

Agenda
Veneta Park Board
Wednesday, March 2, 2016 – 4:30 p.m.
Veneta City Hall

- I. Public Comments
Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes each. The Park Board will not engage in any discussion or make any decisions based on public comment at this time; however, they may take comments under advisement for discussion and action at a future Park Board meeting.
- II. Approve Minutes for February 3, 2016 (pgs. 3-6)
- III. New Business
 - 1. Review Draft Work Plan – Parks Master Plan Project Prioritization (pg. 7)
- IV. Old Business
 - 1. Status of Annual Report to City Council
- V. Event Planning
 - 1. Easter Egg Hunt
 - 2. Earth Day
- VI. Other
- VII. Next Meeting – April 6, 2016

Minutes of the Veneta Park Board

February 2, 2016

Board Members

Present: Stephanie Fuller; Josie Hedenstrom, Matt Horowitz; Cathy Coulson-Keegan; and Jody Kenney

Others: Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Victoria Hedenstrom, City Council Liaison; Kyle Schauer, Public Works Director (briefly) Darci Henneman, City Recorder, Mayor Sandra Larson, Pat Coy, and Joan Mariner

I. Vice Chair Cathy Coulson-Keegan reviewed the agenda and called the meeting to order at 4:28 p.m. Since Mayor Larson was in attendance, she asked members to introduce themselves. Mayor Larson, Mr. Coy and Ms. Mariner also introduced themselves.

II. Public Comments

Joan Mariner said several months ago she had a conversation with other residents about the need for a Parks and Recreation District (PRD) in our community. She said since then she has been in contact with Linda Phelps who worked for years at Eugene Parks and Recreation Dept. She said Ms. Phelps has agreed to “mentor” her in getting started on creating a PRD for our area. She said the first step is to identify collaborating partners so she contacted members of the Fern Ridge Community Action Network (FRCAN), chaired by Olivia Johnson, Principal at Veneta Elementary. She said all members of FRCAN are graduates of the Ford Family Foundation. She said the PRD would include most of the school districts, but boundaries haven’t been drawn. She said a lot of planning is needed and it will take two to three years to get it before the people but she wanted to start with the Park Board. She said a needs assessment should be created and Kay Bork is working on getting an intern from 3PM. She said a PRD could do a lot to knit the many outlying communities together.

In response to a question from Matt, Joan said the Bolton Hill Sports Complex has so much potential and there’s already community interest. She said the PRD would include art, music, accelerated programs, and activities for smaller kids as well as for adults. She said Chief Ney, Sterling Pew and most other community key players are supporting the idea.

III. Approve Minutes for January 6, 2016

Jody motioned to approve the minutes. Matt seconded, all approved.

IV. New Business

1. Year to Date Financials

Ric reviewed the year to date financials through December 31st. He said the only expense was for the fall Tree Planting event.

2. Discussion on Presenting Annual Report to City Council in February

Ric said the chair and co chair usually work on the report. He said last year Craig and Dennis presented the report to the Council.

3. Discussion on Using Timesheets

Ric said in order to provide adequate workers compensation coverage for volunteers, our insurance provider requires the City submit accurate timesheets for volunteers. He reminded everyone to please keep track of their time spent outside of regular Park Board meetings.

V. Old Business

1. Discussion on Funding for Kiddy Pool

Pat referenced the last time he talked to the Board about raising funds for the kiddy pool addition. He said he emailed the previous Pool Committee members and the only committee members she's heard from are Joan and Twinkle. He said he uses the pool daily during the season and said because the pool losses about \$50,000 annually, the kiddy pool would draw in many residents with small children. He is requesting Board members work with him and the Pool Committee to get more residents involved. He said it's very sad that many residents don't even know we have a pool. He said water safety is so important for our youth.

Ric said before we can really get serious about applying for grants or other funding, we need to show that we have an active community behind the project.

Cathy suggested the Board continue the discussion in support of the idea to see if we can make something happen.

In response to a question from Matt, Ingham apologized for not providing construction figures to the Board but he will provide figures as soon as possible.

In response to a question from Jody, Pat said the kiddy pool may not completely offset the current pool deficit but providing a place for younger children means more parents using the pool will likely mean more seasonal passes and youth swimming lessons. He said lifeguard expenses are already there.

Joan said the sooner children are introduced to water, the more likely they are to attend swimming lessons.

Cathy said the plumbing for the kiddy pool was installed when the pool was constructed.

Ric said we can include information about reconvening the Pool Committee in the City newsletter. He said there will be a meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9th at City Hall to talk about the pool.

Victoria said it seems to her that parents could do the same thing in the big pool as they could in the kiddy pool. She suggested installing a fountain park.

Ric said most municipal aquatic facilities have a specific area for younger children. He said trying to acclimate toddlers in our full size pool could be somewhat chaotic. He said the proposed kiddy pool would include a large fountain.

