



City of Ontario Park Committee Meeting Minutes **May 20th, 2021**

1) Call to order 5:43

Roll Call: Lynn Johnson (x) Micheal Miller (x) David Goldthorpe (x)

Blu Fortner () Samuel Castonguay (x) Andrew Maeda () Freddy

Rodriguez ()

Ex-Officio City Manager- Adam Brown (x)

Ex-Officio Economic Development Director- Dan Cummings (x)

Guest: Al Cablony - Public Works Director

Mark Berg - citizen

**Chair Goldthorpe stated a need to departure at 6:30 and requested to turn over meeting Chair to Vice-Chair Johnson for duration of meeting.

2) Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Goldthorpe

3) Motion to Adopt Agenda for May 20th, 2021 meeting

i) Johnson motioned, Miller second; All voted in favor and none were opposed, thus minutes were adopted.

4) Approval of Minutes -

July 16, 2020 - Johnson motioned, Miller second; All voted in favor, minutes adopted.

September 17, 2020 - Johnson motioned, Miller second; All voted in favor, minutes adopted.

October 15, 2020 - Johnson motioned, Miller second; All voted in favor, minutes adopted.

January 21, 2021 - Johnson motioned, Miller second; All voted in favor, minutes adopted.

February 18, 2021 - Johnson motioned, Miller second; All voted in favor, minutes adopted.

March 18, 2021 - Johnson noted we had significant discussion on the "Gazebo" during the meeting with a vote to table the discussion. Review of notes [Brown and Castonguay] have no official vote or recommendation to the City Council. The City Council recently approved the project. Director Cablay will have more on that under new business.

Johnson motioned to adopt the minutes, Miller second; All voted in favor, minutes adopted.

5) Public Comment:

i) Mark Berg presented to the committee the desire to see a Sand Volleyball pit available to the community, citing the low-cost, effective use of park, and an existing club of folks use the TVCC pit and would certainly use other locations. The sport has been include in High School competition and OR / WA will likely follow, so a pit would give our cities youth opportunity to learn and play the sport. About 100' X 70' is needed for court and space, while posts and net equipment could be fixed or portable.

Chair Goldthorpe clarified the request as the Committees support to install a VB pit in a City Park.



Johnson clarified that the committees role is not in the sport, but to develop venues and foster the growth of our park use. Ontario Recreation District will likely be the lead to help organize the sport for youth.

Manager Brown noted that Volleyball was ranked third on the list in the Citizen Survey (in Parks Master Plan) but there remain no plans to install.

Castonguay noted “you came to the right place” and we hope to promote your request with the Service Clubs.

Cummings will work with Public Works about possible location and report at the next meeting.

6) Old Business:

- a) Commissioner Fortner not present to advance discussion; add to next agenda.
- b) Floating Docks - Manager Brown will resurrect this by finding out more info and return to the next meeting with an update.

7) New Business:

a) Brown -

i) Oregon Community Paths - North-South Trail

- 1) Paved trails to connect State (OPRD at Ontario Recreation Site) with Lions Park, connecting through the 4 blocks of residential is a \$20-25k project, with total approved by OR Transportation Commission (week prior) at \$75k

ii) Recreation Trail Grant Request

- 1) Malheur River Trail off, citing newspaper article and EPA discussion
- 2) Move to Snake River and use Tater Tot Trailhead as River Trail trailhead. City is ready to approve. Engineers have cited complications around well house distances (50' buffer) with may wipe out trailhead. “Does it make sense to abandon those wells? Alternatives? Another well?”
- 3) Grant is due by June 15th - might not have enough time.
- 4) Still working on Tater Tots trail planning; Local Governments Grant program is possibility, as TV connector and Splash Park were successes with this grant.
- 5) Castonguay commented that Snake River is swift and adequate education effort is needed alongside recreation promotion. Then commented that abandoning the Malheur River trail leaves no opportunity for citizens to connect with the river. The problem is the dirty river and with citizen connection follow citizen action to promote solutions. Perhaps the riverside and existing road can be used as a small “nature trail” setting with educational signs so citizens can begin to establish the connection even without getting in the water.
- 6) Johnson asked for a format to show our support for pursuing connection to Malheur River



