

Thursday, April 21, 2022

6:30pm

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

NOTES

Members Present: Johnny Calkins, John Kulstad, Ben Winker, Charlie Caldwell, Phil Heidrick, Jane Fusek, Scott Binder, Jennifer Ortega, Jeff Dunk, Laura Bridy

Members Absent: Heidi Conzelmann

Guests: Pat Kaspari

Meeting Notes:

Communications:

- None

Public Comment:

- None

Recreation Director Report:

Recreation Program Updates

- Drop-in Pickleball is running on Friday evenings 6:30pm-8:30pm. \$4 per person
- Drop-in Kung Fu is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5:30pm-6:30pm \$10 per person per class. Bulk class passes are available to purchase at \$7.50 per class
- Drop-in Tai Chi is Sundays 11:00am-12:00pm \$10 per person per class. Bulk class passes are available to purchase at \$7.50 per class
 - The Martial Arts classes are averaging 8-12 people per class.
- Enrollment for Pee Wee basketball for kindergarten through 2nd grade is almost full. The Program will run April 23 through May 21, 2022.
- Breakout Day camp ran the week of April 11-15 during the school spring break. MUSD ran a parallel program for MUSD students in the ELP Afterschool program which impacted enrollment in our program slightly. We served 25 children in age 5-11. We had anticipated serving 35-40.

Park & Facility Maintenance Updates

Several open space zones received mowing, hedging and weeding maintenance and detention basins received clearing as part of the Open Space Maintenance Zone agreements. A broken pipe at Hiller Sports Site baseball fields had to be repaired after being broken by coaches. One field was closed for a week to accommodate the repair. The Parks crew and NHES continue the routine schedule for maintenance on Central Ave. landscaping. Staff continues to keep up with daily/weekly routine facility and vehicle maintenance. Monthly inspections were conducted on all facilities and Open Spaces.

Vandalism Report

In the last month the only vandalism staff have had to respond to has been on mid-town trail. Additionally there have not been any homeless encampments discovered or requiring clean-up in any of the District's open space maintenance zones or park properties.

Hewitt Ranch Property Updates

No updates at this time.

North Bank River Property Updates

No updates at this time.

Other updates:

- Staff is submitted a grant application to First 5 Humboldt for Playgroup funding support for the next fiscal year. First 5 Humboldt approved the grant award on April 14, 2022. MCSD will be preparing to begin offering a playgroup program in September.
- Staff continues to participate as members of the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the McKinleyville Family Resource Center Board of Directors and the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods Board of Directors.
- Staff continues to provide support to other departments of the District; assisting with accounts payable, payroll, and facilitating professional development workshops.

Ben Winker commented he was happy to see the new Kung Fu and Tai Chi classes being offered. Staff commented that it is good to see new classes starting and that the Recreation programs are starting to gain momentum again after being on hold due to pandemic restrictions.

Parks & Recreation Draft Operating Budget

- Staff presented the Draft Operating Budget to the Committee.
- Jane Fusek commented on agenda item 5. Jane wanted to know if the draft budget includes funding for capital expenditures, grant funding. Staff answered that "I believe so". General Manager commented that the draft budget does indeed include capital expenditures.

Community Forest Updates

- Staff reported on recent events regarding the MCF including the public input meetings and online survey.
- Jeff Dunk had questions and comments about agenda item 6. Jeff asked how the community input about access points is weighted in making a decision about CF entry points. Jeff asked if there were for instance, certain criteria staff have established to rank the entry points. Are the entry points already predetermined by staff and is the community input actually taken into consideration?
 - General Manager commented that there are multiple factors to consider when assessing access points. General Manager used the example of wetlands discovered on one of our exploratory walks as an example of challenges faced in determining access points.
 - Jeff Dunk commented that in the near future, having a home near a CF access point will increase home value and be an attractive real estate advertising point.

BMX Track and Park Project:

- Staff provided an update on current status of this project.
- Staff met with Mike McIntyre of Action Sports Design on April 6th. He is drafting the planning concept layout and language for the RFP. After staff receives the draft documents from Action Sports Design (should be by the end of the month), a meeting with McKinleyville BMX will be scheduled to review the concept design and get feed back for the finalization of the documents before releasing an RFP.

Intermodal Transportation Committee (Hum. County) Report:

- Ben Winker gave a report of the Intermodal Transportation Committee. Ben stated that the committee continues to work with Cal Trans and RCAA on plans to improve the walking and biking routes between McKinleyville and Arcata; helping to improve the options of navigating the

freeway interchange and steep hill at highway 101 and Central Avenue and the 1.5 mile detour to cross the Hammond Bridge over the Mad River.

- Laura Bridy commented that she noticed and approved of the pop up project by the committee on Hiller Rd. near Safeway that demonstrated ideas for improving traffic and transportation in the community. Laura asked about how to participate and Ben told her to contact the County of Humboldt.

Return to In Person PARC meetings:

- Discussion regarding details of meeting in person.
- Johnny Calkins suggested waiting a couple of months to see how the lifted mask restrictions impact the spread of COVID.
- John Kulstad reminded the committee that to meet in person we need to be able to accommodate the public in the space as well.
- The MCSD Conference room is a small space and does not allow for social distancing.
- Maybe consider holding meetings outdoors when weather and light allow.

AdHoc Committee Reports:

- Skate Park— Charlie Caldwell reports that HSC has purchased a mobile, modular pump track. The information will be included in the May 4 report to the MCSD board. The track is expected to be set up by Pony Express Days. Hooven Co. will be performing the leveling and ground work. 20 volunteers are available for pump track installation which Charlie estimates will take 2-3 days. The track will be available for recreation during music in the park.
- Fisher Ranch Estuary project—400-500 yards of new trail has been constructed. Trail looks really nice. Work is being done to create a paved area at the top of the trail for parking and lookout views. Work had temporarily stopped during heavy rains. Johnny is excited about access to the river for kayak launching.
- BMX— See notes on above
- Community Garden— Ben has renewed his garden plot and plans to be more involved in coordinating work days. Ben has the idea of planning a work day to coincide with Music in the Park.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Dog Park Fencing and
- Bocce Ball court restoration,
- Skate Park Pump track,
- PARC committee meeting in Pierson Park including dinner during summer,
- Teen Center Report,
- Kitchen Rental report.

Adjournment:

- Adjourned: approximately 7:12pm