

Public Works Committee
Minutes of
January 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jason Leonard on January 7, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Works meeting room, 1515 Willow Lane, Philomath.

ROLL CALL:

Committee: Councilors Jason Leonard, Eric Niemann, and Doug Edmonds

Staff: Public Works Operations Supervisor Garry Black, City Manager Chris Workman, and City Recorder Ruth Post

Public: Michael Sprouse

MINUTES:

MOTION: Councilor Niemann moved, Councilor Edmonds second, to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2015, meeting. Motion APPROVED 3-0.

TREE BOARD BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC WORKS BUSINESS:

Discussion to forward amendments to PMC 2.40 to the City Council for approval –

Mr. Workman reviewed the proposed changes to Chapter 2.40 Tree Advisory Board. He explained moving certain sections to PMC 18.70 made more sense and instead focuses Chapter 2.40 on the activities of the Tree Advisory Board.

MOTION: Councilor Niemann moved, Councilor Edmonds second, to approve amended PMC 2.40 and forward to the City Council to review and approve. Motion approved 3-0.

Discussion to forward amendments to PMC 18.70 to the Planning Commission for consideration –

MOTION: Councilor Niemann moved, Councilor Edmonds second, to the approve proposed amendments to PMC 18.70 and forward to the Planning Commission for consideration.

Mr. Workman reviewed proposed amendments to Chapter 18.70 related to landscaping, street trees and urban forest, including the proposal to establish a tree fund for replacement of significant trees that are removed and not replaced with a new tree. He stated the intent was for it to not be overly burdensome for citizens or staff. There was discussion about provisions for hazardous trees. Mr. Workman noted that the City is exempt. Councilor Leonard questioned where the City is in relationship to the preferred number of trees. Mr. Black stated that the City is pretty close. He explained a new approach to Arbor Day this year by handing out seedlings to students in hopes of more trees being planted in yards. Mr. Workman stated that enforcement will be complaint driven. Mr. Black stated that he is working with Lige Weedman and professor Al Shay from OSU to create a tree census.

MOTION: Motion on the table approved 3-0.

Discussion and forward Park Master Plan to the City Council for approval –

Mr. Workman stated that the Park Advisory Board met on Tuesday and forwarded the updated Park Master Plan to the Committee. He reviewed the updated project priority list. He explained the updated map for existing and future parks and trails and its relationship to the priority list. He

stated that the Park Advisory Board spent a year updating the plan and used current construction costs for similar parks and trails in Oregon. He explained that Priority 1 projects are those that the City could build if the funds were available. Priority 2 projects reflect those that the City doesn't own the land yet and Priority 3 projects are those that would be built by new development. He noted the value of having the Priority 3 list to address development plans when they are received. The total of the Priority 1 and 2 projects is actually less than was included in the previous version of the master plan.

Councilor Edmonds questioned the inclusion of a bike way along Chapel Drive considering the Benton County proposal to improve Chapel Drive. Mr. Workman stated that the Benton County project would include the bike way as far west as 19th Street and the section from 19th to 13th would still need to be improved. There was discussion about the timeline for the County project.

Mr. Sprouse questioned if there were any improvements planned for Westbrook Park. Mr. Workman explained that Westbrook was not raised as a park that needed improvements. Mr. Sprouse stated there are a lot of kids that play at that park. Mr. Black stated that Westbrook may need some maintenance in the near future.

There was discussion about creation of a new park on a vacant lot on Neabeack Hill. There was discussion about maintenance costs for new park facilities. Councilor Edmonds stated concerns about long-term costs related to parks with a tight City budget. Mr. Black reviewed the type of maintenance performed on current equipment. Mr. Workman stated that maintenance costs become relevant once the project is proposed. He stated that there does need to be discussion about maintenance for the proposed 11th Street park before the Oregon State Parks grant application is submitted in early April. Councilor Niemann asked if there are any national or regional benchmarks for maintenance costs based on per capita. Mr. Workman stated he would lean towards relying on the Public Works staff for their hands-on experience with maintenance costs.

Mr. Black described maintenance at the parks and the fluctuation in hours during the different seasons. Councilor Edmonds related the park projects to the City mission. Mr. Workman explained the use of park system development charge monies to expand the park system. Mr. Workman stated he believes that cities today are expected to provide some quality of life amenities in addition to basic services. Councilor Edmonds emphasized the importance of being fiscally solid.

Councilor Leonard questioned if a community garden was considered by the Park Board. There was discussion about the community garden associated with Philomath Community Services. Councilor Leonard discussed using old tires as playground equipment. Mr. Workman explained that there are safety code requirements for park equipment and anything new needs to be compliant.

There was discussion about the trail system indicated from Applegate to Chapel Drive along both forks of Newton Creek. Mr. Workman reviewed the projects listed in Priority 1.

Mr. Workman explained that the only update to the existing Park Master Plan is pages 57 - 59 and the map. He stated that Kevin Fear had recommended that Bathroom Replacement at City Park should be moved to the Priority 1 list. He noted that the current bathrooms may not last another 9 to 15 years and are not ADA compliant.

There was discussion about future projects by the Park Advisory Board to promote the city's parks.

Councilor Edmonds questioned if some of the projects are upgrades to existing parks and some are completely new. There was discussion about adding identification to the lists to better note if projects are new, enhancement or replacement.

There was agreement that the City Park bathroom replacement needs to be moved to Priority 1 and there was discussion about where it should be prioritized. There was discussion about Reservoir Park only having benches. Mr. Workman stated that the City is not deficient in large open space parks but it is deficient in neighborhood parks. There was discussion about the difference between a neighborhood, pocket and plaza park.

There was discussion about next steps for approval of the master plan. Councilor Leonard recommended moving the bathroom replacement to position number 6 on the Priority 1 list. Mr. Black described some issues with the bathrooms located near Park Shelter #2.

Councilor Niemann recommended tabling the plan and convening a meeting at City Park to do a walk-through of the facilities. Mr. Workman suggested that replacement of the main bathrooms could make the bathrooms near Shelter #2 unnecessary. There was further discussion about prioritizing the fall surface, play structures and bathrooms at City Park.

Mr. Workman stated that it would be beneficial in submitting the park grant that is due by April 1 to have the priority list approved by the City Council. It was agreed to meet on Tuesday, January 12, at 3:00 PM at Kugler Hall. Mr. Workman agreed to do some updates to the list and email it out.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.