

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

6:30pm

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

NOTES

Members Present: Johnny Calkins, Phil Heidrick, Jane Fusek, John Kulstad, Heidi Conzelmann, Scott Binder, Charlie Caldwell, Dana Merrill, Ciara Torres, Patti Stuart, Julie Giannini-Previde

Members Absent: Jennifer Ortega

Meeting Notes:

Communications:

Jane Fusek gave a reminder to committee of the upcoming Botanical Garden workday on Sunday, May 19th.

Staff provided an update on the Community Forest Committee application and appointment process.

Public Comment:

None

Tribal Land Acknowledgement to PARC Procedures

Phil Heidrick proposed adding a Tribal land acknowledgement to the PARC meeting proceedings to be included following the flag salute. He provided an example acknowledgment currently used by the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee.

The committee discussed the example. Some felt the statement could be made shorter. It was also suggested that the language do more than acknowledge, but also include action such as “teach & serve”.

It was proposed that the committee members spend time drafting language and bring proposed acknowledgement statements to the June 19th meeting.

Botanical Garden:

Jane Fusek gave an update on the maintenance at the Botanical Garden. The April volunteer workday had low attendance, but the weather that day was unpleasant. She reminded the committee of the upcoming work day on May 19th. She reported that the Humboldt Native Plant society had reached out to her and will be putting information regarding the botanical garden and volunteer opportunities in their newsletter. She also reported that the organization Gaining Ground, an organization that works with adults with disabilities, had brought a group to help at the garden and that was a good experience and they want to help more at the garden.

Open Space Maintenance Zones (OSMZ) Background

Staff provided background information regarding the District’s OSMZ program and process for committee members.

Community Garden Rehab Planning

Charlie Caldwell reported that the weeds are growing fast and he is not able to keep up with them. He is still working to recruit volunteers to work on rehabbing the garden.

Ciara Torres said she would talk to her father, recently retired and looking for something to do, and see if he would be willing to help with minor maintenance in the garden.

Undeveloped Properties

Staff provided information to the committee regarding current undeveloped properties with no current development plan, within the Parks & Recreation department's assets.

Staff talked about the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and that the next update to that plan will likely take place within the next year, and during that process the potential development opportunities for undeveloped properties will be identified.

Dept. Director Report:

Recreation Program Updates

- *Drop-in Pickleball is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9:30am to 12:30pm at the McKinleyville Activity Center. Drop in is \$4 per person.*
- *Beginning Pickleball class that will run on Tuesday evenings, April 23-May 14th is full.*
- *Drop-in Kung Fu is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5:30pm-7:00pm \$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 5-8 people per class.*
- *Fast Break Friday's, a drop-in basketball program for youth ages 13 to 17. Drop-in is \$5 per participant. It is averaging 18-20 participants per week.*
- *Sunday Night drop-in Basketball is averaging 8-10 participants per week.*
- *Playgroup for children 0-5 years old is running every Thursday from 10:30am-12:30pm.*
- *Pee Wee Basketball league for Kindergarten thru 2nd grades is full. The league began April 2nd and ends on May 18th.*
- *The Totletics T-ball program that starts on May 25th. This program is for 3-5 year olds and hosts 40 children per class series. Enrollment for this program is full.*
- *Cooking classes for kids: The May class "Mother's Day Tea" held on May 11th was already full.*

Park & Facility Maintenance Updates

The Parks crew and NHES continue the routine schedule for landscape maintenance on Central Ave. and Open Space Zone landscaping. It is spring and everything is growing very quickly. Staff continue to keep up with daily/weekly routine facility and vehicle maintenance. Monthly inspections were conducted on all facilities and Open Spaces.

Facility Rentals & Use

- *12 Azalea Hall Rentals plus a weekly and a bi-weekly meeting room rental in May through June.*
- *2 parties were booked through the Party Program, plus two weekly sports vendors at the Activity Center in May through June.*
- *12 Pierson Park Rentals May through June..*

Vandalism Report

Vandalism in the restrooms at both Pierson and Hiller Park are an on-going issue.

Hewitt Ranch Property Updates

No updates at this time.

North Bank River Property Updates

No updates at this time.

Other updates:

- Staff is preparing and planning summer specialty camps which will include, skate camp, cooking camp, tot-camp and basketball camp.
- Staff has been working with MCSD Board members to develop the Community Forest Committee
- Staff is working on the California Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act grant application for funding to support the development of a comprehensive Forest Management Plan, trails plan as well as funds for planting 100 redwood trees in the forest within the next three years.
- Construction Bids for the BMX Track and Park project are due on May 23rd. Due to changes to the scope of work provided by USA BMX for the track, the deadline was pushed back.
- The new recreation database software went live on May 1st.
- Staff continues to work with MUSD to provide staff for the school districts after school programs.
- 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, and payroll.

AdHoc Committee Reports:

- Skate Park—The Humboldt Skatepark Collective is planning fundraising opportunities for spring and summer. It is estimated that Phase 2, adding another 5,000-6,000 sq. ft. to the park will cost \$280,000.
- Fisher Ranch Estuary project— No updates
- BMX— staff gave update construction bid documents and bid process
- Community Garden—see agenda item note

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Botanical Garden update
- Addition of Tribal Land Acknowledgement to PARC meeting protocols
- Vote on whether or not to hold meeting in July

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Adjournment:

- Adjourned: approximately 7:19 pm