



PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 19, 2021

1. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Mayor Scott Korthuis; Councilors, Ron DeValois, Nick Laninga and Mark Wohlrab

Staff Present: City Administrator Mike Martin; Parks Director Vern Meenderinck; and Park Admin. Assist. Nancy Norris

2. ACTION ITEMS:

A. **Approval of Parks Committee Minutes- Nov. 16, 2020**

DeValois motioned to approve the minutes, and Laninga approved the motion.

Action: *The Parks Committee Minutes from November 16, 2020 were approved.*

B. **Approve Berthusen Advisory Committee Reappointments**

Approve reappointment of Harlan Kredit, Mike Lewis, and Marlin Hendricks to the Berthusen Advisory committee.

Action: *Parks Committee recommends to Council the Reappointments of Harlan Kredit, Mike Lewis, and Marlin Hendricks to the Berthusen Advisory Committee.*

C. **Approve Parks and Trail Advisory Committee Reappointments**

Approve reappointment of Tanya Assink and Rena Rudy to the Park and appoint Tim Van Beek to fill the remaining term of Jeff Roberts.

Action *Parks Committee recommends to Council the Reappointments of Tanya Assink and Rena Rudy and appoint Tim Van Beek to fill the remaining term of Jeff Roberts to the Park and Trail Advisory*

D. **Maintenance Supervisor:**

This position will be advertised in February, with employment starting in March. Vern asked for recommendations of advertising for this position. Do we advertise in house to start or outside the organization?

Action: *Parks Committee recommends advertising this position to Employees within the City organization first. They encourage giving current employees an opportunity to grow within their employment with the City if qualified. Parks Committee recommends if there are no employees interested or qualified, then advertise outside the organization.*



3. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. **Berthusen Trails have some maintenance issues.**

Tim Van Beek has volunteered to work with the Washington Trail Assoc. to use their volunteers to upgrade the trails, remove wet spots, remove tree roots, drain wet/muddy sections.

B. **Updates on Parks projects:**

Benson Park barn plans are being reviewed by P&T advisory and Rec. District to help facilitate a plan forward. What we have so far was preliminary to look at feasibility and begin options.

Will also be meeting with planning dept. to come up with a plan on moving forward on a master plan for developing the south 20 acres.

Parks Committee additional comments: Start Planting 200 Trees on the westerly edge of the property. Meet with Rec. District, Park Advisory and Tim Faber for further direction on developing this Park.

Dickinson: Having the entire property surveyed to determine exact boundaries, and R&E is working on engineering the sections of trail. We need to make a final determination on where the trail will actually be located.

Park Committee additional comments keep the trail closer to the house side to make the jump across the creek with a bridge to connect to the Libolt trail section.

Glenn Property: Harlan Kredit informed us that their committee has received approx. \$50,000 in donations so far to help pay for the remaining portion left to pay off the property. The mayor has requested \$250,000 from the county Conservation futures fund to help raise some of the remaining funds needed.

Depot to 8th Trail: The Mayor is continuing to be in contact with the school district and Vander Griend regarding purchasing the surpluses portion. R&E is finishing the engineering and will be applying for permits needed. Finalizing engineering on the suspension bridge and hoping to make this a community build project. Hoping to begin some construction this year; but realistically probably not until 2022.



C. Park Usage:

Discussion on how to move forward with using park space, ball fields etc. for 2021 Probability of more requests for field space this season.

Question? Do we want to allow new requests for competing leagues etc. (e.g.: YMCA youth programs (done the last 10-12 years, continuing under same person/different name) NCA requesting to start a new program doing the same type of program?

Parks Committee agreed the existing policies of prioritizing field use to existing leagues and their programs is reasonable. And any new programs developed by a league or a new league will be reviewed and granted if fields are available, per the allowance of the impact so there is not overuse of the fields.

4. ITEMS ADDED:

A. Art Wall

Crux Construction sent out a sketch of the wall that will be forwarded to the City Building Inspector Ted Brouwer. Crux Const. plans to have this Wall constructed in February.

B. Water Spray Days

North Whatcom donated 20 nozzles for future Water Spray Days.

C. Forge Fitness

Is currently renovating the recreation building to prepare for the opening of a topnotch fitness facility.

D. Park Impact Fees

Mayor Korthuis asked for the Park Impact Fee's to be set for review and approval for the February Parks committee meeting.

E. Park and Trail Master Plan

Parks Committee would like Dave Timmer to be recognized for his exceptional work on developing a useable and well-presented document.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:10PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Parks Committee: February. 16, 2021 (Tuesday)