

Public Works Director David Vorse opened the February 13, 2013 Park Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Park Board Commissioners Roy Henson, Charles Rutherford, Henry Karnofski and Linda Moody. Also present was Public Works Secretary Barbara Roller.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Karnofski made a motion, seconded by Moody to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2013 Regular Park Board Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

REPORTS

Riverfront Trail Extension Enhancement Project

Vorse reviewed this project to complete the unfinished components from the Riverfront Trail Extension Project. Project components include:

- Install Joe H. Cline memorial bench at the north platform;
- Cut two more “windows” and plant beneficial low growing vegetation to retain the “windows”. Leroy Bonkowski has been cutting these windows.
- Students of Ryan Penner and Julia Collins will assist with the window plantings and restorative work on fish bearing Janisch Creek. These plantings must be done in the spring or fall. 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.

Boat Launch Phase 2

Vorse reports that the boat launch restroom is open for public use. The bumpers still need to be installed on the floats and the concrete pad remains to be poured for the picnic shelter. The Mayor and CRSD Superintendent Susan Baker are collaborating on the purchase of a picnic table.

Vorse reports that he met with the Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Department of Ecology and Cowlitz Soil Conservation District Manager Darin Houpt last week. An agreement was reached on a mitigation plan. Houpt will assist with composition of that plan.

Skate Park

Vorse reports that the new surface panels for the skate ramps have been received. Volunteers are needed to assist with panel replacement. Commissioner Rutherford will attempt to put together a work crew to replace the surface panels. In response to a question from Commissioner Karnofski, Vorse clarified that these panels are a manageable

size of approximately 8' by 3'. A Liability Release Form will need to be completed by each volunteer.

Vorse hopes for input from skaters to rearrange skate equipment. A basketball court will be installed on the end where the skate equipment is currently placed which will prevent loose balls from going into the road. Chad Perdue could not locate a basketball hoop that is not currently in use. A basketball hoop can be welded onto a 4" iron pipe for installation. Commissioner Karnofski will provide the dimensions and stencil for court lines.

High Banks

Vorse reports that he met with Representative Ed Orcutt and the Department of Natural Resources to discuss the land swap of riverbed property for upland property. Representative Orcutt may sponsor this project which would allow a transfer of funds from DNR Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account to pay the difference in property value. An appropriation committee sponsor would also be needed to establish a budget. DNR will fund the second appraisal for this project.

Vorse is meeting with Washington State Department of Transportation to request a permit to apply clean excess topsoil material to improve the dredge spoil material for future use.

OLD BUSINESS

Lynda Frantsvog Memorial

Commissioner Moody has discussed the memorial at Memory Lane with Lynda's son Daniel. Daniel stated that any tree would be fine with a simple statement on the plaque. Vorse, Roller and Park Board Commissioners Moody and Henson will contribute to fund this memorial.

Park Board Position #5

Vorse reports that Mayor Helenberg has not made a choice to fill the final Park Board Position. Commissioner Karnofski suggests consideration of Nikki Williams, Northwood Court. Ms. Williams works in the school's Element Library and is in daily contact with a lot of kids.

Lions Club Memorial Park (Magnuson)

Vorse clarified that he believes that Magnuson was a school superintendent in the 1950's. Vorse pointed out that naming a park in memory of a community member can be problematic as over the years residents are unable to recall the namesake. However, multiple Lions Club Parks can be confusing. Commissioner Karnofski suggests contacting the Castle Rock Eagles or other community group to ascertain if they would be interested in sponsoring this park. Commissioner Rutherford noted that naming rights could be sold.

Vorse reports that bids for the Front Avenue NW Improvement Project were opened last Monday and are within the engineer's estimate. Funding for this project is from a variety of sources with an additional \$200,000 recently awarded from Cowlitz County Rural Development. This project is scheduled to begin in April.

Nancy Chennault may assist with a landscaping design that is consistent with the landscaping at the North Trailhead. The cherry trees in this park must be removed as they have been pruned incorrectly for numerous years. The tree trunk across Front Avenue from this park was left intact to accommodate a carving. This trunk has three branches that could be carved into 3 fish. Retaining tree trunks for carvings fits our rustic outdoor theme although fundraising efforts may be needed to pay a woodcarver.

Vorse reports that the small section of Mallory Street between Huntington and Front Avenue must be retained to provide northbound access from 441 Front Avenue NW, as this parcel has the potential of becoming commercial property in need of two way access. Commissioner Henson requests review of the Front Avenue NW Improvement Project Engineer's Design. Vorse indicated that the total park area will remain about the same.

Commissioner Moody specified that traffic visibility must be kept in mind as this park is surrounded by arterial traffic. Landscaping should be restricted to low growing plants, in accordance with CRMC 17.48 . Foliage abutting an intersection should not be over 3 feet in height and kept trimmed to provide 7 feet of clearance.

Commissioners concurred that they would like to retain the picnic area. Commissioner Henson noted that there may be sufficient room for a second picnic shelter as this is a popular picnic spot. In response to a question from Commissioner Karnofski, Vorse clarified that a retaining wall could be needed for a level picnic area.

NEW BUSINESS

No Tobacco Policy

Vorse reports that no issues have occurred due to the 'No Tobacco' signs at the parks. The City of Longview has passed an ordinance to maintain tobacco free parks. Cowlitz County and the Cities of Kelso and Kalama are considering a similar restriction. Commissioner Karnofski does not agree with establishing an unenforceable ordinance. If the policy is working on a volunteer basis it may be counterproductive to establish an ordinance with no penalty and no means of enforcement. By consensus, the 'No Tobacco' policy will remain as is, voluntarily enforced.

Sponsor Riverfront Trail Section

Vorse noted that community groups, families and/or individuals may be interested in sponsoring a trail section by keeping it clean. A sign could be purchased in recognition of

these efforts. In response to a question from Commissioner Moody, Vorse specified that an article in The Daily News could gauge community support. Commissioner Henson suggests that the Chamber of Commerce, Heritage Bank or Fibre Federal Credit Union may be interested in sponsoring a trail section. Commissioner Moody noted that this could provide an opportunity for walkers that recognize a need, to become involved. By consensus, Trail Section Sponsorship will be promoted.

Cleanup Day

Vorse reports that Cleanup Day will be on May 4th. Waste Control donates the boxes while Cowlitz County pays the dump fee for this event. However, Cowlitz County indicates that they can no longer provide the dumping fee due to budget restraints.

I Topped 'The Rock'

Vorse reports that no one has expressed interest in organizing this event held on the first Saturday in June. This is an excellent fundraising event that raises \$2,000 to \$5,000. The High School Football Team assists with this event before school is dismissed for the summer. Commissioner Karnofski suggests contacting Joe Godinho to ascertain if the Booster Club is interested.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Park Board Meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2013.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Vorse adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.