

Public Works Director David Vorse opened the January 16, 2013 Park Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Park Board Commissioners Charles Rutherford, Henry Karnofski and Linda Moody. Also present was Park Board Student Representative Erin Dillinger, Exchange Student Paulina Barahona and Public Works Secretary Barbara Roller. Commissioner Henson was out of state.

Park Board Commission Position #4

Vorse welcomed Commissioner Rutherford. Mayor Helenberg appointed Charles Rutherford to fill Park Board Commission Position #4.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Moody made a motion, seconded by Karnofski to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2012 Regular Park Board Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

Lynda Frantsvog Memorial

In response to a question from Roller, Commissioner Moody verified that although she is not sure when Lynda Frantsvog first began her term as a Park Board Commissioner, she does know that Lynda served in that capacity for at least three decades.

Commissioner Moody has discussed the memorial at Memory Lane with Lynda's son Daniel. When Daniel pointed out that Lynda preferred deciduous trees, Commissioner Moody explained that evergreen trees do much better in the dredge spoil material. Commissioner Moody added that the St. Paul's Bazaar Committee has expressed interest in donating towards a memorial for Lynda, as have fellow Park Board Commissioners. Commissioner Moody will work with Daniel to determine the inscription for the memorial.

Riverfront Trail Extension Enhancement Project/Memorial Bench Donation

Vorse reports that the donation of a memorial bench, "In loving memory of Joe H. Cline, Cowlitz County Commissioner 1947 to 1955", has been received from Lowell and Jan Bamford. This bench will be installed at the north platform as part of this project to complete the unfinished components from the Riverfront Trail Extension Project. Project components include:

- A bench at the north platform;
- Two more "windows" need to be cut and beneficial low growing vegetation planted to retain the "windows". Vorse will contact Leroy Bonkowski to schedule the remaining window cuttings.
- Students of Ryan Penner and Julia Collins will perform the window plantings and restorative work on fish bearing Janisch Creek this spring. Excessive woody debris in Janisch Creek will be removed and bank stabilizing vegetation planted. Student transportation issues remain to be resolved. Other volunteers are also welcome to assist with this restorative endeavor. The Salmon Recovery Board, the Department of Fish &

Wildlife and Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Soil Conservation District Manager/Forest Hydrologist Darin Houpt will be asked to instruct and educate students as part of this hands-on, outdoor classroom experience.

Park Board Position #5

Commissioner Karnofski pointed out that Pete Meyers would be a good choice for a younger person on the board. Vorse noted that in the past Meyers has mowed and maintained the park area where the Bike Park is now located. Meyers' has volunteered towards park maintenance and also has donated trees.

Student Representative Report

Castle Rock High School Representative Erin Dillinger stated that the Girls Basketball Team remains undefeated. These are the same female athletes that brought home the State Volleyball Championship. The Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Team has won three games.

Dillinger reports that graduation requirements have changed to once again include community service. Seniors are now required to complete 10 hours, Juniors 15 hours and all other students must complete 20 hours of community service as a requirement for graduation. Vorse will verify whether student volunteer efforts on Cleanup Day, April 20th will qualify.

Commissioner Moody noted the popularity of the Senior Lunch served by High School Students on Wednesday's and Friday's. A lot of joy is given and received on both sides during these popular luncheons. In addition, the Senior Center provides scholarship opportunities for these volunteers. Dillinger pointed out that it is routine for student volunteers to continue serving senior lunches long after their required hours have been completed, solely for the pleasure derived.

In response to a question from Commissioner Moody, Barahona specified that living in a small town is the most difficult thing to adjust to here, as her hometown of Antofagasta, Chile has a population greater than 600,000.

WSDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Program

Vorse reviewed the application for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Program to provide funding for alternative methods of transportation. Elements of this application include:

- A connecting link at Exit 49 to the Riverfront Trail System. This trail extension would connect to the trail system at Cowlitz View Drive with a switchback to street elevation. Parking for this new trailhead is readily available across the street at the WSDOT Park and Ride.

In addition, pedestrian / bicycle improvements would continue on the east side of I-5 along both the north and south sides of Mt. St. Helens Way.

- An asphalt path on the south (Gateway) side will be next to the curb.
- An asphalt path on the north (Burger King) side will have a median separation from the street.

Although this application was unsuccessful during this funding cycle, we will contact WSDOT to ascertain how to improve our score for the next funding cycle. Pedestrian accommodations are greatly needed at Exit 49.

Cowlitz River Pedestrian Bridge

In response to a question from Commissioner Karnofski, Vorse clarified that we have not had much success in finding a grant opportunity for safe pedestrian passage over the Cowlitz River. The PH10 Bridge cannot accommodate a sidewalk.

Bike Park

Growlers Gulch Racing, the volunteer bike group that built the Bike Park, has been clearing the lower shelf along the river's edge for bicycle/pedestrian use.

