



SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 11, 2018

Traffic Control Center Conference Room 325

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tony Caito
David Fridenmaker
Micah Moskowitz
Kasia Quillinan
Carol Snyder
Patty Tipton

MEMBERS ABSENT

Woody Dukes
Bill Fujii
Kyle Smith

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Becktel
Tom Cupani
Patricia Farrell
Jennifer Kellar
Toni Whitler

1. ROLL CALL

Woody Dukes, Bill Fujii, and Kyle Smith were marked absent.
New member, Micah Moskowitz was introduced.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 14, 2017 minutes were approved.

3. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

a. Betsy Belshaw, Minto Brown Island Park Patrol, addressed a concern that there was tree planting in the Minto Island Conservation Area and she and the patrol were not made aware of the work. She thought they were off-trail. Ms. Farrell said she followed up with Ash Creek when she heard about this, and they told her they were not wearing their vests as they are required to and also didn't tell her they would be at the park. They will be sure to contact the City to make them aware of work parties.

b. Stacey Wittenburg, Garmin, came as an interested citizen who wants to get involved in SPRAB. He has a focus on disc golf and is part of Capitol City Disc Golf Association.

c. Chair Quillinan said she would like the City to consider having a Parks Ombudsman to improve what she feels is poor communication regarding park issues. Ms. Kellar said she is working on improving communication by having all calls go through Dispatch so they can be recorded and logged. The recorded items are sent daily to managers.

4. BOARD ITEMS

a. Board and Commission Training – Tom Cupani, Assistant City Attorney

Mr. Cupani delivered a presentation on ethics to make the Board members aware that receiving an email with all members listed (as opposed to blind copy) could potentially constitute a quorum and if members correspond via email as "reply all" regarding an issue, it could be considered a public meeting. Email correspondence from the City to the Board is done by blind copying the board members so there is no opportunity of the board members responding to "all."

5. INFORMATION REPORTS

a. Recreation Services Update – Becky George, Recreation Supervisor

Ms. George's update included Recreation Services' move to Shops from Civic Center, current development of the summer recreation guide, current discussions on additional programs, and their ongoing scheduling of facilities and events.

b. Park Planning Update – Patricia Farrell

Riverfront Park Master Plan

Ms. Farrell reminded the Board that the Riverfront Park Master Plan community meeting is January 18. The current online survey has received over 500 responses and will remain open for about a week following the meeting.

Minto Brown Island Park Tree Planting

There are three weekends of tree planting at Minto Brown. An invitation will be sent out to the Board members.

Administrative Rule for Minto Island Conservation Area (MICA) Restrictions

Ms. Farrell said the AR will go to City Council on January 22 and will be open for 15 days for public comment.

Chair Quillinan: Confusion regarding Restrictions versus Guidelines for all events noted in different areas. Ms. Farrell replied that this was separated out to make one more restrictive than the other. Guidelines are recommendations versus restrictions. Quillinan finds this confusing.

Member Moskowitz: Why are bicycle races categorically excluded from MICA. Too noisy? Ms. Farrell said this is because of the conflicts with other users such as pedestrians, dogs, and bicycles.

Chair Quillinan: The numbers of participants seem really high. The first 150 is high, then 400, and then 1000. Ms. Farrell replied that a permit isn't required until 150 + people. Then types of events wanting to go through MICA have a bottom end of 400, so that is the next allowance for events during bird nesting season. Bird nesting overlaps with summer, so they are allowing one event during the bird nesting season with 1000 maximum participants. It is a way to start putting limits on the numbers of people.

Member Snyder: What kind of events? Ms. George: Walks, runs, and now marathon or half marathon. There was a triathlon last year.

Michael Slater (interested citizen): How do you assess the impact of 1000 people? Ms. Farrell replied that it is hard to do because birds will move away during the event and may or may not come back. Salem Audubon said there is no way to determine a "before and after".

Member Fridenmaker: Any annual or periodic inventory to see if species are increasing or decreasing? Ms. Farrell responded that Audubon does a count and also leads frequent bird walks. Audubon enters their inventory and locations into an electronic database. There are so many variables that it is difficult to determine.

Chair Quillinan: *Item 2.D, Event reservations, scheduling, and prioritization will follow current practices of the City.* a. Do we have current practices somewhere and b. Do we have someone to contact – Becky? Ms. Farrell said yes.

Chair Quillinan: Does it say how to contact you? Becky: Event scheduling contact information is on the website and those calls come directly to me.

Chair Quillinan: Will there be a map? Answer: Yes

Monarch Butterfly Pledge

Eola Ridge is in the process of a habitat planting.

c. Parks Operations update – Jennifer Kellar

Park Hours

Ms. Kellar announced that they are changing park hours to “Sunrise to Sunset.”

Question: What if you want to take a walk at 6:00 p.m.? Ms. Kellar said they take into consideration those situations, but are more focused on areas where negative issues occur frequently, such as Cascades Gateway Park. Mr. Cupani noted that it is a staffing consideration as well. It is likely that there will be staff available at 7:00 p.m. rather than 11:00 p.m.

Marion Square Park Feedings / Giveaways

Ms. Kellar noted changes being made to Marion Square Park due to the number of feedings and high amount of garbage left behind. They are trying to keep the events contained in one general area under the bridge. They have moved concrete picnic tables in that area and have instituted a “no fee” permit for feeding events. They are also going to fence the area around these activities.

Member Tipton asked that Ms. Kellar update the Board on these items in about six months.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place February 8, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.