



June 30, 2020
9:00 a.m.
Newport, Oregon

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

The Newport Parks and Recreation Committee met electronically, via Zoom, on the above date and time in the Council Chambers of Newport City Hall. On roll call, Steinberg, Smith, Brown, Scarborough, Beeson, Gilhuly, Norris, Baker, Saelens (@ 9:09am,) Chandler, and Council Liaison CM Hall (@ 9:33am) were present.

Staff in attendance was Mike Cavanaugh, Parks and Recreation Director, and guest Paul O'Neil, OSU student.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes - May 27, 2020

MOTION was made by Beeson, seconded by Gilhuly to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2020. The motion carried in a voice vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Paul O'Neill - OSU Capstone Project for Forest Park

Steinberg introduced Paul O'Neill, who is obtaining an Urban Forestry Certificate, and had recently learned that Newport was a Tree City USA designation. O'Neill is interested in working on a project addressing a management plan for Forest Park. O'Neill stated that he didn't think that he would be finalizing a plan, but it would be an exploration of what would assist the Committee in future decisions. O'Neill shared his background with the Committee and noted that OSU has a framework that he needs to follow for his project. Steinberg noted that O'Neill had provided a solid outline for the project. Cavanaugh stated that he would send the outline to the Committee.

COVID-19 Department Update.

Cavanaugh noted that with the increase of the COVID-19 cases, the reopening of the Recreation and Aquatic Center had been delayed. Cavanaugh noted that there should be an update within the next week, and they are looking at the possibility of opening to provide childcare. Cavanaugh added that City parks are open, but tennis courts, ballfields and playgrounds are still closed.

FY20-21 Budget Update

Cavanaugh noted that the FY20-21 budget had been ratified by the City Council, with total cuts of about 15% from last year. Cavanaugh added that although about 40 staff members were laid off, due to budget cuts, only about 20 would be brought back with a reduction in operating hours at all of the Parks and Recreation facilities. Baker asked about the Betty Wheeler light project and if it was funded. Cavanaugh noted that he would be looking for grants for the project, but finding grants for facility improvements was difficult.

Park Master Plan Tracking Spreadsheet

Steinberg noted that once the Parks Master Plan had been completed, she had developed a tracking document with the projects in multiple tiers. Steinberg gave an overview of the spreadsheet and stated that she would like feedback from committee members on the layout, noting that she was willing to be the person tracking the projects. Cavanaugh noted that Tim Gross, Public Works Director, had approved of the tracking idea. Steinberg noted that she would like someone else to take over the Tree City USA duties and assist Cavanaugh in submitting the annual application, so that she could concentrate on the Master Plan projects.

FY20-21 Parks Master Plan Projects

Cavanaugh noted that there were funds for drainage improvements at Betty Wheeler Park, and he would be meeting with the Parks Supervisor to visit other parks for necessary repairs and enhancements. Norris asked that Steinberg send Tree City USA information to him so that he could take over the duties.

Messages of Inequality and Systematic Racism

Steinberg noted the packet documents that were distributed by City Manager Spencer Nebel, Mayor Dean Sawyer, and Police Chief Jason Malloy regarding inequality and systematic racism, asking the Committee if they should develop a similar message.

Baker noted that the science community that she belongs to came out with similar statements and that she believed that the statement should be more action-oriented and not just words of support. CM Hall stated that it was not too late for the Committee to do something.

Norris added that perhaps they could start working on it before their next meeting, being careful to concur with any City statements.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cavanaugh reviewed the department report for May 2020, and noted that the three facility managers are still working on department policies and processes. Cavanaugh added that the Department would be concentrating on virtual programming and other outreach type of activities. Cavanaugh noted that he and Tim Gross had met with a Red Cross representative and they now have a finalized agreement that designates the Recreation Center and 60+ Center as disaster shelters. Cavanaugh informed the group that staff had met with representatives from the Quilters Guild, Saturday Market and Swim Club to address the events that would be happening simultaneously, and that several weeks after the meeting, he was informed that the quilt show and Seahorse Swim meet had been cancelled.

Chandler asked about the furlough days for staff. Cavanaugh responded that all non-union staff were required to take 12 days by the end of the year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None

Develop Next Agenda

COVID-19 Update

Inequality & Systemic Racism

Foundation Update

Soccer Field Update

Sub-Committees & Non-Resident Requirements

Establish Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting date will be determined before the end of July.

Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.