

April 9th, 2024

Staff in Attendance: Karl, Bob, Nicole, Dustin, Amanda and Darby

Parks Commission in Attendance: Brad, Joann, Sarah & Alex

6pm Call to order

March minutes passed unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence/ Communication:

JoAnn spoke about the Forest Board, sharing that the Board gave their feedback and guidance to Staff to proceed with the edits and minor changes to the Forest Plan.

Bob shared a letter from an anonymous citizen, concerned about motorized users on the Guemes Channel Trail. One user in particular is on an electronic skateboard with a dog, traveling at excessive speeds. This anonymous citizen is voicing a request for the City to enforce the public safety issue, speed, and regulation of motorized vehicles. In the past, Staff and the Board have discussed motorized vehicles (ebikes and the like) on the Tommy Thompson, GCT and the loop. The Board suggested monitoring the situation and reporting back with any other comments from the community.

Staff visited the dog park today to assess the conditions. As the weather is improving, grass is growing but to fully correct the soil and lay grass seed, top soil would need to be brought in, mixed, seed spread and the park closed for an extended time to allow for the grass to take root and grow. The ballfield that is adjacent to the dog park is used for little league games in the spring and soccer in the summer and fall, mostly in the afternoon and evenings. Staff stated that the walking path done by volunteers looks great and is helpful. Board members asked if other dog parks were kept to a "ballfield level" of maintenance and grooming. Staff shared that they know of no dog parks that are able to maintain that standard. There is an Eagle Scout that is going to be fixing up the kiosk, making things look a bit better. Staff will then add new signs.

Storvik Park Recap:

The Board reviewed the suggestions taken at the last Parks Board meeting. It was agreed that the most organized suggestion is for sand volleyball. It was also clear that pickleball is a very popular request. Storvik is not an appropriate place for this activity due to the close proximity to homes and the noise of the game. The Board stated that it is clear a space needs to be found for this activity. Staff shared that Clear Ridge community members are requesting that the City correct the issues with the current courts before adding any others.

The next step is for the Board to give their suggestions and recommendations at the May meeting. The Board cautioned against trying to fit too many things into one space as that runs the risk of doing none of the options correctly. Discussion continued.

Department Reports:

Karl shared that Amanda started yesterday at the ASAC. She is working full-time as the Program Coordinator, a new position.

There are two new classes beginning soon, Tai Chi and Volcanoes & Earthquakes of the Pacific Northwest. The first session of the Volcano talk drew a large crowd.

The website and newsletter are being updated, with more detailed information available online. Staff at ASAC are coordinating with the museum, library and the high school for some fun new programs.

Nicole stated that Spring is definitely here! Interviews are scheduled for seasonal parks jobs, hoping to get those positions filled soon. The Cemetery office has been torn down and the new office should be in place by the end of May. Mid-April will bring a volunteer to pressure wash the playground at Storvik park.

Dustin shared that volleyball is up and running with games starting next week. Track and Field will be starting soon with the high school track team helping coach this program. Dustin has been reviewing grant applications for the RCO youth grants. This grant is for the outdoor athletic field grant, and this grant is allowing for school districts to apply which is helping smaller communities.

The A-town is in process with the magazine hitting mailboxes in early May.

The new Recreation Coordinator, Eli Moore, starts next week.

Bob spoke about the Mt Erie clean up happening soon. He also shared that Staff will be hiring 12 seasonals for the summer season to help the Parks crew.

The lights for the Skate park have arrived and are installed.

The Storvik swing set is being replaced thanks to a grant from HF Sinclair refinery. This was a grant to repair or replace existing playground equipment.

Other Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan