

MINUTES
Park System Master Plan Advisory Committee
Meeting #2
Newport City Hall Council Chambers
August 29, 2018

Committee Members Present: Ryan Bancroft, Bob Berman, Nicole Fields, Al Gilhuly, Jason Nehmer, Mark Saelens, Jody Stecher, Nancy Steinberg, Bryn McCornack, Preson Phillips, and Tomas Follett.

Committee Members Not Present: Beatriz Botello, Chuck Forinash, Julia Howell, Tim Kaufman, and Veronica Willemmin.

City Staff Present: Associate Planner, Rachel Cotton; Park and Recreation Director, Jim Protiva; and Executive Assistant, Sherri Marineau.

Consultants Present: Matt Hastie, and Jennifer D'Avanzo.

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call.** Meeting started at 4:01 p.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions.** Introductions were done and Hastie gave an overview of the agenda of the meeting and a status report of what had happened since the previous meeting.
3. **Document Review.**
 - 3A. **Draft Park System Goals and Vision Statement.** Hastie reviewed the goals and visions saying that what the AC had said they wanted was reflected in the objectives. He noted the AC would be getting feedback from the public meeting on whether or not the community supported each element. Hastie noted there was an online survey open for the public to give feedback. He noted these were overarching objectives and they would get more specific the further they went in the process.

Berman asked if the goals were in random order or if they were prioritized. Hastie said they were not prioritized and if the AC thought there should be a few that needed to be at the front, they could present it that way. Berman suggested when looking at funding options it was important to look at what was a priority. He noted that the seventh bullet point says “maintain” and thought it should say “maintain and improve.” Protiva asked about maintenance responsibilities that weren’t necessarily the responsibility of Parks. Hastie said different properties were owned by different entities and said the goal was to make sure that facilities are generally accessible and in reasonably close proximity to community members in terms of where they live. He said when they identified specific improvement projects they would be identifying which were priorities.

Saelens stated that undeveloped larger open space parcels needed an element that speaks to protecting them. Hastie would add text to preserve open space and natural areas. Protiva commented that there was a special challenge on the coast to find flat usable grounds for recreation and there needed to be language to protect flat space. The AC was in general agreement to add the language.

Protiva noted that the City had a Wayfinding Committee and assumed that the Master Plan wouldn’t take over this role. Hastie said the Plan would discuss recommendations for wayfinding signage in the context of providing signage and directions to parks, trails and other recreational facilities. Stecher suggested that Saelens point about open spaces needed its own line item in the Vision. Hastie said he would add this. Nehmer suggested adding location value to the statement. Protiva suggested adding level of wind protection. A committee member asked if serving all the geographic areas was necessary. The AC thought it was necessary but thought it wouldn’t be easy. Cotton reminded that goals were aspirational. Hastie thought that having a basic level of service across the board would be good. He reminded that after it was adopted, the plan was a living document and can be refined over time to reflect changing conditions, needs and priorities.

- 3B. **Park System Inventory.** D’Avanzo covered the inventory report. These were split between Parks, Special Use, and Trails with categorizations under each. D’Avanzo suggested the AC email Cotton their feedback. Berman asked why regional and national parks were included under Destination Park description. Cotton said the City didn’t

have any and it was standard description. She would take it out of the description. Berman said that some of the inventory needed descriptions, such as ocean parks. D'Avanzo said some of these were in draft form and would be updated. Hastie noted they used icons a lot to cut down on the words and verbiage that was intuitive. He asked the AC if they liked the use of icons and if there were any that were problematic. The AC was in general agreement that they liked the icons. Berman asked about the ADA Concerns icon. D'Avanzo said it was used to point out that some parks had ADA concerns. Berman thought it wasn't a consistent concept. D'Avanzo suggested taking it out and adding it to the notes. Berman suggested adding an ADA icon indicating parks were accessible. Hastie noted that they didn't have some details on specific facilities and noted that doing a full analysis of accessibility per ADA definitions and standards would be a significant undertaking and likely beyond the scope of this effort. He asked the AC to give specific information for the consultants to add related to accessibility concerns. Berman suggested that the AC members go out and find specific information for different facilities. Steinberg asked about mini parks versus pocket parks. Cotton said classifications weren't set in stone. She said pocket parks weren't very useful in terms of recreational amenities and mini parks tend to be smaller facilities that still include some amenities (e.g., things like play equipment, benches or short pathways). Steinberg thought that Coast Park should be classified as a neighborhood park based on functionality. Cotton noted that they put school parks in as neighborhood parks. Protiva stated that a neighborhood park should be accessed by walking or biking and didn't necessarily need water fountains. He asked what the defining characteristics were. Hastie said they were serving the neighborhood and had equipment, a pathway to connect, and picnic tables at a minimum. Larger neighborhood parks also typically have an open lawn area and sometimes playing fields.

