



Parks & Recreation Commission
7:00 P.M.
March 23, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Brent Erickson

Present: Eunice Abrahamsen, Walt Eby, Steve Lorenz, Mark Nickerson and
Melissa Smith

Excused: Juli Bradley and Cassi Marshall

Staff Present: Jerry Acheson, Eric Levison and Susan Newlove

Public: Judy Harris and Mandy Hooth

A motion was made by Eby, seconded by Lorenz, and carried that minutes of the general meeting of January 26, 2011, be approved as written.

BENTON NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN PILOT PROJECT

Jerry Acheson stated that a CDBG Grant was received that includes a demonstration garden that has been vacant for a couple of years. Acheson has been approached by Camas resident, Judy Harris, to start a Neighborhood Garden at 14th Avenue and NW Drake Street in Benton Park. Acheson stated that this is a pilot project.

Mandy Hooth stated that Harris is a wonderful, dedicated employee of hers and highly recommends her for this project. Harris stated that her goal is to share the harvest and that the garden would be run by donations and Volunteers. In response to Lorenz's questions, Harris stated that there is water on the site provided by the City and she plans on subdividing the plots into three different sections. The season would be April 15th through November 1st and Harris will be the Neighborhood Garden Coordinator.

Acheson stated that Harris has been working with Jim Gant, Parks Maintenance Lead, who has been very supportive of this idea. Harris suggested having the water system on timers, but Acheson confirmed that it states in the rules and regulations that gardeners must be present at their plots while watering them and drip irrigation may not be left on unattended.

A motion was made by Lorenz, seconded by Eby, and carried to accept the application and Rules and Regulations as submitted for the Benton Neighborhood Garden.

Acheson suggested that Harris present a report at the end of the season to let the Commission know how the pilot project went.

CAMAS CEMETERY SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Melissa Smith stated that a subcommittee is being formed to review the information on particular areas pertaining to the cemetery in regards to budget and expenses. The subcommittee will review price increases and look into additional products to help supplement the income. Levison suggested that they hold the meetings formally and have minutes taken so that it is on record.

In response to Eby's question regarding the purpose of the subcommittee, Erickson stated that the City's prices are much higher than other cemeteries and he believes that other options should be considered to help cut back expenses. Smith stated that they will report back to the group after they have their discussions.

PROJECT UPDATES

Fallen Leaf Park – Purchasing sales agreement has been signed for the Fallen Leaf parcel. By the next meeting, Acheson will have a draft rules, regulations and fee structure. In response to Lorenz, Acheson stated that the actual purchase is 34.7 acres of upland and 20 acres of Fallen Leaf Lake.

OTHER ITEMS

Camas Cemetery – Abrahamsen suggested installing a gazebo at the Cemetery for rainy days.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27th at 7:00 p.m.