

Public Works Director David Vorse opened the April 29, 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 City Councilmember Glenn Pingree, Cowlitz Economic Development Council Representative Nancy Chennault, Castle Rock Senior Center President Myron Nelson, Park Board Student Representative Erin Dillinger, Exchange Student Paulina Barahona and Public Works Secretary Barbara Roller.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Karnofski made a motion, seconded by Moody to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2013 Regular Park Board Meeting. By roll call vote, unanimous Aye.

OLD BUSINESS

Lions Club Memorial Park

CEDC Representative Nancy Chennault, The Plant Station, gave a PowerPoint Presentation of landscape considerations for Lions Club Memorial Park. This presentation will help commissioners visualize the possibilities for this park. The Front Avenue NW Improvement Project will necessitate redesign of this park while providing the opportunity for a change of view. Points to consider in redesign of this park are:

- New park boundaries will be established as a result of the Front Avenue NW Improvement Project.
- There are disease issues with some of the shrubs and trees in this park.
- Many of the landscape plants have outlived their esthetic benefit.
- This is an opportunity to explore park potential.
- Park users and activities should be identified.
- The new design should establish a cohesive entry into the downtown district.

Chennault reviewed new park boundaries due to the Front Avenue NW Improvement Project. The northbound lane of Front Ave NW will be redirected through the parking area on the south side of the park to intersect with Huntington Ave N between the dental clinic and the picnic area. On the south side, there will be 4 parking spaces for northbound traffic and new bulbouts. The current northbound lane of Front Ave on the west side of the park will be incorporated into the park. There will be 6 parallel parking spaces for southbound traffic and new bulbouts on the west side. The small section of Mallory Street that cuts through the park must be retained for access to 441 Front Ave NW which has the potential to become commercial property.

Chennault examined landscaping at this park. Many of the plants have outlived their useful benefit. Three of four dogwood trees are diseased and the fourth is dead. The hedge along the path to the gazebo is overgrown and has covered the path. The cherry trees have been incorrectly pruned and have outlived their esthetic benefit, meaning blooms will continue to

diminish. These trees will never bloom to their full potential again. In addition there are numerous volunteer plants located throughout this park.

Future use for this park must be determined. This park has primarily been used as a picnic area. Currently the gazebo contains the Harry Truman memorial. If the memorial were relocated, this gazebo could be used to host musical artists or other artistic displays.

The landscape should provide a cohesive entry into the downtown area. This can be accomplished by incorporating the existing landscaping at the North Trailhead and Dental Clinic into this park. The majority of plants must be low growing to avoid visibility concerns in this high traffic area. Chennault is working with Carolyn Kennington at the Dental Clinic to establish a cohesive landscape design.

Ellen's Noble Fir at the north end of the park will remain. There will be an electric outlet installed to accommodate Christmas decorations during the Festival of Lights.

Chennault noted the burls that have formed at the graft on the cherry trees. These trees could be cut flat at six feet above the burls. This would retain the trunks with burls for a chainsaw artist. Chainsaw Artist Robert Tidwell has indicated that he can turn a stump into artwork for \$100 per foot. However this year, these trunks can be used as flower basket stands. In response to a question from Commissioner Karnofski, Chennault clarified that a chainsaw carving can last 20 to 30 years with an application of preservatives. But until the stump is carved, only the top will be treated. In response to a question from Councilmember Pingree, Chennault clarified that the flower baskets will be bolted to the stumps.

Park use should be determined. Public safety must be kept in mind due to the proximity to busy arterial streets. The street lights should provide sufficient lighting at night. This park could accommodate a kiosk. The North Trailhead has a site prepared for a restroom with utility hookups. Safe passage is needed from the North Trailhead. Parking is limited, although there is plenty of parking at the North Trailhead.

Commissioner Karnofski specified that there is not adequate room, nor would it be safe to use this park for active play, as it is surrounded by arterial streets. This park is a nice picnic area for visitors. Councilmember Pingree agreed that this is a peaceful place for lunch or to just sit awhile. Commissioner Moody concurred that this park should be retained as a place to relax for a moment.

In response to a question from Commissioner Moody, Vorse confirmed that the Lions Club specified that it would not bother them if the memorial was moved. Cowlitz County Commissioners may find a new home for the memorial at Hoffstadt Bluffs which is a more

appropriate location. If the memorial was gone, a bench could be placed in the gazebo and it could be used for music or to display art. Vorse estimated the gazebo to be 12' by 12'. Commissioner Karnofski noted that Harry Truman was not from Castle Rock and has no connection to Castle Rock, this is not the appropriate location for his memorial. Commissioner Karnofski specified that the path to the gazebo should be cleared.

