



**KEIZER PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, March 14, 2017
6:00 p.m. Keizer Civic Center**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair David Loudon called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present

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

Council Liaison Present: Roland Herrera

Staff Present

Robert Johnson, Parks Division Manager
Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jim Taylor moved for approval of the January 2017 Minutes. Matt Lawyer seconded. Motion passed as follows: Loudon, Tilman, Lawyer, Gaynor, Taylor, Holland and Bradley in favor with Klug and Juran abstaining.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS – *Erin Christensen, Keizer*, announced that she had completed the survey and just wanted the parks to be safe for her children. She volunteered to help wherever needed.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Grant: Dylan Juran volunteered to work with staff, exploring funding opportunities and grant opportunities through the HEAL program.

Parks Community Based Outreach: Matt Lawyer reported that over 1,000 responses have been received with over 83% in favor of something; the weighted average is for a fee of just over \$5. For the benefit of Ms. Christensen, he provided a history of the Parks Division and the needs noting that it is operating at a deficit annually and projects are being put off. He explained that the Board considered a Parks District, a bond or levy, or a fee and settled on the fee because it allows sustainability. It is the intention of the Board and hopefully the Council that this would be a long term solution

to address safety issues and make sure parks are at least at minimal level of acceptance and then work to allow for the greater picture of completing the Parks Master Plan thereby improving the quality of life in the city. He explained that sports groups have volunteered to maintain fields¹ that would be developed for their use similar to the arrangement the City has with the Little League. It will be up to Council to decide what to do with the information gleaned from the survey and hopefully they will recognize that there is a need for a fee.

Solar Eclipse Event: Clint Holland reported that the Parks Foundation is meeting on Thursday. Most tasks have been completed except for leveling the field. Perhaps Scouts could assist with that during their Camporee.

Skate Park Repair: Robert Johnson referred to an email he sent out which explained the increasing need for repairs at the Carlson Skate Park. He noted that the only budget option is to juggle from one fund to another – to temporarily suspend the grant program in the next fiscal year and use that money instead to make the needed repairs at the skate park. The grant program could begin again in the following budget year.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding the anticipated park fee, local government grants with their matching requirements, and the lack of repair efforts from youth who use the park. It was noted that the park is no longer being used because of its condition and skaters are using the parking lot, the gazebo area and areas around Keizer Station.

Dylan Juran urged that interest in the skate park and the value of repairing it should not be looked at differently or given less importance because of who uses it. It is more expensive to fix so securing the matching funding has been huge; also the primary users are minors and they have other things on their plates. The park is not used less than other parks and is not less important than other parks. The value is hidden in other places: businesses benefit, youth are occupied, and a skate park in good condition is safer.

Robert Johnson pointed out that the cracks can be repaired with \$26,000 but if they are not repaired, it is likely that water will get in the cracks and under the foundation and repair will involve digging it out and re-compacting the soil. Eventually the park will need to be redone completely, but crack repair may gain time needed to save the money for complete repair.

Jim Taylor moved to move the \$15,000 that would normally be in the matching grant fund into the capital improvement fund for the next fiscal year. Clint Holland seconded. Motion passed as follows: Louden, Tilman, Lawyer, Gaynor, Taylor, Holland, Juran, Bradley and Klug in favor.

Matt Lawyer suggested that if the park fee passes the money be moved back into the grant fund.

¹ At the April meeting Matt Lawyer clarified that this was in regard to the possible new grant because no one actually stepped up and said they would do this.

STAFF REPORT: Robert Johnson reported that he would be sending out a Request for Proposals for the fall protection surface for the Big Toy. A large group will be removing the chips on September 9. The pour date will be soon after. The Big Toy will be closed for about 2 weeks for this.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilor Herrera congratulated the Board on their outreach efforts, noted that Council set goals at the Monday work session and announced upcoming events.

YOUTH LIAISON REPORT: Sam Elder reported that he is hoping that 10-15 National Honor Society students will be helping with the Civic Center cleanup. He is planning on recruiting students from AVID as well.

OTHER BUSINESS: Matt Lawyer invited everyone to participate in the Rotary sponsored Claggett Creek Watershed Council Civic Center Cleanup on Saturday, and coffee with Cathy at Starbucks. He added that he is looking into the Tony Hawk Foundation grant.

Mayor Clark announced that the State of the City address will be posted on her Facebook page and at KeizerTV.com and summarized the speech.

ADJOURNMENT ~ Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2017

Approved: _____