

Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes March 20, 2023

Call to Order: 3:02 call to order

Roll call:

Cathy Wooten
Matt Withers
Lisa Bruce
Dave Hall
Gordy Holmes
Judy Williams
Meagen Watne

Staff Present:

Carly Ruacho, Parks Planning Manager
Kevin Pellham, Engineering Technician
Patricia Love, Community Development Director
Kevin Hushagen, Public Works Director

Absent: none

Citizens Present: Peter Kamb

Citizen Comments: none

Approval of January 2023 PTAC Minutes: Minutes approved as written

Matt Withers moved to approve the February 21, 2023, meeting minutes as written, Second by Cathy Wooten. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: New Member Introduction

Carly introduced Meagen Watne as the new PTAC member, appointed by the Mayor and certified by City Council at their February 23, 2023 meeting. Carly summarized Meagan's background and interest in Stanwood parks and trails from her letter of interest and the other members welcomed Meagen to the group.

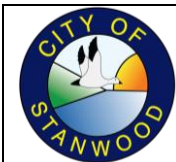
Item 5: Downtown Park Narrative/Naming Update

Community Development Director, Patricia Love presented some concept level design options for the new downtown park. Previous comments by other committees included a gazebo, seating, and space for the holiday tree. PTAC members also voiced the need for seating and also expressed the desire to have at least one small play element for children. The committee expressed the desire to keep the design consistent with a railroad theme and suggested looking at Jennings Park in Marysville for a similar train themed play element.

Patricia reported that the PTAC recommendation for the downtown park naming as "Railroad Park" will be submitted to the City Council for their approval at the April 13, 2023, meeting.

Item 6: Public Farm Project Update

Project proponent Andrew Davis presented an updated concept summary for his public farm proposal at the Ovenell Farm property. He discussed his plans for a greenhouse and potting shed as well as farm plot and raised garden beds. The pilot project would include up to 10 participants in once per week classes with larger groups on occasion for tours/education. Andrew reported that the Stanwood/Camano Food Bank will be the Farm's fiscal sponsor and will handle the administration of



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any funds and also provide insurance for the Farm participants. Andrew presented his planting plan and crop estimates, as well as the project values and goals and outreach plans. He also presented his proposed timeline which starts classes in April. Andrew asked for PTAC support to allow a one-year lease for the farm project.

Judy Williams moved to support the Stanwood Public Farm project at Ovenell Park based on the summary plan of action documents provided at the March 20, 2023, PTAC meeting and recommend city council approve a one-year lease provided there is an approved contract with the Stanwood Camano Food Bank that includes liability insurance coverage. Second by Gordy Holmes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7: Skate Park Design and Contract

Carly presented the design for the improvements to the skate park at Heritage Park. The Committee reviewed the proposal to complete phase 2 of the skate park as originally designed in 2013 with 23 new modular components to be located on the existing pad and some rearranging of the existing facility as well as maintenance of the existing component including repainting. Carly reported the cost of the project as below the budgeted amount of \$175,000 due to a discount received through a cooperative purchase agreement and informed the Committee that the work is scheduled to be completed in late June/early July. The Committee was in support of moving forward with the skate park upgrades as proposed.

Item 8: Park/Trail Updates

The committee discussed parks and trail updates including pickleball court construction at Church Creek and Heritage Parks with concrete/asphalt scheduled to go in next week. Baseball field improvements at Church Creek Park have wrapped up. No play will be allowed through at least April first and longer if necessary to allow the grass to establish. Staff and consultant are working to finalize the Hamilton Park design and bid documents. Construction is still expected to occur this year, but current funding may not cover all planned components of the project. Utilities, restrooms and labyrinth pavers may need to be funded separately or removed from the scope of the project. Staff is still hopeful to move forward with covered dugouts at Heritage Park and is looking for ways to cover the budget gap.

Item 9: Committee Comments

Meagen – excitement for public farm proposal.

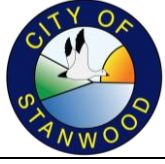
Judy – is excited that the City is moving forward with so many projects after so many years of planning and thanked staff for all the hard work.

Cathy – commented regarding concern over the skate park/pickleball proximity and potential conflicts. Proposed that a timeframe could be instituted where no pickleball would be allowed, possibly during after school hours.

Lisa added that a sign could be posted at the pickleball courts to remind folks that the skate park was there first. She also commented that we need to be mindful of providing space for teens to be teens.

Dave – commented that he believes skatepark users should be held to acceptable public park behavior. He also commended the group for the action supporting the public farm proposal as it is something tangible that the community can see is happening at Ovenell. It's temporary, but it benefits the food bank and the community as a whole.

Adjourn: 5:03PM



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