- 7) Chair Goldthrope suggested letter
 - 8) Johnson motioned that Manager Brown draft a letter to show our continued support for the Malheur River Trail. Motion was second by Miller. All in favor; motion carries. Manager Brown will send in email for the committee's review.
 - 9) Add this to next agenda under Old Business
- b) Maeda -
- i) City Park signs (rules, hours, tobacco free, overnight parking)
 - 1) Not present to begin discussion, but Johnson recalled comments on the need to have rules more visible. Brown commented that “life essential functions” cannot be banned from parks (Oregon law and recent Supreme Court rulings) so the rules posted will need to be delicately worded in accordance with law. Castonguay recalled Maeda comments on the presence of the current signs in Lions Park and that some of the problem may be the signs need improved and made more accessible. Director Cummings agrees that improvements are needed and signs need to reflect all ordinances in effect.
 - 2) Brown will bring Park Rules to next committee meeting (add to next agenda)
- c) Johnson -
- i) Dog Park annual maintenance plan include in Park Preventative maintenance and next agenda
 - ii) Preventative park maintenance plans for park infrastructure
 - 1) Improvements are great but what is the maintenance plan?
 - 2) Director Cablay is not aware of an overarching master maintenance plan, but is aware of some and will bring this conversation to next committee meeting. Director Cablay and Commissioner Johnson will connect to work together to review, as Johnson has experience and volunteer time to offer.
 - 3) Creating an overall plan for park maintenance is informally supported by the committee
 - 4) Johnson and Cablay plant to meet on this subject
- d) Miller -
- i) Bump Outs
 - 1) Design. Request for more clear and consulted design for rest of bumpouts or similar projects, as Commissioner Miller has significant experience in this fine-tuned beautification. Brown reminded the committee of the plan for public art to be displayed and large rocks are just temporary in some cases and the intersection with the plants was an experiment to see if current water regime will work. Would like to have Millers involvement in such planning. Castonguay suggests City entertain



native plants, like Oregon State buildings, and a xenoscaping of low-to-no water plantings.

*** Chair Goldthroe turned over chair duties to Johnson and departed

- ii) Tree Ordinance - Miller designs gardens and the human experience in them, and need for tree ordinance and plans. Miller volunteered to meet with Cablay on this subject.
 - iii) Cummings reminded the committee of the existing code of either under 30" or over 7' to provide line of site and that we need long-term plans for planting / removing / replanting.
- e) Al Cablay
- i) City of Trees - nomination is on the way. Manager Brown had done much of the leg work a few years back making this a less time consuming process for Cablay. Cablay noted surrounding cities that hold this certification and length of time (Baker City for 39 years!). Cablay suggest the committee think of ways to bring this project to the publics eye. Recent visit to La Grande Public Works (the director invited Cablay for a tour) and maybe have suggestions for vegetation that works in our region but suggestions from experienced community members are also invited. Cummings stated the new vegetation ordinance goes into effect with the next commercial application, with at least 6% of the property in landscaping with 60% of that landscaping being vegetation unless their plans can reasonably show that landscaping without vegetation is well planned and aesthetic (architect submits plans). Johnson asked Cablay if the concern was addressed (yes) and Johnson requested the Director and advisors bring in pieces for the committee to review when applicable.
 - ii) Gazebo site map was shared (not included in Meeting Packet attachments)
- f) Castonguay -
- i) Active City Council member requested - no action without quorum to take vote, but the committee expressed desire for the Council to appoint a member to the committee that will be committed to the meetings. Manager Brown will work on this.
 - ii) Kiwanis Letters - no action without quorum, and due to recent public comment Castonguay suggested Kiwanis Park Committee can review the budget and plans to incorporate a volleyball pit and then bring the letter back to the committee. Add to next agenda. The letter supporting fundraising for a Disk Golf park need also be tabled, but the Director Cummings was able to comment that with an adequate plan (to ensure it does not obstruct any current plans) and support from this committee the project can move forward.
 - iii) Land Acknowledgement Language document was not in front of the committee for review. Request was made that this request be moved up to City Council for review before this committee adopts any formal language use during meetings.



Brown suggested Commissioner Castonguay attend the June 3rd Council Meeting to introduce.

- iv) Sprinkler map request - plans showed to Bob Komoto but Kiwanis can also have GIS (geographic information systems) map of sprinklers in each park under care

7) HANDOUT/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A) Letter from Kiwanis on Beck-Kiwanis Disk Golf Project
- B) Letter from Kiwanis requesting funding for Lanterman Park improvements.
- C) Land Acknowledgement Language written by SRC

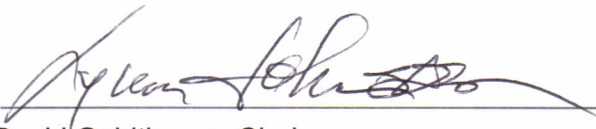
*** these handouts were not provided for the committee in a misunderstanding that each commissioner either print their own, request the city to provide the packet, or use a device to access the documents electronically.

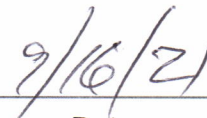
8) Comments from Committee members -

- 1) Lions Club - Fortner - N/A
- 2) Rotary Club - Goldthorpe (was gone by this time - N/A)
- 3) Kiwanis Club - Castonguay - no additional comments
- 4) Public Members-at-large
 - a) Miller - requests Director Cummings bring Ordinance to next meeting
 - b) Johnson - Proud of Committee for the work accomplished to date
- 5) City Councilor - Rodriguez - N/A

9) Motion to Adjourn requested by Commissioner Johnson, Castonguay made motion to adjourn, Miller second. Adjourned at 7:14.

It was noted after the meeting was closed that no next meeting was set. So committee will stay on schedule of every-other-month meetings on third thursday of the month (July 15th, 2021), unless a meeting is requested.


David Goldthorpe, Chairman


Date