

Parks and Open Space Commission 6/12/17 Minutes

Present were Gail Fleming, chair and recording, Shanti Loustaunou and (by phone) Marianne Edain. Stan Berryman was unable to attend. The public included Guy Burneko and Trilby Coolidge.

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 P.M.

The minutes of the 5/31/17 meeting were read and approved.

In deference to audience member Trilby Coolidge, the agenda was amended to begin with the heron rookery. Trilby is concerned about the cottonwoods near the rookery. She said there is a planned 5 lot development nearby and she is afraid the cottonwoods would be cut down. She would like POS to tour the site. There was agreement that this would be worthwhile but no immediate plan was made. Gail agreed to ask Brigid about the development.

Gail reported on her council report: there was interest on the part of several council members in the Community Trails System and the contact info was conveyed. Gail let the council know that POS wants to have a say in what happens at Seawall Park. Mayor Tim reminded us that we need to use the money in our budget. We began the year with \$5,000, spent \$500 for the new Generation Park sign and owe Steve Erikson \$225 for the Middle Earth wetlands consultation, bringing the balance to \$4275.

Marianne reported on the Seawall Park Committee. The committee had been told by council to disband. Marianne, the liaison between POS and the committee, suggested that it become a subcommittee of POS, which was enthusiastically adopted. Some short term maintenance items will be attended to, but the gravel path along the wall is no longer on the table. There was a proposal by Mainstreet to install telescopes around town, including at Seawall park. It was unclear how they would be paid for.

The subject of dog parks was revisited, as Marianne had found some grants specific to that kind of park. The Middle School ball field closest to Cascade is a possibility but it is unclear how to proceed since we don't know who will be managing the Middle School grounds.

With regard to our priorities, we reviewed the draft comp plan goals and policies and came up with the Noble Creek trail as our number one priority and restoring the wetlands behind the Middle School as number two. As to how we would pay for the acquisition of the Noble Creek property Marianne suggested that we have a meeting with Pat Powell, who is skilled in putting together packages for this purpose. We also need to review the Conservation Futures grant process as well as that of RCO. We agreed to use the balance in our budget for costs associated with the application for these grants and/or for the costs of restoring the Middle Earth wetlands.

Regarding the question of whether or not the Tree Ordinance was part of our mandate, it was noted that tree protection comes under the Urban Forest Strategy found in the draft goals and policies of the POS. Gail said she would write a proposal to the council asking for their OK to proceed with updating the ordinance.

The question came up as to whether any progress had been made on the wetlands focus overlay maps that Kelsey said she would work on but there was no information to convey.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00

