

Parks and Recreation Board

Monday, May 17, 2021

5:00 PM

Recreation Office,
2920 Douglas Street, Longview WA

1. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Rayleen Aguirre, Spencer Boudreau, Jenny Oskey, Michelle Rabideau & Claire Pang

Members Absent: Antonio DaSilva

Constituents Present: N/A

Staff Present: Jennifer Wills, Joanna Martin, Melissa Harbour

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

21-000736 Parks & Recreation Advisory Minutes-02.22.2021

*A motion was made by Rayleen Aguirre, seconded by Jenny Oskey, to approve the minutes as written.
The motion carried by the following vote:*

Ayes: All

Nays: None

3. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

4. **CONSTITUENT COMMENTS**

None

5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Michelle Rabideau inquired about the involvement of the Parks & Recreation Department related directly to the Go 4th Festival. The recreation department assists directly with acquiring permits and basic administration. Park Maintenance staff outlines vendor spaces, assists with recycling/refuse as well as cleaning the park post-event. Employees work all three days which can at times equate to overtime/holiday pay. Director Jen Wills attends the Go 4th committee meetings regularly.

Claire Pang asked for clarification on member Antonio DaSilva, our current student representative. Antonio has been absent from the meetings for several months in a row. See new business for update.

Rayleen Aguirre asked whether this board would meet in person in the near future. Once City Council meets in person our meeting will do the same.

Spencer Boudreau expressed appreciation for the fast response time of Urban Forestry.

6. TREE BOARD COMMENTS

None

7. REPORTS**21-000738 Park Division Report May 2021- Verbal**

Joanna Martin provided a verbal report on the following:

**Harlie's Hoops permanent fencing installation and tree planting*

**Ongoing recruitment for seasonal part-time and full time positions*

**Park tour to provide inspiration for Cloney Park renovation*

**281 completed work orders in April 2021*

**1 Parks employee has acquired a trapping license and 2 are currently studying for pesticides licenses*

**Departmental support at recreation events such as Kids Fish In and Drive-In Movies*

**Urban Forestry fully staffed with a 5 person full-time crew while actively recruiting for a part-time position*

21-000737 Recreation Division Report May 2021

Justin Brown, Recreation Manager (excused) provided a written report which Director Wills briefly summarized.

21-000739 Director's Report May 2021- Verbal

Director Jennifer Wills provided a verbal report on the following:

**Acquiring seasonal part-time staff continues to be problematic across all departments*

**The Recreation Department was asked to partner with Longview School District however the ability to do so is dependant on the acquisition of qualified staff*

**Golf course play and revenue has seen a rapid increase, including new golfers and those wanting lessons*

**7th Avenue Park has seen a rise in vandalism and ongoing issues*

8. OLD BUSINESS**21-000740 Harlie's Angels Update – Historic Preservation**

The Historic Preservation originally required the structure posts be wrapped in order to maintain consistency of appearance. The cost for wrapping was between \$20-50K which was prohibitive. The Parks Department provided alternative solutions and proposed the planting of several new trees that, once full grown, would create a visual barrier to the structure. This proposal was accepted and currently working to acquire the species approved for planting.

21-000741 Naming of Archie Anderson Playground Recommendation Update

Jennifer Wills has been actively collaborating with the Highlands Neighborhood Association to formally rename the park in memory of Felicia Connelly. In order to proceed with the project, the family of Ms. Connelly would need to submit formal approval. Rayleen Aguirre has volunteered to provide the formal proposal/approval from the family. Once approval/proposal have been accepted by this board, it will be forwarded to City Council for official approval.

9. NEW BUSINESS**21-000740 Cloney Park Playground Potential Plan**

A recent nature/inclusive playground tour of Vancouver/Portland took place to obtain ideas and view other successful natural playgrounds. As a result, Director Wills shared the idea of creating a story of the City of Longview within the playground. Ideas include a play area featuring the lifecycle of local area with timber, environment and industrial storytelling spaces, etc. Ideally the department would partner with local industrial/community leaders. The funds available for the renovated park space sits at \$90,000.

An inquiry was made as to what is done with the play structures currently at the park, once renovations begin. Ideally the structures are repurposed and/or recycled however there are barriers due to the age (30 years old) and quality of equipment.

21-000741 Neighborhood Park Grant Program Update

This board recently approved a Neighborhood Park Grant for updates at Mint Valley Raquet Complex. The building is owned by the City and operated/maintained by a private entity. When projects are submitted by a private business and not a non-profit or community ground for city owned buildings, Public Works must be involved and will likely include financial implications not previously realized. Additional information on the updated scope of the project as well as ongoing costs will be provided to the board as appropriate.

21-000742 Student Representation on Board

A motion was made by Michelle Rabideau, seconded by Claire Pang, to remove Antonio DaSilva from the board and solicit for a new student representative. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: All

Nays: None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:52 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2021 at 5:00 PM