

CITY OF COOS BAY
PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES OF
August 20, 2015

Members Present: Chair, Christine Coles; Ariann Lyons, Carmen Matthews,
Bev Meyers, Bill Otton.
Members Absent: Thomas Leahy, Ralph Mohr and Patty Scott.
Staff Present: Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator, and Pam Patton
Guests Present: Chris Beebe – Making Coos Bay cyclist friendly
Location: City Hall Conference Room
Coos Bay City Hall – 500 Central Avenue

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Christine Coles called the meeting to order at 12:00pm and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of July 16th.

Motioned: Carmen Matthews motion to approve
Seconded: Bill Otton
Vote: Aye, Unanimous. Minutes approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS –

Bicycle Transportation Plan –

Christine announced that she just returned from attending the Oregon Tourism Conference, “Rural Tourism Initiative” and found it very interesting and inspiring. She would like to push making Coos Bay a bicycle-friendly community. She mentioned years ago, Cycle Oregon had an event they held in Bandon because we didn’t offer amenities for cyclists to encourage them to visit our community. From that point, Christine has been seeking ways to get us on the map as a bicycle-friendly community. Christine introduced our guest, Chris Beebe and asked him to present his ideas on helping make Coos Bay a bicycle-friendly community.

Chris brought many ideas and suggestions but these were the main topics of discussion: 1) Bike Lanes like that that is going in through the Empire Blvd Enhancement Project. 2) Channeling cyclists coming from the north and from the south to and from both communities, drawing them from Highway 101 and creating our communities as a destination. 3) Align with ODOT priorities regarding the highway. 4) Map/directional signage approach. 5) The need for racks and lockers. Lockers are to house the entire bike and gear to free the cyclist to walk around and visit our downtown area. To appeal to those that are the touring cyclist, the ability to offer warm showers is a greatly needed amenity.

Randy emphasized the need for a cyclist transportation plan to be in place. The City has had the Newmark Traffic Study Plan completed around 2011 but it has never been implemented. Newmark already has bike lanes on both sides. A main challenge to any plan is to have a “to and from” plan. A plan showing both a “how to get you there” and “how to get you back” plan. Bring an educational element to the community i.e. kiosk station having water available and maybe offering “air” for pumping up tires and a place where information could bring awareness to the general public.

47 When a dedicated bike lane is not feasible, the use of “sharrows” that gives direction to the
48 cyclist, as well as, the motorist, alerting them that they are sharing the roadways is becoming a
49 widely used method. Randy thought a shelter with a roof similar to that of a fish-cleaning station
50 might be the type used at the Visitor’s Information Center. He thought an estimate of \$10,000
51 per shelter.

52 During the course of discussion, it was suggested that finding incentives for businesses to
53 become bicycle friendly by offering bike racks and water at their establishments, which could
54 generate much needed foot traffic in the downtown corridor. Carmen mentioned the website,
55 “Travel Oregon” that gives tips on being bicycle friendly and appealing to the touring cyclist.

56 It was recommended to appoint Christine, Carmen and Chris Beebe to a committee to look into
57 ideas and ways to implement the many components to move us forward to establishing a cyclist-
58 friendly community. They will seek others out in the community to complete the committee.

59

60 **Choshi Garden Vandalism** –

61 Bev stated that she had her hands full with the rocks disturbed and removed altogether, damming
62 the water flow and the bamboo being broken and that she was extremely frustrated and
63 disheartened with the constant disturbance that is requiring a lot of extra work that is quite labor
64 intensive. Randy met with Lisa, City Code Enforcement, who will monitor the camera. She went
65 out to locate where the camera should be placed. It is a camera that operates 24/7 by motion
66 detection. The vandal(s) must be caught in the act for it to be enforceable. We need to help our
67 police department as we are all under staffed and the camera can be that re-enforcement.

68 Ariann inquired about returning to the previous schedule of closing the park at 10pm. Ariann
69 motioned to revisit hours of operation for all the parks excluding the boat ramps and boardwalk.
70 Carmen seconded. During discussion, Randy asked that the motion be retracted as he needed to
71 visit all parks and hours of operation and identify special events that may have an exception.

72 A lengthy discussion pursued regarding public safety, transient population and enforcement.

73 **Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery** -

74 Cricket Soules was recognized for her hard work and persistence and relentless dedication to
75 preserving the Pioneer Cemetery and records for generations to come. She was recognized by
76 the Mayor’s Appreciation Award at the City Council meeting on July 7th.

77

78 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** –

79 The Boardwalk committee, to help guide us to reach out into the community, needs to be in
80 place. Recommendation of names: Christine Coles, Carmen Matthews, Ariann Lyons, Thomas
81 Leahy and Brian Menten.

82

83 **COMMISSIONERS’ CLOSING COMMENTS** –

84 Carmen – He’s all for us looking at making us a bicycle friendly community.

85 Bev – Thank you for looking at getting a camera to prevent continued vandalism. She was
86 excited that there is water back.

87 Bill – He wanted to thank Bev publicly for her hard work and commitment.

88 Christine announced that a few weeks back she and Randy were on the People at Noon program
89 on KCBY updating the public on the Parks Master Plan and to re-enforce that our parks are no
90 smoking and drinking allowed. All pets must be on a leash.

91

92 **ADJOURNMENT**

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94 **There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by**
95 **consensus of the Parks Commission, Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm.**

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97 Respectfully Submitted,

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99 Pamela Patton,

100 Public Works and Development

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102 **APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE** 15 **DAY OF** October **, 2015.**

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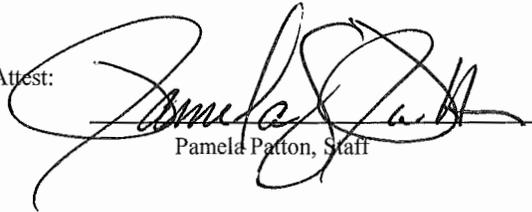
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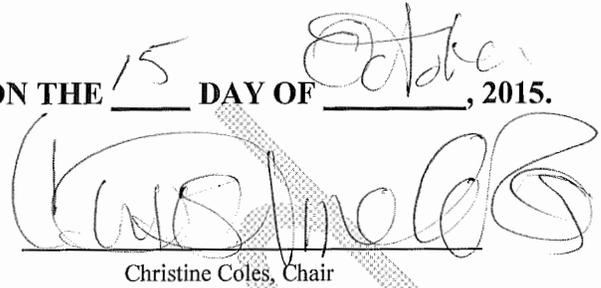
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Attest:



Pamela Patton, Staff



Christine Coles, Chair

Approved

