

**Thursday, September 15, 2022**

**6:30pm**

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

NOTES

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

**Members Absent:** Jeff Dunk

**Meeting Notes:**

Communications:

- Report of dog attack at dog park.
- Staff shared information about upcoming drive through dinner to raise money for the McKinleyville Boys & Girls Club teen club.

Public Comment:

- None

Dept. Director Report:

- Committee did not have any comments or questions regarding the Parks & Recreation Director's written report of activities.

Community Forest Updates

- Staff reported on current status of the property acquisition process.
- Staff reported on recent request letter sent to GDRC regarding access points.

BMX Track and Park Project:

- Staff provided an update on current status of this project and estimated timeline for the completion of design and construction

Park Maintenance:

- Staff provided information related to the history of the development of both the Botanical and Community Gardens as well as the labor resources available to the Parks & Rec. dept. and how that labor is prioritized.
  - Committee members offered ideas for agencies that might be able to provide volunteers for the botanical garden maintenance. (Cal-Poly Humboldt, California Native Plant Society)
  - Committee members discussed the value of both parks to the community.
  - Committee member Ben Winker lamented the state of the community garden and the lack of response from other gardeners to his efforts in reaching out to coordinate workdays.

Undeveloped Properties

- Member John Kulstad initiated a discussion regarding the undeveloped properties, Hewitt Ranch and the North Bank river property, stating that an assessment of whether or not the properties can and/or will be developed needs to be done. If they can't be developed can they be sold in order to financially support the Parks & Recreation dept.?
  - Staff reported that a location for developing parking for the Hewitt Ranch property is still in the works. Staff is confident that some type of recreation opportunity will be developed at the Hewitt Ranch property.
  - The river property has limitations given the flooding that happens on that property during rainy seasons. An environmental impact assessment needs to be done on that property to determine what is possible. The property was purchased a low cost and in doing so is

preserved as a natural area with a basic trail to a beautiful river bank spot that is currently open to the public who wish to walk it in its current condition.

Intermodal Transportation Committee (Hum. County) Report:

- No report

Report on Actions of the MCSD Board of Directors:

- Staff reported on recent actions of the MCSD Board of Directors at the August and September meetings of the Board regarding the approval of the MOU with the McKinleyville Union School District and the contract with Melton Design Group, Inc. for the engineering design of the BMX Track and Park project.

AdHoc Committee Reports:

- Skate Park— HSC is awaiting information from Dept. Industrial Relations regarding prevailing wage requirements so that a construction MOU can be drafted. HSC is hoping to be able to start construction on one phase of the park this winter.
- Fisher Ranch Estuary project— Johnny Calkins reported on current work and boat ramp construction.
- BMX— See notes on above
- Community Garden—Discussed in “Park Maintenance”

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Maintenance of the Community Garden and Botanical Garden

Adjournment:

- Adjourned: approximately 7:29pm