

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
February 5, 2002
Minutes
Assembly Chambers
6:00pm

I. Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Members Present: Joan-Herbage O'Keefe, Ken Dean, Jim Scholz, Lynn Bartlett, Jeff White, Tom Rutlecki, Jim King, Jeff Wilson

Members Absent: Alex Lukshin

Staff Present: Kim Kiefer, Diane Mastin, Dayle Tennison, Mel Personett, Greg Browning, Tom Porter

Assembly Liaison : Marc Wheeler

Assembly Members: Jeannie Johnson

Exofficio Present: None

II. Public Testimony on Non-Agenda Items - None

III. Approval of Agenda – Jim King motioned for approval of the Agenda. There were no objections.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes - King motioned for unanimous consent of the Minutes. There were no objections.

IV. Action Items – None

V. Information Items

A. Gunakadeit Park Restroom – Police Department

Kim Kiefer briefly reviewed some of the prominent ideas that were heard during last months board meeting. She mentioned that citizens wanted more of a police presence at the park, they did not feel safe and the area wasn't currently being used as a park.

Mel Personett, the police chief, mentioned that he appreciated the invitation to come talk to our board and the public regarding ideas concerning a restroom in Gunakadeit Park. The police see a definite need for a restroom downtown. He said that he doesn't have enough staff to have an officer in the area all the time. Also, he has to view all public persons the same and can not differentiate. He also stated that having a police presence restricts inappropriate behavior. He believes a closed facility would be detrimental but also stated they wouldn't need a police officer, just a person with a cell phone. We might consider a kiosk or move the substation to this area. There would be continual traffic and they would be close to the liquor establishments. If they were to move into this area an area for vehicles would be important. They would operate year round and police are willing to pay for the cost of electricity. The crossing guard could use area also.

King asked about the possibility of a second floor. It would be possibly but the first floor would be preferred. If the police were to occupy the area the restrooms could go in the back. Personett said a lot could be done with the correct design.

Wilson mentioned he didn't think a second floor would be good either and is worried about if the police had to back out of this area there might be a problem. He thinks it should be closed in the winter because locals know where the restrooms are.

David Summers 127 S Franklin - He handed out pictures showing various men drinking in the Park. He stated the area does not function as a park and with the growing number of tourists every year restrooms are essential. He questioned why this area isn't being used as a revenue center for the City. The area needs to be cleaned.

The police chief stated this area would be a better spot for their downtown office than the spot they currently have in City Hall. Though he doesn't have statistics it has been proven a detriment to people drinking etc., if there is a police presence in the area, even if it's just a vehicle.

Wilson asked if there would be staff there at night. Personett said the area would be used 24hrs a day with staff coming and going at all hours. Wilson suggested a camera be installed.

White asked how much the bike rack was being used. Assistant Chief Browning said that the officers would use in the summer. Kiefer mentioned that bike lockers were being looked at and that covered bike racks need be put in various areas. Also it was mentioned in last months meeting that if bike racks remained they needed to be positioned so that access up the stairs would still be available for large objects.

O'Keefe thanked the police for attending our meeting and wanting to have a presence there. She likes the idea of having a substation there and dedicated parking spots for the police vehicles. She wonders if this will be a issue for the PRAC later on. This area doesn't seem to be currently functioning as a park and questions should the Parks and Recreation Dept keep this area for a park or should restrooms and police presence be added.

Kiefer mentioned that all needs should be looked at first and then the issue could come back to the PRAC.

Wilson questioned that if a bus facility was going to be built would a bus spot be needed in this area.

David Summers - This area is not being used as a park. If it was cleaned up and manned possibly. Maybe the area could be leased.

Kathryn Arlen - 127 S. Franklin - She thanked the police for coming. She mentioned that she had measured the area of the bike rack and there were spots for 16 bikes. She said the reason you don't see people waiting for the bus there was because they had taken the sides off the bus spot area and it was always wet. She went on to explain that she was a downtown business person and handicapped and then went on the explain about 3 difference incidences she recently had in this area and how the police handled the situations. Kathryn did not like the attitude of the officers, they seemed to take on a camaraderie with the men. She mentioned she had researched

several codes dealing with loitering and incapacity. Personett explained the limitations or process they are required to go through when dealing with an intoxicated person. The only time they can arrest is if the person is going to be a danger to themselves or others. Kathryn said if the attitude of the police would change, she thought it would be a detriment to loitering. She suggested the police try not to be so friendly.

Kiefer thanked the police for coming to the meeting. She thought the next step would be for the police, JCVB, Parks and Recreation and Public Works to get together.

Bartlett said that she voted against the restrooms in this area last month but now believes that if everyone could pull together, and the police were to move to this area, the project would be doable.

