

January 11, 2022

Members Present: Sarah Nichols, Jo Ann York-Gilmore, Christine Hansen and Brad Adams

Staff Present: Karl Wolfwinkel, Dustin South, Nicole Johnston, and Jonn Lunsford

Other Presenters: Rochelle Kealoha, Shaunie McCloud, Ed Capasso, Mary Harju, Andy Stevens, Pat McCunn, Jim Malson, Gary Follstad and others.

Called to Order: 6:02 PM

Minutes: December minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: None

Pride Parade: Jonn opened this discussion stating that the parks board is the group who approves use of our parks to large groups. He introduced Rochelle and Shaunie and they spoke about their request for an event permit for a parade and event at Causland Park directly following. Shaunie gave some background on the group-they established about one year ago with a Facebook group for the LGBTQ+ and allies in our community. They would like to hold a parade that is specific to their group and then a community activity following. The group is hoping to coordinate with Anacortes Music project, possibly a food truck, yard games, and family friendly activities. The date is set for June 18th, 2022. The board members expressed support of the event and approved a special events permit. Jonn directed Rochelle and Shaunie to continue coordination with Bob Vaux and Parks staff.

Causland Park Memorial Wall: Jonn opened the floor to any public comments before giving the history of the project. He stated there had been some additional letters received and wanted to continue the discussion as indicated at the last meeting.

Sarah Nichols spoke for the board that they were there to provide a public forum and take comments but they would not be the ones to make any decisions on the memorial. She noted that letters that have come into the Parks and Recreation Department since the December meeting had been forwarded to Commission members. She also noted that staff had provided the Commission with an April 22, 2021 letter to Mr. Capasso from Mayor Gere, Mr. Cappasso's response via email on April 29, 2021 and a follow up letter from Mayor Gere on May 3, 2021. The letters from the Mayor invited Mr. Capasso to design a plaque just like the ones donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in the 1980's. Once that was done, the proof needed to be approved by the Parks Department and VFW.

At the time of opening this discussion, there were 17 Zoom connections, with Mr. Capasso's connection hosting multiple people representing the group Patriots Corner. Not all participants identified themselves by name or address so it was difficult to attribute each comment to a specific individual.

Several people expressed frustration at the length of time this process has taken. There was a question posed about what action had been taken since the last meeting. Jonn responded that no decisions of substance had been made since the December meeting.

Those commenting supported placing the plaque that was delivered to Mayor Gere in September of 2021, on to the wall. Some questioned why the new plaque needed to match the existing plaques created by the VFW in the 1980's. Staff explained that since the park was on the historic register, and

the tradition for the plaques was established by veterans in the 1980's, the city wanted any new plaque to look just like the original plaques.

Discussion ensued.

Jonn offered that the Parks foundation would cover the cost for a new plaque if cast just like the existing plaques as specified in letters from Mayor Gere dated April and May 2021.

The Veteran's group presented a new template for the plaque and was invited by both Jonn and the Parks board to submit it for review and to continue the process.

Discussion continued.

Next action steps: Ed Capasso will send the new template to Mayor Miller and Jonn in order to continue the process. Staff was requested to see if the city would reimburse the Patriots Corner group for the plaque that was returned to them by Mayor Gere. The Commission will look at continuing its discussion of how to accept memorial donations for the future.

Department Reports:

- **Senior Activity Center**- Karl reported that despite the snow and holidays there were no major issues. The center will be hosting a vaccination clinic for the community to help with first, second and booster vaccines with another clinic on February 11th. The center is running as much as possible with the current Covid restrictions.

- **Recreation** – Dustin reported that girls' basketball just ended and this week they are starting boys and pee wee basketball. The department is getting a bit more gym time from the schools which has been very helpful. He is hoping to get more kids out recreating and socializing and interacting with other kids.

- **Parks**-Nicole reported on progress at the Grand View Cemetery expansion project. There are a few small repairs to be done by February 1st and then it will be complete. The next step is surveying, with the goal to be selling plots by spring 2022. And get grass growing! The team is staying busy with outside projects and trying to stay healthy.

- **Skate Park Update:** Jonn updated that he was working with the Anacortes Skates organization who is providing a large donation and Grindline as the contractor for engineering and bid documents. Jonn expects to take this to City Council in the near future and hope to send it out to bid in summer 2022.

JoAnn quickly reported that the Forest Board is taking comments on Ebikes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

The NEXT MEETING will be held on Tuesday, February 08, 2022, at 6:00 PM, virtually.