Fields recommended the consultants reach out to the County Developmental Disabilities Office to look at accessibility when adding it to the plan. Hastie agreed and noted they would need more information on accessibility when doing the plan. Fields suggested expanding the notes on what was and was not accessible. Saelens suggested reaching out further for current parks to be more ADA accessible currently. He also suggested that large parcels be inventoried as to what parcels were worth and recommended that more money be set aside to do a more detailed forest management plan, including for Forest Park. He wanted to City Council to have a recommendation on plans for those properties when the plan was completed. He suggested this be a recommended implementation item in the Parks System Plan.

Steinberg asked about the nature preserve by Wilder outside of the Urban Growth Boundary. Cotton said they could add a note for what it was. Gilhuly asked how the new dam would affect the parks. Saelens said the dam would move upstream. There could be some reasonable estimates on where the water lines would be. Nehmer said San Moore Parkway was a good example of a park with ADA accessibility. Protiva suggested that this made it more than a neighborhood park.

Saelens asked if they could add parks that were adjacent to Newport. Cotton said they included Mike Miller Trail and could potentially add the Barton Preserve Park. The focus on these facilities would be on creating or improving connections to them. She said they could add a note for the parks that weren't completed or within the City and note where there were opportunities are for connecting residents to them. D'Avanzo said they could add this to the opening statement as well. Cotton said the list was of the existing inventory and the ones that weren't completed would be included later.

3C. Draft Level of Service Analysis. Hastie reviewed the level of service analysis document and pointed out different areas to note in the document. Steinberg said the AC should think about level of service analysis not taking into account political or management issues. Management could make it difficult to utilize parks and this wasn't reflected in the analysis. Hastie thought there were some areas they could add more narrative.

Berman asked if there was any consideration to public transportation. Cotton said no, but there was a question in the survey to ask how the person would get to public parks. She said when feedback came back they would add something more on this.

3D. Draft Opportunities Map. Hastie reviewed the opportunities maps to get the AC's feedback. Hastie noted that at the public meeting they would be giving the public icons to place on maps. Saelens asked why the reservoir property had a trails opportunity indicated but Forest Park didn't. D'Avanzo said this was based on input that said they needed to improve access to trails in that location. Saelens noted this was an existing trail and thought the recommendation would be for trail improvements and how to open up Forest Park so it could be more readily used without ruining the open space.

Gilhuly asked what the plan was for the manufactured home park area. Cotton said this was conceptual and the exact location wasn't fixed. They noted trail opportunities in the vicinity and noted that there wasn't a full service park in the area and it was underserved. Hastie noted the location of some facilities were not meant to be specific, it was more to indicate that in those areas there were gaps in service and proximity to neighborhood parks or other facilities.

Saelens asked for clarification on P-45 (trail opportunity between Agate Beach neighborhood and Ernest Bloch Wayside) for beach access. D'Avanzo said this was a safer trail access from Agate Beach to Ernest Block, and was a trail opportunity.

Protiva said there was a concept for Ocean to Bay trail completion and didn't see any mention of this. Stecher said it was mentioned in other documents. Protiva said it needed to be added as an opportunity.

Steinberg said the old swimming pool was now leased by the Lincoln County School District. They had said they would put in some parking and signage at this location to note it was the beginning of the Forest Park Trail (P-29). Steinberg asked to have it added to the inventory.

Steinberg asked what the plan was for Yaquina Bay State Park. Phillips said they needed to get the homeless camp out of there first. It would then be mostly vegetation management. Steinberg suggested putting in a bike trail and exercise equipment there.

Protiva said for trail opportunities, there was a missed opportunity on the west side of the airport and parallel to Highway 101. There was an old railway right of way there and was a good way to do a trail connects. Phillips thought the trail east of the airport could be better variety and a nice loop opportunity. Cotton asked if connecting from 40th Street into South Beach State Park by trail was viable. Phillips said there was more of a homeless problem there and funneling straight off of Highway 101 was less desirable.

5. COMMUNITY WORKSHOP. Hastie reviewed the agenda for the community workshop and what the flow of the workshop would be. He noted that there would also be an online survey done as well. Cotton would send the AC a link to take the survey and asked them to share it out to the community. There would also be a comment card at the community workshop to fill out with the link to the survey written on it. Bancroft asked if they would supply the notes from the Planning Commission/City Council joint meeting. This would be shared with the AC.

Berman asked about the conceptual designs. He asked if they would present what the consultants wanted to do as a conceptual design or was it more oriented with existing conditions. Hastie said it would be a combination. The higher priority projects would have some conceptual designs. He said they might asked the AC what their priorities were for these. Hastie noted that the AC would be meeting next in the first or second week of October.

6. Public Comment. None heard.

7. Adjournment. Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Marineau
Executive Assistant