



City of Longview

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Minutes - Final Parks and Recreation Board

*Louis LaPierre
Laurie Taylor
Nick Seaver
Dianne Quast
Austi Baudro
Micah Shea*

Monday, August 17, 2015

7:00 PM

Recreation Office, 2920 Douglas
Street, Longview, WA

1. Roll Call

*Called to order at 4:59 p.m. by Louie LaPierre, Chairperson
Board Members Present: Nick Seaver, Dianne Quast, Austi Baudro, Micah Shea,
Louis LaPierre
Staff Members Present: Jennifer Wills, Melissa Harbour, Curt Nedved
Board Members Absent: Emma Temples
Community Members: Ken Botero*

2. Approval of Minutes

*Nick Seaver moved to approve the minutes as written, Dianne Quast seconded the
motion. Motion carried.*

[MN 15-0294](#)

P&R ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES JULY 2015

Attachments: [P&R ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 07.20.2015](#)

3. Constituent Comments

Sandy Meyers, Longview City Resident, attended the meeting to discuss a tree issue at her residence that she believes are caused by City owned street trees. Ms. Meyers presented pictures as well as a detailed description of alleged issues including upheaved sidewalks and roots within her yard she believes have become tripping hazards. She is concerned about the sidewalks and the potential threat to her homes foundation and asked the board to recommend the tree be removed. Ms. Meyers is interested in new subdivision tree planting rules as well and how trees are selected. Mr. Nedved indicated that street tree roots are problematic within this residential area in part as a result of the turf being removed and replaced with lava rocks allowing for the roots to remain on the surface growing outward to take in water instead of developing a deeper root system to draw in water from the soil. Sandy mentioned that her tree is surrounded by turf and not lava rock. Curt Nedved, Park Manager, reported on the root pruning that has previously occurred at this residence and agreed that the species is most-likely inappropriate for the size of the planting strip. Nick Seaver, Board Member, asked what is the first step towards helping a homeowner out with a tree and sidewalk issue? Curt said that the first step is root pruning which can be helpful; however the trees each need to be evaluated to determine if removal vs. pruning is most effective. Curt said that the last step after everything else is exhausted is tree removal. Mr. Seaver asked if the sidewalk was the homeowner's responsibility. The answer is as follows: If the sidewalk is misaligned due to the city tree the responsibility falls on the city. If the city determines the homeowner is at fault directly it is the responsibility of the homeowner and they are presented with different options for repair and/or replacement at their own expense. Currently the City Street Department is responsible for sidewalk repair at this time with a current backlog of approximately 2 years on repair. Diane Quast, Board Member, asked about liability issues related to street trees causing sidewalk repair. Sandy Meyers, who is also a city employee in the Engineering Department, let the board know that there are many claims against the city regarding the sidewalks yearly.

The board asked about factors that determine the type of species for planting around the city. Curt noted that height, canopy/crown size, and rate of growth are factors when choosing. Diane Quast, asked if there was a written city policy and Curt stated that it is currently vaguely stated as plant the "right tree for the right spot". Curt let the board know that he assumes within the next 10 years that the trees will be removed from Ms. Meyers neighborhood and planted with some type of dwarf tree variety. Diane asked if there were other areas around town where this has occurred. Curt noted that in the current downtown street scape, he was asked to provide types of trees that would thrive in the new design the contractor had put together. Curt suggested to the contractor a type of tree to go along side walk areas that would allow for optimal health and growth. The contractor asked for a larger leafier tree at the corners of the streets. Curt let the contractor know that a larger species could be planted but that removal prior to maturity would be required and then gave the contractor options for planting. Diane asked how long would the trees be at the corner and Curt estimated that the tree would need to be removed between 18 - 25 years depending on growth. Diane asked why we were planting trees that would eventually have to be removed. Curt let the board know that he suggested trees that fit what the contractor/designer was looking for in that location knowing that they would then have to be removed as part of the plan.

Action Item: The Board would like input on clear specifications on decisions related to trees planted by contractors when the Parks Department will be responsible for maintenance of said trees. Jennifer Wills, Director of Parks and Recreation was

asked to draft a letter to Dave Campbell, City Manager, from the Tree Board asking if it is possible for the Board to have input on trees planted by contractors moving forward or at some point in the future. After further discussion, it was determined to first create by-laws and responsibilities of tree board members which would be included in the Urban Forest Management Plan. The board would also like additional information on an upcoming agenda about processes related to the liability and accessibility when sidewalks are damaged as a result of street trees when root pruning fails, etc.

4. Board Member Comments

None

5. Tree Board Comments

None

6. Reports

Park Manager Report

Curt Nedved, Parks Manager, provided a report outlining tree removal, stump grinding, after-hour calls, hand-watering and other relevant information. Recent Pickle-ball Court upgrades and wasp/bee complaints were discussed as well. Curt touched upon the fact that this year's effort to spray trees for fruit suppression has not worked as well in previous years and that the parks department has received many calls regarding the fruit falling this year. The Board agreed that fruit falling from trees is not grounds for removal and that the clean-up of fallen fruit from street trees is ultimately the responsibility of the homeowner rather than the Parks Department. Additionally, Mr. Nedved reported on two recent tree falling incidents on Nichols Blvd. and Olympia Way which occurred on two subsequent Friday's in August.

[15-3971](#)

PARKS DIVISION REPORT JULY 2015

Attachments: [PARKS DIVISION REPORT JULY 2015](#)

Parks & Recreation Director Report

Jennifer Wills, Director of Parks and Recreation provided the new Fall Recreation Guide and discussed relevant events including Concerts in the Park, Firecracker Run, Summer Meals and program participation statistics. The last Concert in the Park had very large attendance and received numerous favorable comments on social media and otherwise.

[15-3972](#)

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT JULY 2015

Attachments: [RECREATION DIVISION REPORT JULY 2015](#)

7. Old Business

A. Lake Concessionaire Update

The kayak vendor continues to be present and has also participated in activities with other recreation programs as a contracted vendor.

The food and beverage concessionaire was offered an updated contract with revised terms related to biodegradable containers which were accepted by the vendor. The Board was updated on the terms of the updated agreement specifically and plans to update the city ordinance around concessionaires within the parks in general. There will be a debrief of this process that will be reported to the board once complete.

B. Re-Opening of Neighborhood Park Grants

The press release has been submitted to the Daily News as of the writing of the minutes. Voting on grant winners will take place at the next Board meeting. Micah Shea, Board Member, asked specific clarifying questions around the application process. Nick Seaver, Board Member requested an update on the Tom Hutchinson signage relating to the last Board Meeting recommendation to use grant monies to fund ½ of the cost of said sign. At this time the signage issue is back on the table at the City Council level for additional clarification and discussion/decision.

C. Cloney Skate Park Painting Update

Nick Nunez, Community Member, recently met with Curt Nedved, Parks Manager, and Jennifer Wills, Director of Parks and Recreation, to discuss the design, funding, and development of his "501 C3 Corporate" designation and the work completed to date regarding tax exemption for donations. At the last meeting Nick reported that donations were solid and the concept is well supported.

8. New Business**A. Needle Disposal at Parks**

Micah Shea, Board Member asked about the process of sharps disposal containers within the parks. Curt gave an overview of where the current needle disposal container is located at the lake and that it is not currently utilized and that needles are still found weekly in the parks. The successfulness of the Needle Exchange Program was discussed as well.

B. Comprehensive Plan Goals/Objectives - Draft

Jennifer Wills, Director of Parks and Recreation provided a draft of the goals and objectives for the comprehensive plan and discussed related action items. The goal is to have the plan completed to encompass 2016 – 2022. No grant funding may be sought without the completion of the plan.

** Diane Quast, Board Member suggested the mention of any goals more than once be footnoted as relating to a similar goal found elsewhere.*

** Capital costs were discussed and clarifying questions were asked around how to spend funds, whether to utilize funds for maintenance rather than acquisition, etc.*

** A suggestion was made to add DRAFT watermark to documents*

** Diane Quast, Board Member asked about using bonds and discussing such within the comprehensive plan. Additional questions regarding what revenue generating options may be explored and detailed within the comp plan.*

** A suggestion to move revenue generation in to a separate section on survey was made.*

** The Board placed emphasis on targeting a bigger audience and subsequent feedback.*

** The Board asked that survey be designed to allow for saving and continuing at a later time if possible.*

** Jennifer Wills, Director of Parks and Recreation will meet with the Editorial Board at The Daily News if possible.*

[15-3975](#)

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOALS/OBJECTIVES

Attachments: [COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOALS/OBJECTIVES](#)
 [COMP PLAN SURVEY DRAFT](#)

9. Adjournment

Louis LaPierre adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.