

**CITY OF CENTRAL POINT  
Parks Commission Meeting Minutes  
September 22, 2015**

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Patricia Alvarez called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Commission members Patricia Alvarez, John Beck, Deven Howard, Neil Olson, Lee Orr, and Carl Orndoff were present. Mark Ludwiczak was excused and Council liaison Allen Broderick was absent. City staff attending was Matt Samitore, Jennifer Boardman and Karen Roeber.

**III. REVIEW MINUTES**

Patricia made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2015 Parks Commission meeting. Neil seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

**IV. CHANGES TO AGENDA**

None

**V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

None

**VI. BUSINESS**

**A. Twin Creeks Age Friendly Park – Grant Approval**

Jennifer spoke about the grant funding that is being sought to help build the North Village Inter-Generational Park in the Haskell, Buck Point, Stone Pointe, Rustler Peak area. She showed a plan done by Madera Design. Jennifer introduced Sharon Johnson who lives across from the new park area and she is part of the Age Friendly Innovators who, along with Bret Moore are working to get grant monies from AARP and the Carpenters Foundation. She explained the plans for this park are to have walking paths, shade trees, exercise stations and benches. This Park will also be wheelchair accessible. John Beck made a motion to approve staff submittal for a State grant for this new parks' funding and Carl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**B. Vietnam Memorial at Don Jones Park**

Parks and Public Works Director, Matt Samitore introduced himself and stated that he would give an overview of this project, then the Vietnam Memorial Wall applicants would give their presentation followed by public comment and a question and answer period.

Matt said the Parks Commission is an advisory board for park related items and is only one step in the process. At tonight's meeting the Parks Commissioners will make a recommendation that goes to the Planning Commission for a formal decision. The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2015.

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Matt stated that the Parks Commission was not required to send out a formal notice of this meeting but we wanted the neighborhood residents to know what had been applied for and we wanted their input. Notices were sent to addresses within a 1300' area of Don Jones Park.

Matt presented drawings of what has been submitted to the Planning Department of what the Memorial will look like and where it may be located in the Park. He said there would be a slight meander in the current walking path and the community gardens would be moved closer to the water storage tank. He said there are currently two other Vietnam Memorial Wall replicas – one in Texas and the other in Oklahoma. He noted those two states are vastly different than Central Point and that this would be the only replica on the West coast. Matt talked about the parking along North Mountain and showed the conceptual designs that include a shade structure with the replica wall being 8' high at the center tapering down to 30" on each side.

Matt stated he had received several letters from residents raising concerns of additional traffic in their neighborhood and there was not enough parking to handle additional crowds. Some residents also expressed concerns about field use being limited. There was also concern that this park is not the place for a Memorial since it is a very active park with the water feature and other play structures and the Memorial Wall replica would be a quiet place of reflection.

Johnathan Duffie is the architect for this Vietnam Wall replica and is working with Ronald Kohl with the Southern Oregon Veterans Benefit (501c3) to get this wall built here in Central Point. They presented their renderings of what the wall would look like in the Park. They said they are hoping to include computer screens so people would be able to search for names and find them quickly and there would also be an area displaying the major donors names, shade structures and a memorabilia building. They said there could be a parking agreement with La Clinica to address parking concerns on North Mountain Avenue.

Residents started making comments from their seats – There is already a War Memorial in this Park – It is not appropriate at this Park put it at the Expo or at the Domiciliary in White City. It was asked if these options had been explored and Mr. Kohl said they had not. Another stated the monies that had been raised for this wall should just go towards veteran's and their families, while another stated it should be placed in Salem.

Commissioner Deven Howard said he applauds their effort and it would be a tremendous opportunity to honor the fallen heroes but would like them to explore the idea of it being put at the Dom in White City. Mr. Kohl stated since that is Federal property it would likely have numerous restrictions and the costs would be sky high.

Mr. Ralph Nelson spoke raising his concerns about parking along North Mountain and children playing in the street. He said the memorial would interrupt their quality of life and he also did not want signs along I-5, Biddle and Hamrick Roads bringing an increase of traffic and people into their neighborhood.

Ms. Sandra Thomas said she lives on Ridgeway Avenue and she is also concerned about parking and kids playing in the street. She also said she would like a traffic study done.

Gary, part of the Central Point East Development committee said that putting the Vietnam Memorial Wall replica in that park would be like trying to fit an RV into a compact parking spot. He stated with the traffic impact it would not work and that it is the right idea it is just the wrong location.

Ms. Linda Borum read her letter saying she felt this would make Don Jones Park feel like a Hawthorne or Bear Creek Park. It would create parking and traffic issues.

Mr. Dick Herzog lives on Meadowbrook Drive and is a Vietnam Veteran. He said they park is already extremely busy and it would be unacceptable to the residents of Central Point East to have the memorial placed there.

Mr. David Borum said the park was built as a family park and that he was told it would take \$500K to build this Vietnam Wall replica. He said City Manager, Chris Clayton had said they would be able to start the project once they had raised \$150K. He wanted to know where the rest of the money would come from. (This replica would be built with 100% of the monies being raised through donations).

Ms. Manju Anja and Mr. Vern Ritchey reiterated their concerns were with parking and traffic in the neighborhood.

Ms. Patricia Day sent in a letter stating she is opposed to the replica going in the Park and said it doesn't fit into the neighborhood.

The Park Commissioners had a discussion amongst themselves and Neil made motion to recommend to forward this to the Planning Commission with the suggestion to find another location and the Planning Commission to make a formal recommendation to City Council. Patricia seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Matt restated that the residents were welcome to attend the next Planning Commission meeting on October 6, 2015 and that whatever recommendation the Planning Commissioners make goes to the City Council who would the final decision.

### **C. White Hawk Development**

Matt gave a brief history of the Transit Oriented District (TOD) i.e. Twin Creeks and Snowy Butte Station. He stated the Council elected to create an East side TOD which includes the proposed White Hawk Estates development. The City has received a formal land use application for the property along Gebhard and Beebe Roads. The TOD was established in 2000 and open space is a requirement in the TOD. The current development plan lists 38 townhouses and 200 apartments. This area has unique circumstances in that it used to be orchards and orchards were sprayed with pesticides containing arsenic. Arsenic is in the ground where the open space or park area would be for this development. There are concerns about the arsenic levels and the soil must be excavated and capped. The applicant would need to have a formal letter from DEQ to show the soil had been cleaned and no further cleanup is needed and the site would need to be monitored.

The City may choose it not to be a public Park if the arsenic and contamination concerns are not mitigated. There is also no current parking and restrooms would need to be installed. Matt also said there are three other properties that can be developed in the future creating more open space so we may be able to have a larger park instead of three or four small parks. Matt showed that the current plan also shows for two sets of roundabouts for traffic calming in that area.

#### **D. Parks Standards Discussion**

Jennifer recommended moving this discussion to the next meeting and asked the commissioners to please review and make suggestions for the park standards so they could be voted on and adopted at the next meeting. She said the suggestions or edits could be sent via email and a final review would be at the next meeting.

### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **A. Upcoming meetings for 2015**

The last meeting date scheduled for 2015 is: November 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **B. Upcoming Meeting Dates 2016**

Jennifer suggested dates for 2016 as: January 19 – April 12 – Sept. 20 – Nov. 15. She asked members to put these dates on their calendars and to let her know as soon as possible if there were any conflicts.

#### **C. Skyrman Arboretum Update**

Jennifer said Carl, Wally brother has released funds to proceed with the design for the arboretum. She said that it would be great to have Crater H.S. kids help with this project since it is close to the high school.

#### **D. Devon Howard – Fitness Equipment Discussion**

Jennifer said there are 4-7 fitness stations proposed for the North Village Inter-Generational park and the poster showing the outdoor fitness equipment for adults was just what he thinking. Jennifer said they would also need to check into surfacing and the fall material.

#### **E. Greenway Partnership Grant**

Jennifer said she is working with ODOT and the County on getting a grant for funds to clean up and improve the greenway. The property right behind Pilot is owned by ODOT and that is one area that is a problem.

#### **F. Smoking in the Parks**

The ordinance has been changed and does state there is to be no smoking in all Parks.

The problem is enforcement of the ordinance.

### **G. Run for Freedom**

Jennifer said there were not as many people this year for the run but we were able to donate \$1700 to the Crater Comet Club.

### **H. Recreation Update**

Jennifer said the new RECreate guide is out and there are new classes. She said Dave did a wonderful job getting the guide together.

### **I. Parks Update**

Jennifer said the new play structure and new benches and sidewalk are in at Van Horn Park. The benches were purchased by the Parks Foundation. The current play structure will be taken out of Cascade Meadows Park and Playcraft is going to send her some ideas for what might be a good replacement to cut down on the vandalism at that park. There has been a new fence and new camera installed at the Skate park.

### **J. Community Christmas**

Jennifer said this year the Community Christmas Light Parade will be held on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM with the tree lighting being at 6:00 PM. This way anyone who wants to attend the Crater function on the same evening will have plenty of time to go over there.

### **K. Upcoming events**

Jennifer said Veterans Day would be the next event on November 11<sup>th</sup> at Don Jones and then Community Christmas event and parade on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **L. NRPA Conference and miscellaneous**

Jennifer said she and her staff, Corey, Sarah and Matt along with Parks Commissioner Carl attended the NRPA conference in Las Vegas. She said there are always new things to see and do at these events. She really liked the classes she attended where they showed what they did – how they did it and now you can take it back to your community and do it also. The surgeon general was the keynote speaker and he said that people in general need to walk more. Carl said one of the best things he liked was the high school kids videotaping Veterans and then sending the tapes to the Library of Congress. He said he would love for a program like that to be started here in the Rogue Valley.

Jennifer said she is working on the RFQ for the Parks Master Plan and it should go out on October 5<sup>th</sup>. She also said that during the storm a few weeks ago we lost four trees in the park. She is having the trees looked at and thinned out to help in the future.

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Matt said Freeman Road is scheduled to be paved the first week in October and the start of the Twin Creeks Rail Crossing will be early 2017.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Patricia moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M. and all were in favor.

**IX. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers**