

Minutes of the Veneta Park Board

September 2, 2020

Board Members

Present:

Craig Soderberg, Chair; Alyssa Morse, Member; Tressa Miller, Member; Clyde Oglesby, Member; Johl Brock, Member; John Tribolet, Member; Darlene Harris, Member

Absent:

Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Member

Others:

Matt Michel, City Administrator; Kyle Schauer, Public Works Director; Evan MacKenzie, Community Development Director; Darci Henneman, City Recorder; Pat Coy, Council liaison

- I. Chair Craig Soderberg called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.
- II. Public Comments
None
- III. Approve Minutes for March 4, 2020 and August 5, 2020
Member Harris made a motion to approve the March 4, 2020 and the August 5, 2020 minutes, Member Oglesby seconded, all approved.
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Review Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan
Colin McArthur, a principle with Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architect & Planning and Kelsey Zlevor, Project Manager introduced themselves through a web meeting. Mr. McArthur said tonight's presentation is about one year's worth of work from his team. The Veneta Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan is intended to guide development of the parks system for the next 20 years. A parks master plan is a long-term vision and action plan for a community's parks system. This Plan identifies strategies and recommendations for operation and maintenance, land acquisition, development, and funding. Through this Plan, Veneta can continue to meet the needs of current and future residents. He said a critical aspect of planning for the future of a City's parks system is conducting an inventory and condition assessment of existing park facilities. The Veneta PROS Master Plan is guided by a long-term vision for the Veneta Parks System, five goals that define system priorities, and specific actions that guide implementation of the goals. The goals are as follows: 1. Improve Community Safety, Access, and Stewardship, 2. Strategic Greenway Acquisition and Development; 3. Expand Distribution and Connectivity; 4. Secure Funding and Partnerships; 5. Expand Park Development.

Ms. Zlevor said the following timeline was used for completing the plan: 1. Project initiation; 2. Needs assessment; 3. Public outreach; 4. Recommendations; 5. Implementation and Capital Improvement Plan; 6. Draft and final plan.

Mr. McArthur said currently Veneta has the following seven parks: Fern Park; 5th St. Park; Ralph Johnson Park; Territorial Park; City Park; and Bolton Hill Sports Complex which total 23.98 acres and 30.98 acres in parks if we add a future park in the SW Area Plan.

In response to a question from Chair Soderberg, Mr. McArthur apologized for not referencing Oak Island Park, but it is on the map and reflected in the inventory.

Mr. McArthur said the smaller parks are referred to as neighborhood parks on the map but we should refer to them as pocket parks because they're all under one acre.

Ms. Zlevor said keeping this vision in mind, they developed elements and goals for each park, which she reviewed. She said their recommendations stemmed from the community outreach and what the

community told them they wanted, what parks to improve, potential new parks, and the elimination of parks. The consultants made the following recommendations:

Territorial Park:

- Restroom building
- Large picnic shelter near the Skatepark and basketball court
- Two small picnic shelters near the children's playground
- New park entrance sign and site furnishings (benches, bicycle parking, and garbage/recycling collection)
- Resurface the basketball court with vibrant color surfacing

Fern Park:

- Formalize and improve off-street parking lot (approximately 10 spaces)
- Small picnic shelter near the children's playground
- Portable restroom enclosure
- New park entrance sign and site furnishings (benches, bicycle parking, and garbage/recycling collection)
- Landscape plantings within the park frontage along 8th St.

Oak Island Park:

- Explore the potential for expanding Oak Island Park onto adjacent industrial land
- Renovate and expand the children's playground
- Portable restroom enclosure
- New park entrance sign and site furnishings (benches, bicycle parking, and garbage/recycling collection)
- Restore stream channel by removing invasive plant species and revegetating with native plant species

Bolton Hill Park:

- Construct ~200 space off-street parking lot and pedestrian pathways
- Children's playground and multi-sport court (basketball, tennis, pickle ball)
- New perimeter security fencing
- Sports field improvements to address playability and drainage issues
- New park entrance sign and site furnishings (benches, bicycle parking, and garbage/recycling collection)
- Restrooms, concessions, and storage building
- Trees and landscaping
- Sports field lighting

Ralph Johnson Park:

- Consider the disposition and sale of the Ralph Johnson Park. At a minimum the disposition process should include consultation with nearby neighbors. Direct the proceeds from the sale of Ralph Johnson Park to improvements at Fern Park or Territorial Park, the development of the Future Southwest Area Plan Park, or acquisition and development of park land in underserved areas.

5th Street Park:

- Consider the disposition and sale of the 5th Street Park. At a minimum the disposition process should include consultation with nearby neighbors. Direct the proceeds from the sale of 5th Street Park to improvements at Fern Park or Territorial Park, the development of the Future Southwest Area Plan Park, or acquisition and development of park land in under-served areas.

