



MINUTES
KEIZER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Monday, January 9, 2017
Keizer Civic Center, Council Chambers
Keizer, Oregon

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. The following were present:

Councilors:

Cathy Clark, Mayor
Roland Herrera
Amy Ryan
Bruce Anderson
Marlene Parsons
Kim Freeman
Laura Reid

Parks Advisory Board:

Cat Gaynor
Clint Holland
Dylan Juran
Jim Taylor
David Loudon
Donna Bradley
Matt Lawyer
Joe Tilman
Scott Klug

Staff Present:

Chris Eppley, City Manager
Bill Lawyer, Public Works Director
Robert Johnson, Parks
Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

DISCUSSION

a. Community Outreach Presentation Regarding Parks Funding

Matt Lawyer presented an informational slide show that would be used as outreach to various groups throughout the city. He noted that the outreach is geared to help citizens trust the City and tell the City what they want from their parks. Following the presentation Mayor Clark suggested that reference be made to the goal of becoming a HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) City because parks are directly related to that goal.

Discussion followed regarding park maintenance, ADA requirements, federal laws, safety, and areas that are currently underserved by parks. Matt Lawyer noted that the needs are urgent because the health of parks has begun to deteriorate. The outreach effort will help Council determine if citizens are willing to pay for healthy parks and, if not, then to prioritize a decrease in maintenance.

Council and Board discussed methods of outreach, efforts planned for reaching the majority of the citizens of Keizer and survey response rates. City Manager Chris Eppley suggested that signage be placed at the focal point and in park kiosks.

Jim Taylor noted that the health of parks reflects the health of the community. Crime goes down when there are good parks. He urged citizens to consider that when completing the survey noting that whether they use parks or not, their lives will be impacted by the health of the City's parks. The City cannot raise taxes, they have to ask citizens if they are willing to help their city and make it better. Dylan Juran added that the

money belongs to the citizens so citizens should take ownership of their parks because they belong to them. If they choose not to provide funding they will have to face the consequences. It was noted that if a Parks Fee is put in place, it would not supplant the 3% of the General Fund already set aside in the General Fund for parks.

Mr. Eppley explained that City departments are like circles attached to each other and they all have to work or the system begins to degrade. If a city has good parks, then the houses around the park increase in value. When parks deteriorate, surrounding neighborhoods follow.

Mayor Clark then opened the floor for public testimony.

Martin Giovannini, Bob Shackelford and Kevin Dial, Keizer, spoke in favor of a parks fee but urged that consideration be given to people with low or fixed incomes. Mr. Eppley explained that the City has a system in place to assist people with lower incomes and greater age.

Judy DeSpain, Keizer, voiced opposition to the fee noting that it would be a 'revolving charge account' for irresponsible spending. She suggested that parks be closed down in order to make ends meet.

Mayor Clark explained that one of the charges of Council is to govern in a cost effective fashion. Council does not know what the citizens want yet and that information will control the next steps of the process. Through this survey Council expects to gain valuable information that will allow them to bring forward a plan on which the community can decide. The survey is strictly an information gathering tool.

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm.

MAYOR:

APPROVED:

Cathy Clark

Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor #1 – Laura Reid

Councilor #4 – Roland Herrera

Councilor #2 – Kim Freeman

Councilor #5 – Amy Ryan

Councilor #3 – Marlene Parsons

Councilor #6 – Bruce Anderson

Minutes approved: 02-06-17