

Minutes of the Meeting: November 7, 2024

Board members present: Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Tabb Stringer, Nathan Schwarck, Kit Gerwels

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Jamie Burroughs, Darby Jordan

Meeting held in person and called to order at 6:00PM

Minutes: October minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

None

Friends of the Forest Update:

Katie was in attendance and reported that the Forest Discovery Center is open to the public. This space features education, history of the forest lands and guides for exploration. There will also be community member docents to help answer questions and assist people.

Staff Reports:

Bob reported that nothing much has changed with the Whistle Lake dam. Survey work is being done, with the next step being that information sent to the engineers. There should not be much disturbance or many changes at this time, and the lack of questions from the public supports this.

The beaver have slowed their work as the spillway is not being blocked as quickly or thoroughly.

Staff have been dealing with downed trees in the aftermath of the several wind storms we have had recently.

Bob and Jamie both reported that the #105 bridge is needing to be replaced as there is damage to a plank and supporting structure. This will require both a City and WDFW permit. #115 also needs to be replaced, and staff is looking at a way to stay ahead of the repairs instead of chasing them.

Bob shared that the Parks team has lost one member of their staff to the facilities department. There is a hiring freeze within the City for an unknown amount of time. The impact this has on the ACFL is that Jamie does not have as much time in the woods as he is helping the team with other tasks. The good news is that fall is here and winter is approaching, this leads to slower grass growing and park use.

The next council meetings on November 18 and 25 will be focused on the budget with an adoption hopefully on December 2nd.

Bob reported that the Heart Lake restroom has been demolished and Rainbow will pump out the tank.

Discussion ensued regarding the Heart Lake grant, other funding options and potential long term ACFL bridge ideas.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported on the Parks Board meeting, sharing that the most up to date information is in the packet. Parks staff is having success growing grass at the dog park and the Port donated some wood chips to spruce up the park. There will be a meeting on Thursday, November 14th to discuss pickleball with players and neighbors invited to come and share.

Other Business:

Kit verified the timeline for the next several meetings with Jonn coming in January to go over the budget and other plans. The Forest plan update is on track with proofreading and will be presented in the next 2-3 meetings.

Brian reminded everyone that the motorized season in the ACFL is closed until April.

Adjourn at 6:25pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan