

**ORIGINAL****Jacobs**

**PARK'S
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday June 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m. MT**

The scheduled meeting of the Park's Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Pratt at approximately 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2024, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Committee members present in person were Chairman Mike Pratt, Michael Braden, Marc Berg, Michael Partin; Deborah Folden, and Andrew Maeda and were excused.

Others present in person were, Ex-Officio City Manager/Ex-Officio Economic Development Director Dan Cummings, and Assistant Project Director for Public Works, Al Haun.

Mike Pratt led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on June 19, 2024; copies of the agenda and minutes are available at the Public Works Headquarters and on the city's website at www.ontariooregon.org.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 16, 2024

RESOLUTION, ACTION &/OR MOTION

THE MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. MICHAEL PARTIN SECONDED BY MR. MICHAEL BRADEN TO ADOPT THE MAY 16, 2024, MINUTES: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Community Green Infrastructure Grant program.

- Michael Braden said the city is also working on a grant for Moore Park.
- DLCD Grant and ODF grants are open through the summer.
- The DLSD grant could go towards the master planning, tree inventories, and "green infrastructure."
- The city and the parks committee can meet with JACOBS and Jay Hysell.
- Some of the clubs have a Parks Master Plan.
- Dan Cummings put together one for Lions Park.
- Kiwanis has one each for Lanterman and Beck.
- One need is to inventory the existing trees in the parks and locate where old trees need to be removed.
- At Lions Park, the new flagpole will require three trees to be removed.

B) Growing Equity: Urban & Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act.

C) Mike Partin – Raise the Flag Campaign.

- Michael Partin explained the fundraiser.
- The original flagpole was installed in 1980 through the Sullivan family.
- He would like to see some different groups, churches, and schools involved.
- The goal is to raise money by next Flag Day.
- An auction as a fundraiser is possible.
- The cost estimate for removal, new plaque and install is about \$60,000.
- One example given was to raise money with pennies for a statue of liberty replica. The closest one is in Burns, OR.
- Michael Partin will send out an email with more details.
- They would like to know if the Chamber of Commerce is interested.

D) Mike Pratt – Lions Park Update.

- Mike Pratt gave a summary. The tires used under the teeter-totter playground need to be replaced.
- Dog Park Discussion:
- Dan Cummings explained what was occurring with the Lions Park area for dogs.
- During the winter, several people would bring their dogs to defecate in the dog area and drive away without cleaning up after them.
- As the months went on, there was enough dog droppings to be a health hazard.
- The dog area was closed.
- Since then, the grass has been able to grow and be mowed on a regular basis.
- Very few dogs have been observed in the Lions Park dog area since closing it.
- There was an article in the Argus newspaper.
- Only seven comments were given.
- One suggestion was to place a donation box in the dog area, to raise funds for cleanup.
- Several committee members felt that the box would get vandalized, and any money would be stolen.

- There will be a city council meeting on Tues, June 25th, to decide on the dog areas.
- If the decision is made to close one dog area
- (Lions Park) it would mean closing all the city dog areas in every park.
- The city does provide signage, and even dog bags to clean up after pets.
- Another problem is what is written in the city code.
- Currently, there is no provision for off-leash within public spaces, even within the dog areas.
- City Code 6-2-6: Dog Running at Large.
- "It shall be unlawful for a dog to run at large. It shall also be unlawful for the dog to be on elementary or secondary school properties, city parks, golf courses, or other municipally owned property except on an adequate leash."
- City employees observe dogs off-leash in the parks, within the cemeteries, and at the community college grounds.
- The summer months have not been as bad (for defecation) but the past winter was awful.
- Unless a club group can commit to volunteering for dog clean-up, closing the dog areas is a strong possibility.
- Lions Club members felt that they could not commit to any man-hours for dog clean up.
- The city has also worked to keep dog owners out of the Ontario Cemetery.
- City Code 8-5-6: Conduct of Persons Within Cemetery
- "(F) No dogs or other domestic animals will be permitted to run at large on the grounds."
- The dog park areas are the only exception to the leash laws.
- Either the city needs to change their code or increase signage and enforce the ordinance.
- Mr. Cummings asked for input from the committee.
- One comment was the liability (from a dog fight, bite, or attack) could end up getting the city sued.
- Another comment was to see how other cities create dog areas.
- Some cities have a separate, dedicated dog area away from the other parks.
- Lions Park Update continued:
- School is out, graffiti has been cleaned up.
- The new canopy is up and was painted.
- Playground padding: Estimates are \$10-\$18 per square foot.
- Michael Partin asked on the question of a key, to store items in the park.
- Al Haun will follow up with JACOBS.
- Their club is going to move forward with some workout machines, installed at the park as stations. Estimates are \$10,000.
- Kiwanis is moving forward with the playground instruments.
- Last meeting included discussion on "natural, interactive structures" such as tractor tires, logs, and large steppingstones.

RESOLUTION, ACTION &/OR MOTION**NO RESOLUTION, ACTION &/ OR MOTION**

ADJOURN

RESOLUTION, ACTION &/OR MOTION

THE MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MICAEL BRADEN; SECONDED BY MARC BERG: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR July 18, 2024, AT 6:00PM.

Approved: Ma Pratt 7/18/24
Signature Date

(Chairman Michael Pratt, Vice-Chairman Michael Partin)