Skate Park

Vorse reports that the new surface panels for the skate ramps have been received. Volunteers are needed to assist with panel replacement. Vorse hopes for input from skaters to rearrange equipment. A basketball court will be installed on the end that the skate equipment is currently placed. The Mayor has donated the basketball hoop that was previously located in the elementary covered area. One more hoop and support poles are also needed. Currently there is no outdoor basketball court. Commissioner Karnofski suggests that Chad Perdue may be able to locate another hoop at the high school.

Boat Launch Phase 2

Vorse reports that approximately \$50,000 remains in grant funding for this project. The four stall unisex restroom is 95% complete and will be open for use for the winter steelhead run. The floats have all been placed but need bumpers installed. The lights still remain to be installed. The log pole frame of the 16' x 32' picnic shelter is up and awaiting a concrete slab and roof. The Castle Rock School District shared the expense for this picnic shelter which can be used for an outdoor classroom.

The use of rocks as a river current calming component could increase the deposit of sediment. The installation of barbs to divert the current may be a preferred method of reducing the current's impact on the launch. Barbs were installed approximately a decade ago off Larsen Lane with beneficial results. Plans were submitted this week for permitting. This component would be completed next August during the fish window and will require

offsite mitigation. The expense of this component is a concern. All other project components must be completed by the spring of 2013.

In response to a question from Commissioner Rutherford, Vorse explained that in-water changes affect fish and must be mitigated by fish friendly improvements elsewhere. When fish are least affected by in-water changes (the "fish window") in the Cowlitz River is August which is the only time that changes are permitted. The in-water work must be contracted.

Mayor Helenberg has been volunteering his work on the restroom and picnic shelter. In addition, city forces and other volunteer labor will also be used toward grant match. Les Church provided a significant donation of his professional concrete services to benefit the community.

In response to a question from Dillinger, Vorse detailed that most of the mitigation work will be completed by volunteers. Restorative projects were previously completed on Whittle Creek which may be continued to meet mitigation requirements. Whittle Creek was a meandering stream before dredge spoils eroded into the creek creating high spots that trap fish fry. Placement of woody debris and stabilizing plants helps retain the hydraulic channel. Native plant species do not do well in dredge spoil material.

Castle Rock Lions Club Memorial Park (Magnuson)

The Front Avenue N Improvement Project will present an opportunity to redesign the Castle Rock Lions Club Memorial Park. The redesign should be both usable and attractive. However, due to budget restraints this must be accomplished using donations and volunteer labor. The current parking area for this facility will be redesigned to redirect northbound access onto Huntington Avenue N. The Front Avenue N Improvement Project will benefit the park with 4 paved parking spaces at the current parking area (on the south side) for northbound vehicles and 6 paved parking spaces off Front Ave (on the west side) for southbound vehicles.

The cherry trees will be removed. Nancy Chennault may assist with a landscaping design consistent with the landscaping at the North Trailhead. Chennault has suggested that this park may be an ideal location for art displays. The tree trunk across Front Ave from this park was left intact to accommodate a carving. This trunk has three branches that could be carved into 3 fish. Fundraising efforts may be needed to pay a woodcarver.

In response to a question from Commissioner Moody, Vorse agreed that a new location could be found for the Harry Truman Memorial.

High Banks

Vorse reviewed that the High Banks is the area east of West Side Hwy between Arkansas Creek and Whittle Creek on the west bank of the Cowlitz River. Originally the City owned the upland property and DNR owned the property in the river bed. When the Cowlitz River changed course, this was reversed. The City owns approximately 30 acres in the Cowlitz River and DNR owns approximately 30 acres upland.

For the past six years the City has been working with DNR towards a land swap with a goal to make the upland property marketable for an RV Resort. However, the aquatic appraisal that was obtained set very little value on river property thus making a swap inequitable. We are now requesting legislative approval for a land swap with no values considered. Vorse will meet with Representative Ed Orcutt and DNR. Once the swap is complete, dredge spoils could be mined for development funding and begin shaping the site for an RV Resort.

Next Meeting

Vorse noted that the third Wednesday can be a problematic for the scheduling of Park Board Meetings.

Commissioner Moody made a motion, seconded by Karnofski to move the Regular Park Board Meetings to the second Wednesday of the month. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

The next Regular Park Board Meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2013.

Volunteers

Vorse reports that David Barlow, Third Ave SW, has been cleaning up debris at "The Rock" during his daily walk. He also has been using his leaf blower to help keep the trail clear.

Commissioner Rutherford noted that Keith Forsythe diligently researched communities before choosing to settle in Castle Rock. The small town atmosphere here is welcoming. The Festival of Lights display is quite enjoyable and the entire downtown area will be much better when Front Avenue N Project is done.

Adjournment

Vorse requests that commissioners think about plans for redesign of Castle Rock Lions Club Memorial Park (Magnuson). There being no further business, Vorse adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.