



Parks & Recreation Commission  
7:00 P.M.  
January 26, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Brent Erickson

Present: Eunice Abrahamsen, Walt Eby, Cassi Marshall, Mark Nickerson and Melissa Smith

Excused: Juli Bradley and Steve Lorenz

Staff Present: Jerry Acheson, Joan Durgin, Eric Levison and Susan Newlove

Public: Randy Curtis and Nan Henriksen

A motion was made by Eby, seconded by Nickerson, and carried that minutes of the general meeting of December 8, 2010, be approved as written.

**CEMETERY RATE INCREASE DISCUSSION:**

Eric Levison, Public Works Director, stated that Cemetery fees need to increase to help with the diminishing cemetery budget. He added that the Cemetery is draining the General Fund and staffing has been cut as much as possible, therefore, the only other option is to increase revenue. Levison explained that this would include an increase in rates across the board with the addition of new fees, including burial costs, and a perpetual care fee to help with overall longterm maintenance. Levison stated that the cremain lot is the most in demand and would increase from \$410 to \$750.

Joan Durgin, Finance Director, stated that the cemetery expenses last year were \$165,000, but the City brought in revenues of only \$34,000, with the remaining balance coming from the General Fund. She said the new fees would collect approximately an additional \$8,000 per year. In response to Eby's question regarding fees, Durgin stated that the perpetual care fee would be a one-time fee of \$150. Levison proposed an increase in locate fees, regular plot fees and double niche fees.

Abrahamsen suggested advertising for the Cemetery, and Smith suggested adding a link to the City's website. In response to Nickerson, Levison stated that the City sells the land and that it also has the option to do the business side of the burials. Abrahamsen stated that it is still the intention of the Friends of the Cemetery to help with maintenance.

A motion was made by Abrahamsen, seconded by Eby, and carried unanimously to accept the proposed increase in fees at the Cemetery.

### **COMMUNITY CENTER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CCDC) DISCUSSION:**

The Interim Chair for the CCDC, Randy Curtis, has learned a tremendous amount about the process since he has joined the council in April. He thanked Jerry Acheson and Brent Erickson for their help. Curtis stated that the current goal is to bring some closure to the question of whether or not the new Community Center is a possibility. Curtis said he discovered that there is a lot of history to this project, including several reports on analysis. He added that he is aware that the existing pool at Crown Park needs significant maintenance.

Curtis said he has interviewed several individuals about general fundraising and fundraising within the community. He has concluded that the process over the last few years was to do private fundraising with the hope of raising several million dollars. Curtis stated that with the economic changes occurring, private fundraising is not the way to go at this time. He added that a process that creates a mechanism for building and operating the facility is needed, which is what Firstenburg did. Curtis discussed the four sites that were evaluated over the years, going over limitations and concerns. For example, he discussed the issue of traffic circulation at the Lacamas Lake site, explaining that the site of choice must meet longterm needs.

Curtis concluded that the only way this project can be done is through public funding and recommended the Metropolitan Park District (MPD). He expressed the need of determining the interest of local entities hoping that the leadership will continue through the City of Camas. He stated that the CCDC would like to play the lead role in providing oversight in the process. In response to Smith, Curtis stated that the public/private partnership option is still on the table, but is very difficult and complicated to put together.

Curtis stated that it is a very difficult time for the public to be asked to increase taxes, adding that the public's preference is to take care of what you have. Curtis stated that the CCDC's goal is to have closure. Henriksen stated that they are in a no-win situation, but if they are able to look into a variation on it, that would be helpful.

### **BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION REVIEW**

Smith stated that both she and Acheson are on the Blue Ribbon Commission. Smith stated that she has always been apprehensive about the MPD, because she believes that they want the City's tax base and does not know how it is divided. Smith said that she is all for interlocal agreements and using resources. She likes the idea of working with Washougal. The Blue Ribbon Commission will have a presentation on Saturday at the Annual Planning Retreat.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

**Moose Lodge** – Acheson stated that he would like two Commissioners to assist him with this project. He has studies that were completed in 2001 and we can use those as resource tools to help with the process. Eby and Nickerson volunteered to help out with the project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m.