Park Development Projects:

- Future SW Area Park Plan and develop a 3.23 acre neighborhood park to serve the southwest residential area
- Future W Area Park Acquire ~3-5 acres for the future development of a neighborhood park to serve westside residential areas
- Future W Area Park Plan and develop Phase 1 & 2 of the park
- Future SC Area Park Acquire ~3-5 acres for the future development of a neighborhood park to serve south-central residential areas
- Future SC Area Park Plan and develop Phase 1 & 2 of the park
- A-ALT Dog Park Plan and develop one of the sites (W or SC) as a dog park

Mr. McArthur completed his review of the Plan and asked if the Park Board supports the Plan or if there were any questions.

In response to a question from Member Oglesby, Public Works Director (PWD) Schauer said there's been no action taken by the City regarding selling Ralph Johnson Park.

Ms. Zlevor said of the 165 responses they received from the Park Survey, 42% of the responses supported disposing of Ralph Johnson Park and 46% supported disposing of 5th St. Park

In response to a question from Member Morse, Mr. McArthur said unfortunately, the national data is based on cities with a population of 20,000 or less. He said the data just isn't there for cities with populations comparable to Veneta. He said Veneta has some large facilities on the outskirts of town, Fern Ridge Reservoir and Army Corp. of Engineers areas which are considered regional recreation functions for the community.

In response to a question from Chair Soderberg, Mr. McArthur said operation and maintenance programs are included in the Plan. He said they looked at the current operation and maintenance levels and compared them to other communities. He said most of the community felt our parks were fairly maintained.

In response to a question from Member Oglesby, Community Development Director (CDD) MacKenzie said a specific lot or parcel has not been identified for future parks unless the landowner has already had discussions about selling or dedicating the land to the City as park land or land that is designated residential but is lacking parks. He said we can't predict when development will come in and how large they will be.

City Administrator (CA) Michel said staff would like simple trouble shooting suggestions and confirm if we want to try to figure out what is the over-reaching goal, are the goals in the Plan appropriate, or should they change?

Mr. McArthur said at this point, they are looking for a sign off of the Plan from the Park Board so they can take it to the Planning Commission and adopt a higher level of service standard of 6.2 acres per 1000 residents.

CA Michel said the Plan shows Veneta as below the lowest percentile. If the Park Board wanted to improve that level of service, the Plan could include those target levels as well. The Park Board highlighted their priorities and trails was a big one that came out of the public outreach.

Member Harris said she noticed there isn't a lot of places identified that include activities for older children. She said Bolton Hill Sports Complex should be a high priority. If Veneta wants to grow and keep younger people here we've got to provide something for them to do. She said if they move in and move out we don't grow.

Chair Soderberg said as a Park Board we want to do what we can. He said he doesn't see anything that jumps out that has been missed. He wanted a consensus from the Board that they give their blessing on the Plan and pass it on with their recommendations. He said he would rather see we improve the existing parks than acquiring future park land.

PWD Schauer said some of the park acquisition will take care of itself as we grow. He said as development happens and depending on the size of the development, park land dedications are built in. He said we have no control over the timing. Purchasing the land for Territorial Park and the Bolton Hill Sports Complex were opportunities that came our way and we took advantage of. He said as the City's eastside starts developing, we'll see other opportunities for that to happen. He said also the Corps. of Engineer's kayak launch is just outside City limits which definitely serves our community.

V. New Business

a. Financials through June 30, 2020

Chair Soderberg asked if members had any questions to please contact himself or staff.

VI. Event Planning

a. Review and Adopt Event Calendar

Chair Soderberg said the event calendar and budget should be approved. He said it looks pretty standard and it doesn't seem to include anything new or unique that we haven't done.

In response to a question from Council Liaison Coy, Member Brock said he will not be putting together the bike contest at the Harvest Festival.

PWD Schauer asked the Board if they plan to have a booth at the Harvest Festival.

Member Oglesby said he could man a booth.

Council Liaison Coy thanked Member Oglesby for volunteering.

PWD Schauer said the Public Works crew would set up a booth for the Park Board or the City but he's not sure what we'd do.

Council Liaison Coy said so far they have 14 vendors committed for the Festival – last year they had 60. He said they will build out from the Farmers' Market and have adequate space between the booths. He said there is plenty of room for more vendor booths.

Chair Soderberg said if we don't have anything planned, he'd rather not have a haphazard presence if they don't have something specific in mind that is well thought out.

After a brief discussion, there was a consensus that the Park Board would not have a booth at the Festival.

Member Oglesby motioned to accept and approve the calendar and budget, Member Harris seconded, all approved.

b. Harvest Festival, September 12, 2020

The Park Board will not have a booth at the Harvest Festival.

VII. Other

a. Open Discussion

None

VIII. Next Meeting – October 7, 2020

Craig thanked the Park Board for attending tonight's meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.