

PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, May 7, 2015
City Hall ~ Room 24
5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Commission Members: Diane Davison, Steve Morgenstein, Michael Mertaugh, Jeff Scher, Jaime Parker, Ralph Carmona, Cynthia Loebenstein, Travis Wagner, Dory Waxman, Meri Lowry

City Staff: Councilor Jon Hinck, Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam, Mike Bobinsky, Rick Knowland, Sally DeLuca

Jeff Scher told the Commission members that he has decided not to renew as a Commissioner. He still will be active with Friends of Capisic Pond Park.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes April 2015

Motion made by Michael Mertaugh to accept the meeting minutes. Seconded by Dory Waxman.

Motion passed 8-0. (Meri Lowry and Cynthia Loebenstein abstained due to not being at the April meeting)

Communications/Updates

Deering Oaks: Castle Restaurant- Two people were interested and took the tour of the restaurant site. Bids are to be open on Tuesday.

East End Community Garden Update- Materials were delivered today and next week volunteers can start working on the garden.

Evergreen Cemetery Expansion- Work on the columbarium in June and will be completed in July.

Western Prom Wall- Has been completed. Councilor Hinck mentioned that there were trees cut on the Western Prom area and there is a lot of trash still in the area. Troy Moon will have staff check out the area.

Federal Follies – Starting July 3- October 12 the Press Hotel will be hosting “Federal Follies, a pop-up park. (Federal Street, from Exchange to Market). The Hotel will be responsible for picking up the trash in the area. The Commissioners mentioned that in the future something like this should go through the Parks Commission.

Deering Oaks Pond- The fountain is in and the duck house has been fixed and is installed.

Unfinished Business

Operating Budget: \$75,000 Recommended Allocation to Parks Commission- It was discussed at length about the possibility of using some of the projected allocation of \$75,000 to the Parks Commission to use a portion to get a full-time Parks Ranger.

Michael Mertaugh felt that the Commission could be setting a bad precedent if we use that money for a Parks Ranger position. That money should be an operational budget item.

Dory Waxman was in favor of it but wanted to make sure that we have clear language to council about why they are doing this. Jaime Parker is also in favor and understands the precedent.

Cynthia Loebenstein suggested if anyone has looked into AmeriCorps as an option.

Travis Wagner felt that we need to follow our assessment and spend the money that is prioritized.

A motion was made by Ralph Carmona to allocate \$20,000 of the potential \$75,000 towards funding for a full-time Park Ranger. Seconded by Dory Waxman. Motion Passed 10-0.

The Commission finished the discussion with how to spend the rest of the money and what type of formula to allocate the rest of the funds. At this time the Commission did not come to an agreement and will work on this after the budget has been approved.

PC Admin Reporting (Fundraising and Governance/Drafting Report) – The Parks Commission will hold a golf tournament in the fall. The Committee to work on this is Cynthia Loebenstein, Steve Morgenstein, Diane Davison, Sally DeLuca, Ryan Scott and Melissa Graffam.

Trust for Public Land Update - At their last meeting they adopted a Vision/Mission Statement. They also discussed levels of service and creative ways for looking for funding. Next meeting is on June 24 and no meeting in July.