- B. Centennial Hall –Dayle Tennison the Centennial Hall Supervisor gave a brief review and history of Centennial Hall. She stated their Mission Statement states their purpose is to promote events and provide services to the community to enhance the quality of life they serve. The money they receive comes from bed tax and revenue - none from City taxes. The facility is completely run by electricity and they have been trying to get a backup generator in case of an emergency. The facility has been used as an emergency facility for the cruise ships in the past. Kiefer mentioned the facility functions as a community center and convention center because this is the only large facility in town. It gets revenues and bed tax and in turn gives money to JCVB to help promote the facility.

Bartlett asked if we had tried to get Federal money since this would serve as a emergency facility. Kiefer mentioned we had but were told it doesn't quite fit the funding source. The passenger fee board turned down the generator and it has been on the CIP list for years.

Centennial Hall has been used several times for an emergency shelter and if we had a natural disaster this place seems the logical choice since it has a full kitchen and is located downtown.

White asked about signage for JCVB. JCVB will be providing.

Wilson asked if the Armory had a generator. No one knew.

Tom Rutecki asked about the sparseness in the lobby. Having smaller, fewer chairs have been more ideal for the increased use of the area and for ease of moving. The Folk Festival requested less furniture last year so more people could sit on the floor.

Bartlett thanked Dayle for the great job during the torch relay.

Mission Statement - Kiefer mentioned that the Human Resource Committee wants a mission statement from each board. Kim said that the PRAC could form a subcommittee or it could be addressed at a retreat. A subcommittee was formed with O'Keefe, Scholz, King and Lukshin serving on it.

Scholz mentioned that in the Bylaws a very good list of objectives was listed. Kiefer said that she would research if the Bylaws had been signed and approved.

VI. Committee Reports - None**VII. Chair Reports**

Annual Report 2001 and Attendance

VIII. Department Reports

- A. Risk Managements response to liability at the Armory. – Kiefer stated that the Risk Management Department said we are not authorized to provide coverage for non city functions. Tennison mentioned that the Folk Festival asked about coverage at the Armory since they have overflow into that building also. She is checking with the Seattle insurance company.
- B. Findings from Law Department regarding possible future access of aquatic farm. – The Law Dept stated that the conditions are spelled out very clearly in the permit and it states we don't need to provide access.
- C. CIP list – Kiefer explained that the Budget process was just beginning and that a lot of it hinged on the possibility of the legislature move vote. There is an increase in fields because the cost of resurfacing has increased substantially. Dean asked about the Montana Creek acquisition and Kiefer explained that all the acquisitions were in the Comprehensive Plan and would be purchased if the land were to become available.

Bartlett mentioned that the State just received 6.7 million and she was going to investigate whether the generator at Centennial Hall might qualify for some of this money. If an emergency were to happen during the day where most of the population would be, the facility would be used.

White asked about the Outer Point land acquisition. Kiefer brief everyone about the piece of property which is in the Comprehensive Plan and has been approved by the Assembly for purchase if it were to become available.

- D. Kiefer mentioned that she would like to have the Board attend a retreat on a Saturday in February or March. Kim to email possible dates to everyone. The time would probably be from 8a.m. to 2pm. Marine Park, Mission Statement and State Parks Proposal possible topics.
- E. Kim stated that she is involved with the planning of the Marine Park Deckover. Bartlett and Kiefer are looking at a convertible space that is one level and structurally set. She would like to see a bigger centrally located area for concerts. Bartlett mentioned that some very professional different plans will be presented at the meeting on Feb 20th, Noon in the Chambers. She mentioned that in her 27 years this was the best first rational approach that she has seen and encouraged everyone to attend.
- f. Kim mentioned that the Olympic Torch Relay was a huge success and that Joan O'Keefe (our very own board member) was selected to carry the torch. O'Keefe mentioned that it was a very special occasion for her and that she had heard some very amazing stories from some of the other torchbearers.

IX. Ex-Officio Reports - None**X. Correspondence**

- A. Planning Commissions Findings – Approval of Permit for aquatic farm.

B. Board Comments

Bartlett mentioned kudos for the torch. This brought more mileage to the community than anything else that we could have been done.

Rutecki also complimented Kim for the job done on the Relay. He also was inquiring as to when the track was going to be resurfaced at Adair Kennedy because of the soccer tournament. Bartlett mentioned that the first football game was Aug 9th. Kim mentioned that the RFP was currently on her desk for her review before sending out and that it was all weather dependent as to when it would be complete.

King stated he had attended the State Parks meeting last night and wasn't clear on what direction they were going. He thought he would have a better idea before their next months meeting which happens to be the day before the PRAC.

Kiefer to write letter of thanks to the Police Department.

XI. Adjournment – 8:05