

January 14th, 2025

Parks Commission in Attendance: Brad, JoAnn, Alex, Sarah and Chris

Staff in Attendance: Jonn, Dustin, Bob, Karl and Nicole

Call to order: 6:02pm

December minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the Forest Board met on the 2nd and Kit was reelected as Chair. Bob shared a presentation about the Heart Lake plan and grant. The legislature now needs to vote on funding for all the applications.

Ellie gave an update from the Friends of the Forest. Their new location downtown will open back up in the spring. They are also looking for a new Executive Director.

Pickleball Meeting Discussion:

Jonn reported that he and Nicole had met with the Parks Foundation to present the request for the sound dampening materials as well as fixing the wind damaged fence. The Foundation has voted to fund this project in full. The first step will be to for the parks crew to fix the fence and improve the road and parking. The second step will be to get the sound dampening curtains ordered and installed.

Jonn shared that he had met with the school district about using the middle school courts during off hours for pickle ball.

John Pope has been trying new equipment in the basement of City Hall to see if any work for quieter play.

Staff recommendations are the following: fix Clearridge courts by spring, find alternative spots for play, look at pop up courts during July and August when use is at its peak. The Board was in support of trying these changes for now and then reevaluating.

W Side Park:

Jonn announced that there will be a community meeting on January 30th at 6pm at the Senior Center. This has been advertised to the direct neighbors as well as social media for the general community. There is no funding currently for this project but council has asked staff to start the process.

Department Reports:

Nicole shared that the drainage issues have been resolved at the dog park with staff spending a couple of days working on this.

Nicole met with Grey and Osborn about the SHIP trail and boardwalk repair. The Port and WA state ferry will be a part of this project as it moves forward.

Parks staff have been working on the Marine Stadium trail, on the east side of Cap Sante. There is about one more week of work to do here in restoration of this trail. Staff is also working on baseball field prep.

Dustin shared that girls basketball is beginning and summer program planning is under way. Several families have requested more indoor recreation opportunities and staff is looking for a way to provide this.

Karl gave a snapshot of the great 2024 that the Center had. There was a 14% increase per day and a 24% increase in programs offered. The Sea Notes Big Band performed yesterday with 75 people coming to enjoy the music and dance. The Center offered a “Newcomer’s Tour” with 14 people taking part to learn about the Center and the programs. This tour led to many great conversations. The Center is working on a Community Needs Assessment for community members 55 and greater. This will be open for the next 6 weeks.

Jonn reported that the Trestle study is almost complete and will be reported to Council in March. The demolition of the concrete at Storvik has started but funds are still needed for the sand volleyball courts.

The budget is short for 2025 with the Parks department using reserves and holding off on hiring for 4-6 months.

Jonn shared that the Depot Plaza plans are in process, Bob is working on the skate park restroom and parking lot, and the Cap lookout is coming along great with the expected finish in late winter.

Other Business:

None

Adjourned at 6:54pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan