

PARK & RECREATION BOARD AGENDA

Monday, June 8, 2020

6:30 P.M. – Electronically by Phone

Per the Governor's Executive Order 20-16, regarding compliance with Oregon's public meeting laws, this meeting will be held electronically by phone. The call-in number is:

- 425-436-6307
- Access Code: 479242

Members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, staff, and the public have access to this call.

If members of the public would like to comment on an agenda item, please email your comments to whynot@ci.gladstone.or.us prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on June 8th, 2020.

The Parks & Recreation Board will also have Business from The Audience at the end of the meeting. To speak during this time, please email whynot@ci.gladstone.or.us prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on June 8th, 2020 with your topic of discussion and telephone number.

1. Self-Introductions/Roll Call. Current members of the Park and Recreation Board are: Benjamin Misley (Chair), Mindy Garlington (Vice-Chair), Kelsey Proctor, John Eichsteadt, Bruce Hildreth, William Preble, and Andrew Labonte, City Council liaison is Mayor Tammy Stempel.
2. Approval of February 10, 2020 Minutes
3. Further discussion of Ridgeway Green Space, see attached email dated May 27th to City Council regarding property information.
4. Business from staff.
 - Summer plans regarding COVID-19 for the Parks, Pickleball, and Rec. Activities
 - Update on shelter at Max Patterson Park
 - Dredging project update
 - Nature Parks Site Plan
5. Business from Board.
6. Business from the audience
7. Next Scheduled Meeting is July 13, 2020
8. Adjourn.

GLADSTONE PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

PRESENT:

Chair Ben Misley, Mindy Garlington, John Eichsteadt, Bruce Hildreth, Kelsey Proctor, Bill Preble, Andrew Labonte

ABSENT:

None

STAFF:

Jacque Betz, City Administrator; Jim Whynot, Public Works Director

1. Self-Introductions/Roll Call

2. Approval of January 13, 2020 Minutes:

Bruce Hildreth made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Andrew Labonte. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Correspondence:

There was correspondence included in the packets:

- Email regarding Park Fees – from Tom Starkey. He is a disabled Veteran and has an Oregon State Parks special access pass, which gives him entry to the majority of all parks, boat ramps, trails, etc. He is asking that if the park fees are approved that his pass be honored. Kelsey Proctor said they have had discussions regarding making exceptions.
- Letter objecting to the sale of Ridgeway Open Space – from Mary and Jim Lane.
- Email regarding proposed fees at Meldrum – from Jason Hammond and Lavin Neang. Both said the land was donated for sport and outdoor community to have a place free of charge.
- Email asking to not sell Ridgeway Open Space – from Kerry Woodke.

Ms. Betz said they wanted to make sure that the concerns were entered into the record. She said they would make sure that the Parks Board had all the necessary information before making their decision.

Kelsey Proctor said they would have to figure out the logistics regarding the access passes and what that would look like.

Bruce Hildreth said he had a conversation with Bob Thompson, a property owner in the Ridgeway area – he objects to the sale and said there is a lot of history regarding this topic. He was encouraged to write a letter or come to a meeting.

Kelsey Proctor said it seems that most of the people in the Ridgeway neighborhood seem to want the space to remain undeveloped.

John Eichsteadt feels that it would be a good idea to contact the neighbors in the area and invite them to the next meeting to give their input. He said the property is not maintained and is full of blackberry bushes. He feels it would be neat to see the property improved and used for what it was intended to be.

Andrew Labonte feels it is important for people to know that they are only planning on developing one or two lots along the road.

There was discussion regarding liability, access, maintenance, what the Master Plan suggests, etc.

Bill Preble said that in the end the decision is up to the citizens as to whether they want to sell the property or keep it – it will be voted on. Ms. Betz feels that the next step is to put together outreach for the surrounding neighbors. If the property is sold the money would go for Parks purposes.

4. Ridgeway Green Space Discussion:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Harvey Barnes said that the Parks Board already made a recommendation to the City Council to sell the property. He disagrees that “proper use” always has to have pathways, concrete, etc. He feels that the proper use for this property has been well established over the last forty-five years; it’s open space for animals to call home. He said it is too steep to develop. He doesn’t feel that the City would net very much money if they sell the property.

Kelsey Proctor said she has never looked at this property as being a big money maker. She feels there is a possibility to develop some kind of pocket park on the east side. She does think there is value in some spaces just being green spaces.

Bill Osburn wanted to remind everyone that when the City wanted to sell a green space before that they banded together, hit the streets, launched a citizen initiative and put in place something that would protect our parks, green spaces, and undeveloped areas moving forward. He said once the property is sold there is no going back and it’s in someone else’s hands. He feels the City is shuffling money around instead of taking care of our parks.

He said the first SOLVE clean-up at High Rocks will be on Saturday, April 18th.

Marna Barnes said the City only does a minimal amount of mowing on the west side and that is all the maintenance they do. She has heard that the parks are not funded and she knows that isn’t true. She went over previous budget amounts. She asked everyone to stop spreading those stories because they have a budget. Bruce Hildreth said he hears that we don’t have money to spend, that’s all he knows, and he doesn’t spread it around.

5. Finalize Annual Work Plan for 2020:

Ms. Betz said at their retreat they did a check-in to see how they did in the first year of the strategic plan. Next January the City Council will facilitate the process for a new strategic plan. The current plan is to find resources for Parks. This will be included in the work session discussion with Council in March.

Chair Misley said one of the main discussion points they will have with City Council is how we move forward with projects. They have struggled with finding funding mechanisms for the projects they have identified. There was discussion regarding the current work plan objectives. Ms. Betz asked which is more important – finding new revenue sources or the site plans for Meldrum and the Nature Park. It was agreed that almost nothing can be done without having a site plan first, but they want both. It would cost approximately \$100,000/year to hire another FTE specifically for Parks. There was discussion regarding the budget. Mindy Garlington said that nearly ¾ of respondents to the survey regarding the Master Plan were willing to pay at least \$4/month to fund

improved recreational opportunities with a slight majority willing to pay \$6/month or more. There was discussion regarding inviting the public to give input at the May meeting. It was agreed to wait until after the work session with City Council to decide.

Kelsey Proctor told Ms. Betz that if she wants the Parks Board involved in the branding project in any way to let them know.

6. Business from the Audience:

Nancy Eichsteadt, President of the Friends of Gladstone Nature Park, and Jim Miller wanted to discuss the water storage tanks. Mr. Whynot said they are reviewing those right now so he did not have enough information to give an answer yet. Ms. Eichsteadt said they are installing some water tanks on the Butterfly Hill that are meant to have gravity feed to the plants they are putting in. Mr. Miller thanked the members of the Board for their time. He shared photos of the proposed location for the tanks. The City does not supply water. The tanks will have a water collection system on them so they will be almost self-sufficient. The tanks will be covered with cedar fencing and decorated.

Nancy Eichsteadt they are fortunate enough to be the recipients of a Hiroshima Gingko tree. This is the 75th year of peace we have had with Japan. There will be some sort of ceremony when they are planted. This one should be planted on Arbor Day.

Last year they were given a port-a-potty for the park (it was taken away at the end of the year) – they would like to get another one starting in April. Mr. Whynot said if they budgeted for it last year they can do it again this year.

Bill Osburn said he and Andrew Labonte met with the Police Chief regarding traffic and safety issues. They set up a meeting for this Friday at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Park Rules/penalties – this will be rescheduled since the other volunteers from the Board couldn't make it.

He said the Historical Society is looking for a Pow Wow tree seedling to be placed at the new Civic Center – let him know if you have one.

He doesn't like the fee for park usage. He likes the boat ramp fees. He said there are areas in Meldrum that aren't being utilized that could be used for camping. It could be used as a tourism destination. He said the Police Chief had the idea of looking into corporate sponsorship to fix up the ball fields and host tournaments.

He said there are a lot of people who would like to volunteer to help with the parks and we need to find a way to facilitate that.

Harvey Barnes said at the last meeting the Board voted to recommend to the City Council implementing a fee schedule for Meldrum Bar Park. He said there was a citizen at the meeting who said that in at least part of the park you can't charge an entrance fee. Ms. Betz did not have that information. Chair Misley said that would be part of the due diligence process at the City Council level. This will be discussed during the work session.

7. Business from Staff:

Mr. Whynot said there was a volunteer orientation and training last week. He shared the materials with the Board, the City's social media policy, and journals for taking/keeping notes (public record).

The motor in the well at Meldrum Bar Park is being rebuilt – it is used for watering the gardens mainly; not restrooms. The PGE light poles at Max Patterson Park are going to be replaced. They are working on finding the lowest cost solution.

8. Business from the Board:

Mindy Garlington wanted to remind everybody that there will be an Arbor Day event at the Nature Park.

Baseball is starting – she encouraged people to attend some games on Saturday afternoons.

Andrew Labonte said he recommends for the Board to look at some of the traffic safety related issues in and around parks.

Bill Preble said the cracks in the Pickleball courts are slowly coming back. His club has enough money to repair them. They would like approval for them to close down the courts for a day in order to repair the cracks and paint. Kelsey Proctor congratulated him on the continued success of that program and the fact that they have the money to do the repairs.

9. Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Next scheduled meeting is a work session with City Council on March 24th, 2020.

No April meeting – City offices will be in the process of moving into the new Civic Center.

Tami Bannick

From: Jacque Betz
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 5:26 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Jim Whynot; Rick Huffman; John Schmerber; Colin Black; Nancy McDonald; Cathy Brucker; Tami Bannick; Chad Jacobs
Subject: Ridgegate Property Tract "E"

City Council,

In preparation for the upcoming discussion on the Parks Board Work Plan, staff is pulling information on the Ridgegate Property. In 1989 the Parks and Recreation Board recommended to the City Council to sell "Tract D" (see below). After considerable opposition the proposed sale and development of the property did not move forward.

We are pulling a current Title search on the property but in the meantime here are a few facts:

- In 1975 Tract "D" was dedicated to the city on the plat of the Ridgegate Subdivision as the David M. Scott Family Park. The parcel is vacant and used for access between Ridgegate Drive and the Kraxberger play fields. It contains about .06 acres and is currently zoned open space. The property slopes gently to the southeast with a few trees, weeds and grass.
- Tract "E" is located to the West of Ridegate Drive and contains about 1.204 acres (this is the Tract in question to sell now)
- Both Tract "D" and "E" are dedicated to the City of Gladstone for park purposes and shall be notified as the "David M. Scott Family Park".
- In order to sell either parcel, the city needs written approval from the dedicator of the property (David Scott), to notify all property owners of the subdivision, and to obtain approval from the Planning Commission and City Council for *a subdivision plat amendment, zone change and comprehensive plan amendment*. Property owners of the subdivision could object on the basis that their decision to locate in their subdivision was influenced in part by the Tract D remaining undeveloped.
- The City attorney at that time also advised the dedicator (David Scott family) may ask for some or all of the proceeds from the sale of this property and that any revenue realized from its sale after that would go into the general fund.
- It was concluded in 1988 that it was unlikely the City could realize much of a revenue gain from selling the property, assuming the approvals were granted. It was also concluded that the property remained an asset to the city and any short term gain realized from its sale did not equal its long term value as a community asset.

It is quite an interesting read into the history and we will pull it together for your work session in June.

Thank you,

Jacque M. Betz
City Administrator ICMA-CM
City of Gladstone
525 Portland Avenue
Gladstone, Oregon 97027