The FFA Box and signs clutter the separated north point of this park. The flowerbox will be removed and the signs should be relocated so this section can be landscaped.

In response to a question from Councilmember Pingree, Chennault specified that the utility pole will remain. She visualizes the northern and eastern edge of the park to all be landscape bed. The landscape bed will surround the pole, Ellen's Noble, cherry tree carvings, dogwood trees and the north and east side of the gazebo. The center and west side of the park will be lawn. The rhododendrons that line the west side should be pruned back and planted elsewhere. They will need to be moved as they are next to the parallel parking spaces. The lawn area will remain the same with the trees and shrubs removed. Vorse noted that the vehicle obstructing logs will be removed and replaced by rocks.

Chennault suggests that a gravel bed water feature could be added near the gazebo. A babbling stream would enhance the tranquil ambiance at this park.

By consensus, Chennault will present park redesign ideas to city council.

REPORTS

Student Representative Erin Dillinger

Dillinger reports that prom is this Saturday. Seventeen Future Business Leaders of America made it to State finals in Spokane and then nine continued on to the National Championship in Anaheim, CA. Five girls and 5 boys received Junior Mason Awards. Dillinger received the top girl award and Russell Kennington received the top boy award.

Vorse requests a school announcement of the opportunity and need for community service volunteers on Cleanup Day, next Saturday. Dillinger specified that as Saturday is also prom, female students plan to spend the day primping. However, Dillinger would like to announce other community service opportunities. Vorse noted that we are still looking for skateboarders to help rearrange equipment.

Barahona regrettably reports that the softball team is not having a good season. Commissioner Karnofski proudly added that the tennis team is undefeated.

Dillinger explained how much fun it is planting flower baskets with Nancy Chennault. Chennault pointed out that Castle Rock won 2012 Best Hanging Baskets in America Award.

Approximately a dozen larger baskets with a water reservoir have been donated to try this year.

Riverfront Trail Extension Enhancement Project

Vorse reports that seven 'windows' have been cut and low growing vegetation planted. Each 'window' received 44 plants. The bench, bike rack and interpretive sign remain to be installed. Rod Engkraf has volunteered to construct a kiosk for the North Trailhead. This project must be completed by the end of June.

Boat Launch Phase 2

Vorse reports that the 12' by 24' picnic shelter has been completed. This shelter can be used for an outdoor classroom. Approximately 370 participants attended the 3rd Annual Sand & Misery Event which raised \$6,000. The proceeds were divided between the Boy Scouts and North County Recreation Association.

Skate Park

Vorse reports that the new surface panels for the skate ramps have been received. Commissioner Rutherford will put together a volunteer work crew for panel replacement. Russell Kennington's youth group will paint the basketball court lines using the dimensions and stencils provided by Commissioner Karnofski.

High Banks

Vorse reviewed 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 has sponsored this project which would allow a transfer of funds from DNR Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account to pay the difference in property value to facilitate this swap. The legislature is now in extended session. DNR will fund the additional appraisal.

Bike Park

The work party last weekend added six more lanes at the Bike Park. The Grand Opening in September was well attended. Karnofski noted the amazing work that has been completed. However, this is a use at your own risk activity.

OLD BUSINESS

Lynda Frantsvog Memorial

Vorse reports that the memorial plaque has been purchased and engraved. A Pacific Hemlock will be planted on Memory Lane and the plaque installed.

Park Board Position #5

Vorse reports that Nikki Williams, Northwood Court, reviewed the Park Plan and meeting minutes but politely declined consideration to fill the vacant position due to time restraints. Vorse suggests consideration of Tiffany Golden as she enthusiastically promotes active lifestyles.

Lions Club Memorial Park (Magnuson)

Vorse pointed out that he is hoping to avoid a memorial name for this park. Dillinger and Barahona concurred and detailed their experience in Washington D.C. when they walked block after block from one memorial to the next. Roller suggested considering a descriptive name such as Welcome Park or Tranquility Point. Barahona suggests adding a Welcome to Castle Rock sign near the mound at the North Trailhead. Roller added that the city owned pump house at Exit 49 could be painted with Welcome to Castle Rock on it.

Sponsor Riverfront Trail Section

Vorse noted that other agencies that have privately sponsored or adopted trail sections should be contacted to research this possibility. Councilmember Pingree suggests contacting Axel Swanson.

EVENTS

Vorse reviewed upcoming events:

- Cleanup Day is next Saturday May 4th.
- I Topped 'The Rock' is June 1st. A volunteer with a camera is needed to take photos at the North Trailhead.
- Dedication of the flagpoles at City Hall and Lions Pride Park will be held on May 25th.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Park Board Meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2013.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Vorse adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.