



**KEIZER PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
6:00 p.m. Keizer Civic Center**

CALL TO ORDER – Chair David Loudon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present

David Loudon, Chair
Tanya Hamilton, Vice Chair
Matt Lawyer
Gwen Carr
Clay Rushton
Mathew Poteet
Dustin Karstetter
Wayne Frey

Absent

Michael Pantalone

Council Liaison Present

Councilor Smith

Staff Present

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Matt Lawyer moved for approval of the October 2021 Minutes. Mathew Poteet seconded. Motion passed as follows: Loudon, Hamilton, Lawyer, Karstetter, Carr, Rushton and Poteet in favor with Frey abstaining and Pantalone absent.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS:

Rhonda Rich, West Keizer Neighborhood Association, voiced opposition to the consultant's recommendations for Palma Ciega Park as presented in the draft Parks Master Plan. She shared a history of the park and volunteer efforts there and urged that use of the park be re-evaluated. She suggested the addition of benches, a pathway and removal of some dead trees and ivy on the bank to allow for river viewing. Discussion followed regarding parking, increased usage, waterfront access, birding platforms and viewing stations.

Carolyn Holman, Keizer, echoed the testimony of Ms. Rich and urged that only enough brush be removed to open the view of the river but still provide habitat for birds. Chair Loudon asked Robert Johnson to find out what restrictions the Corps of Engineers has on the dyke in the park.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

MIG Master Plan Update Presentation: Cindy Mendoza of MIG shared a slide presentation which included an update of the planning process, review of the draft Master Plan, Appendices, process, funding priorities, community priorities, recreation

trends, the park system, park needs, enhancement opportunities, mission, vision, goals, 10-year guiding principles, recommendations, capital and operations costs, prioritization criteria, action plan, potential partnerships, funding strategies and next steps.

Regarding Palma Ciega Park, Ms. Mendoza explained that at the focus group at the West Keizer Neighborhood Association meeting had expressed the desire to keep their parks natural and to restrict development of amenities that would attract users from across the city. Because getting equipment into the park and providing ADA access would be extremely difficult and to minimize impacts to the neighborhood, MIG recommended holding off on making any improvements or investments to the site and to focus instead on improving river access elsewhere. As part of that, there is a recommendation to consider collaborating with nearby neighbors who may want to develop the area as a more private or open greenspace with use of the river.

Ms. Mendoza and Robert Johnson then fielded questions and provided clarification regarding various listed park improvements, funding and the unresolved management of Keizer Little League Park and the Keizer Rotary Amphitheater. Ms. Mendoza noted that a recommendation could be added to the Plan to start a conversation with neighbors of Palma Ciega Park to get the pulse of the neighborhood on improvements to the park that would attract people from outside the neighborhood and explore opportunities that would be consistent with what the neighborhood would like to see.

David Loudon suggested that easements be secured and a bridge built in Northridge Park to connect it to Claggett Creek Park. Robert Johnson explained that staff is planning on pointing out the challenges with Northridge Park in this Master Plan document so that the information is readily available as those conversations take place and so that it is clear why the park has not been developed and where the access challenges are, including the fact that there is a gap in the park that is private land.

Matt Lawyer moved to remove the existing recommended language in the Draft Parks Master Plan for Palma Ciega Park and include bird-viewing areas, benches and improved river access for that park. Mathew Poteet seconded. Motion passed as follows: Louden, Hamilton, Lawyer, Karstetter, Carr, Rushton, Frey and Poteet in favor Pantalone absent.

Matt Lawyer moved to recommend the Draft Parks Master Plan to Council as amended. Mathew Poteet seconded. Motion passed as follows: Louden, Hamilton, Lawyer, Karstetter, Carr, Rushton, Frey and Poteet in favor Pantalone absent.

Park Reports:

- **Tanya Hamilton: Bob Newton & Ryan J. Hill:** Both looking good. Mr. Johnson noted that there has been some homeless activity at Ryan J. Hill Park (holes being cut in fence) but staff is working on this.
- **Gwen Carr: Mike Whittam & Claggett Creek:** Both looking good. Garden is part of Mike Whittam Park.

- **David Loudon: Northridge** – Undeveloped | **Chalmers Jones:** Graffiti on skatepark; visible from parking lot.
- **Dustin Karstetter: Meadows & Ben Miller:** Both look good. Mr. Johnson added that the top rail on the fence at Meadows has been replaced (due to ice storm damage) and will be painted to match the fence when weather permits.
- **Wayne Frey: Clear Lake & Country Glen:** No report.

STAFF REPORT: Robert Johnson reported that the fishing pole at Claggett Creek Park had been repaired, the replacement bridge slat has been received so the bridge at Palma Ciega will be repaired soon, mowing/leaf removal is keeping staff busy.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilor Smith reported on Council activities including the City Manager recruitment, formation of and recruitment for the Community Diversity Engagement Committee, acceptance of Councilor Day's resignation and the process that will follow and the work session regarding PEG funds and broadcasting of City meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS: Matt Lawyer reported that wood chips will be spread around trees at the Arboretum from 9 to noon on November 13.

Staff reported that the audio of all committee meetings is available on the City website the day after the meeting and that a request for letters of interest in serving on the Community Diversity Engagement Committee is posted on the City website and will be posted on the City Facebook page as well.

Wayne Frey will report at the November 15 Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT ~ Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 14, 2021

Approved: 12-14-21