Kyle said one end of the kiddy pool will have a zero entry and a depth of approximately 12 inches and the other end is a little deeper - up to 24 to 30 inches and the pool will include a large fountain. He said the idea is to slowly get children comfortable in and around the water while parents can be very close. He said it's very similar to Amazon's toddler area. He said it's designed to give kids several depths for getting used to being in the water.

In response to a question from Mayor Larson, Ric said the Pool Committee is also the Pool Fundraising Committee.

Cathy said she will make an announcement at the next Oregon Country Fair (OCF) Board meeting about fundraising for the kiddy pool.

Pat will send an email to all Park Board members. He said this is an important program and we need to get our community support before we can apply for any possible grant funds.

VI. Event Planning

1. Easter Egg Hunt

Cathy said she, Kyle, and Robert viewed the Hunt area at Veneta Elementary and because of the construction, it is very torn up and muddy. She said they agreed the 9 to 10 year old area could be squeezed in west of the playground area. She said they decided there isn't room for an 11 to 12 year old area so they are eliminating it for this year and she will make sure residents know that. She said maybe the 11 and 12 year olds can scatter eggs and earn a chocolate bunny.

Josie said Key Club members distribute a lot of eggs.

Cathy said books are being donated from the Fern Ridge Educational Foundation and the Library. She said we still have a box of Ranger Ric magazines. Robert and Rosie are working on gift certificates from Dari Queen, Splash Swim Park, Laser Tag center, miniature golf, Ixtapa Restaurant, and pool passes from our community pool. She said because the Easter Egg Hunt is the last weekend of spring break, she wants the event published in the March utility bills. She hopes to advertise a couple of stories in the Fern Ridge Review about the new eco eggs which have arrived and are being stored at the Public Works yard. She said she still needs to order the candy for the eggs and she's hoping many Park Board members volunteer for the event.

In response to a question from Jody, Cathy said Veneta Elementary is a good location for the hunt for many reasons, one being the gym provides an area for story time plus it's warm and dry. The outside covered area and playground are utilized both before and after the event. She said for years the hunt had been at City Park but when the pool construction came about, it was moved to the school and it has been there since.

Jody said it just seems so crowded and she was wondering if there is a larger area available.

Ric said Veneta Elementary offers a central location and many families walk to the event.

Cathy said next year it may be possible to bring back an area for 11 and 12 year olds if there's some negative feedback. She said areas for 9 to 10 years old and 1 to 2 years old could be pared down a bit.

2. Earth Day

Stephanie said she met with Olivia Johnson and this year's Earth Day will be on April 15th. She said they decided to eliminate the pine cones from the bird feeder kits and will suggest kids go for a walk to find their pine cones. She said she's been working on contacting vendors and will reach out to a few new companies (Rexius Fuel and Lane Forest Products) to see if they would be interested in having a composting booth. She said the next meeting is Friday, February 12th at the Veneta Elementary Library after 3:00 p.m.

In response to a question from Matt, Ric said in the last 12 months, Kay has reviewed the Parks Master Plan and has included a cursory overview of the Plan. He said she plans to meet with the Park Board in the next three to six months to discuss updates. He said a long term goal (by 2018) is to hire a consultant and prepare a complete update.

In response to a question from Stephanie, Ric said we didn't get a park included in the Perkins Estate Subdivision, however, the five acre lot on Perkins was looked at and maybe that could be included in Kay's cursory overview.

Cathy said she, Craig, and Ric have discussed creating an advisory committee to work on options for City Park.

Ric said Kay intends to look at the Master Plan to identify gaps, demographics, and what's missing so we can be thorough when we decide how we want to move forward with City Park.

Matt said having a really nice park in Veneta will add to the efforts of the Economic Development Committee.

Ric said Kay has been working with Lane County on the proposed playground at Perkins Peninsula as well as other expansion ideas.

Cathy said the next Easter Egg Hunt subcommittee meeting is at 4:00 p.m. on March 4th, at City Hall.

VII. Next Meeting – March 2, 2016

Matt motioned to adjourn the meeting, Josie seconded, all approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

**Parks Master Plan Review and Project Prioritization
Draft Project Tasks and Timeline**

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|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Review Goals, Needs & Capital projects identified in 1998 Parks and Open Space Plan. | April |
| 2. Inventory assets of existing Veneta parks (establish baseline) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ralph Johnson Park• 5th Street Park• Oak Island Park• Fern Park• Territorial Park/Skate park• TSP Sports Fields• City Park | April-May |
| 3. Identify the gaps between what is existing and what is needed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are projects still relevant?• Do projects meet Master Plan Goals/Objectives?• Are there other projects that should be added?• Who should be involved in identifying additional projects?• If we want public input, how shall we gather that info? | June-
August |
| 4. Prioritize Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify parks projects• Develop criteria to prioritize projects | September-
October |