of working with the businesses to help organize the tree lighting.

Dennis said the Park Board wants to help with the tree lighting. He would like to see two trees, one at Luther Lane and one at the fountain area.

Ric said we could bring in a tree to the fountain area and still decorate the planted tree at Luther Lane. Ric said Cal and Dennis will be the light parade/holiday functions committee. He said if the PAC 12 Championship game on December 12th, we could assume the Light Parade would be on Thursday, December 5th.

The Park Board agreed it was a good idea to have the tree lighting ceremony on Black Friday at the fountain area of the West Lane Shopping Center.

In response to a question from Cathy, Ric said he will talk with Gina to see if the Chamber will outreach to the shopping center stores about sponsoring the tree at the fountain.

Ric said it might be too early in the season to have Santa at the tree lighting but that can be discussed at the next meeting.

Dennis said he and Cal will provide an update as well.

Cathy asked Elmira if she could get a few Key Club members together to help wire pine cones for decorating the tree. Elmira said she would get back to her.

3. Earth Day

Carol said she sees herself getting more involved with Earth Day and she would like to explore the possibility of including Elmira students in the event at Veneta Elementary. She said if the Park Board is okay with her doing that, she will contact the principal at Veneta Elementary and ask her if Veneta is willing to make the gym available for a full day. She said the vendors would be set up in the gym for the entire day and not just the morning. If Veneta agrees, then she would ask the Elmira principal if she's interested in participating in the event. Carol said if Elmira participates, a lot of the responsibility would fall on the Elmira PTA. She said in order to make this work, we need to start now to get everything organized. She said we also need to talk to the Bus Barn about getting the Elmira students to Veneta. There may be some way to fundraise or collect donations. She would like to offer the event to more of the community.

Cathy said it would be a great idea.

Carol said kindergarten through second grade attended the Earth Day event and last year it was expanded by having the Army Corp. of engineers speaking at the 4 and 5th grade classrooms.

Dennis suggested Earth Day could be on a Saturday in the Veneta Elementary Gym and have it open to the community.

Ric said the City of Creswell works with the utility companies and the school district to celebrate Earth Day on Earth Day as a community. He said this year Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22nd. He also said the School Board Chairperson is very supportive and would likely jump on the chance to request the school district pay for the buses to get Elmira students to Veneta.

After a thorough discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to direct Carol to approach Veneta Elementary about including Elmira Elementary in the Earth Day event.

Ric suggested the November 6th meeting start at the community center at 3:00 to organize the cabinets and Park Board materials. He said staff will confirm that Meals on Wheels has moved into new facility and book the community center for that time block. He suggested we invite Marie to that meeting

Cathy said she wanted to provide an update on the books for the Easter Egg Hunt. She said she spoke with Heather at the Library. Heather said the Library goes through Scholastic, a publisher that sells sets of 90 books for \$100. Cathy said she will be contacting the Fern Ridge Education Foundation, Community Action Network, the Rotary, and other non-profits that would like to work with the Park Board to either use their non-profit status to purchase books or for donations to purchase books for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Dennis asked Cathy to please not make any commitments but just to confirm deadlines.

Cathy said she will touch bases with Dennis once she gets more information.

Ric said if we purchase books through Scholastic Publishing we can be assured that the books have been prescreened for appropriate content.

Cathy said there's a website we can go to and look at what they offer

Ric asked if members would like to have a discussion about next year's Park Board plans. And suggested the November agenda could include the 2013-14 event calendar.

It was the consensus of the Board to include an event calendar on the November agenda and also review the annual work plan. Members agreed that the Park Board would stay engaged on three or four primary events and co-sponsor three or four other events.

Dennis adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

IV. Next Meeting – November 6, 2013