

Public Works Director David Vorse opened the September 21, 2011 Park Board Meeting at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Park Board Commissioners: Linda Moody and Lynda Frantsvog. Also present was Public Works Secretary Barbara Roller.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Frantsvog made a motion, seconded by Moody to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2011 Park Board Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

Riverfront Trail

The North Trailhead landscaping has been completed with a drip irrigation system and barkdust cover. The plants are doing well.

Everyone felt that the Community Celebration went well. Commissioner Frantsvog noted the event was well attended with approximately 75 in attendance. Although retired Park Board Commissioners Marguerite Ogden and Mark Damschen were unable to attend, a Certificate of Appreciation was later bestowed upon them. The honor of the first 'The Rock Award' could not have been presented to a more deserving couple than Myron and Mary Nelson.

Lions Memorial Park

The name of this park causes confusion with Lions Pride Park. This did not occur when it was called Magnuson Park.

Vorse specified that the northbound lane of Front Avenue NW will be redirected through this park's parking area. This will necessitate a redesign of the park. In response to a question from Commissioner Frantsvog, Vorse affirmed that a portion of the northbound lane may be incorporated into the park. The flowerbox at the north end will be removed and a welcome sign placed at the North Trailhead where the river rock is. As this park is surrounded by arterial streets, fencing for the safety of children could make the park more usable.

In response to a question from Commissioner Moody, Vorse agreed that the flowering cherry trees will need to be removed as they have been topped and pruned incorrectly numerous times. They are also past maturity.

Roller commented that the redesign should include a picnic area as this component is well used. Commissioner Frantsvog suggests replacing the Harry Truman Memorial with a covered gazebo picnic area.

Bike Skills Park/Pump Track

Vorse reports that Growlers Gulch Racing with Jim Lemonds (Jeep) will organize a work group at the Bike Skills Park this weekend. The pump tracks are completed and the jump lines started. Ground asphalt will be incorporated into the parking area. A future drive

through river access loop may be extended from the parking area. The 35 members of Growlers Gulch Racing have contributed over 400 hours to construct what will be the largest bike skills track on the west coast.

Budget 2012

Park Fund

Options to make the Jail Park more usable were considered. This park could be used for a picnic area. Commissioner Frantsvog commented that this park is popular with young people. Vandalism should be reduced when lights are installed. Vorse clarified that the Exhibit Hall can no longer maintain this park.

Vorse specified that the Chamber of Commerce could sponsor a Park Guide with advertisement space. Roller pointed out that the new Cowlitz County Park Guide contains driving directions from I-5 to encourage tourism.

DOT Spoils Site

Options to improve the Skate Park were discussed. Vorse clarified that Councilmember Teter would like basketball hoops installed. Greg Marcil has been too ill to assemble the quarterpipe skate ramp that was purchase. This is a very large piece of equipment and should be assembled on-site. The youth groups at the Castle Rock Christian Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church could be encouraged to take on this project. In addition the existing equipment is in need of repairs.

Roller specified that the briars at Michner Street Volunteer Memorial Park should be cutback as they have now consumed a sizeable area in the park.

Vorse and Mayor Helenberg are working to find transportation for the 100' bridge donated by Greg Horsley for Riverfront Trail passage over Arkansas Creek. This bridge is sitting at the junction of Spirit Lake Hwy and WA 505, aka Toledo Cutoff.

Vorse reports that he continues to work through the final stages of a land swap with DNR for ownership of the 'High Banks' to develop into an RV Resort. This budget should include a Mining Permit to excavate the top material for sale.

Arterial Streets

Entrance Features

Vorse specified that two ginkgo trees need to be replaced at the south entrance features. Two flowering cherry trees on Front Avenue SW and two pear trees on Huntington Avenue S also need to be replaced. Commissioner Frantsvog pointed out that the conical pear and maple trees on Huntington Avenue S are doing well and do not make a mess or grow over the road like the flowering cherry trees do.

Commissioner Moody commented that both the north and south entrance features and the islands look great this year. It could be suggested to Dick Moore that if he donated topsoil every few years, a sign could be placed in these areas noting the donation.

Vorse reports that Nancy Chennault detected a petunia eating beetle in the islands. Wave Petunias cannot be planted in the islands for the next three years.

Cowlitz Street W

Vorse will compile a list of possible benches, trash receptacles and planters for Cowlitz Street W. The revitalized street should have coordinated amenities. The removed amenities can be placed along the Riverfront Trail. The memorial plaques from the old benches can be removed and installed on the new bench at the same location.

Everyone is eager for the trees to be planted on Cowlitz Street W. Vorse clarified that there will be seven evergreen street trees plus corner planters. Animal sculptures could be attached to the planters. The light fixtures will have an electrical outlet and flower baskets. Vorse specified that the public works crew will water the baskets and planters. Plumbing has been installed for the future placement of a drinking fountain at PT Northwest. This feature could cost approximately \$3,300. Commissioner Frantsvog would like to find a planter for a small tree between the awnings at the Gift and Beauty Nook.

Boat Launch

Grant funds will be used for the Al Helenberg Memorial Boat Launch Project Phase 2. This phase includes road, parking lot and trail paving, lights, restroom, a picnic shelter large enough for an outdoor classroom or family gathering, floats and river calming component.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Vorse adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.