

Recreation & Parks

June 16, 2025, 6:00 PM

Community Center

Attendance: Karin Ernst, Rossana Ferrante, Chris Kennedy, Larry Simpson. Shelly Bedrossian is not in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM.

Re-Organization of Commission

- With new members, the commission must elect a new chair and vice chair; Karin nominated Rossana for chair and Shelly for vice chair.
- Working Groups:
 - Building Use Committee Joint with COA: Rossana and Karin
 - Lighthouse Committee (pavilions): Larry
 - Hamond Nature Center: Karin and Larry
 - Gatchell's lights: Shelly
 - Basketball court: Shelly
 - Racket Sports Committee (tennis & pickleball): Shelly and Karin
 - Dog Park Committee: Karin
 - Sports Committee: Shelly and Chris
 - Passive Parks: Rossana and Larry
 - School Liaison: Rossana and Karin
 - Sustainable: Larry
 - Larz Anderson/Green Street Committee: Shelly and Chris
 - FinCom rep: Rossana and Shelly
 - Beach policies: Chris and Shelly
 - Memorial bench policy: Larry and Karin
 - Personnel evaluation committee: Rossana and Karin
 - Bike Mohr: Karin
 - Stramski: Rossana

Shattuck Fund Request

- Potential projects: Hamond Nature Center, Fountain Park, Stramski HVAC.
- Discussion: gave examples of past projects that the Shattuck fund has been used for (i.e. upgrading Seaside lights to LEDs, bocce courts at Community Center). Provided background information for the Fountain Park project, potential funding through the sale of memorial steps.
- Motion to use this year's Shattuck fund for the stairs, railing, and switchback at Hamond Nature Center; for the engineering fee for Fountain Park; and for the remainder to go to Stramski for HVAC. Seconded. All present in favor, the motion passes.

Park Updates (Pete)

- Still getting the beach ready to open; the plan is to have it open for the coming Friday. The highway department has been helping with the parking lot. Typically the beach would be open by now, but the weather has not been conducive to a weekend opening.
- Devereux Beach ADA grant: MobiDecks have come in. The portable ramp to make the restrooms accessible has also come in. There is new signage for the parking spots.
- Pete reached out to Sports Tech to see if they are okay with waiting until August 1 to start the work at the basketball court. Pete will let Tom know.
- Gatchell's: lights have been ordered from Delande. We are about three weeks out for the lights to arrive.
- Dog Park: Dean Cuzner will grade the material on the floor of the dog park.
- Vine Street: discussion about getting rid of the pile; some needs to be trashed and some needs to go on MunicibiD. The boiler is almost done.
- Crocker Park: Jack Attridge reached out to Pete about putting up a plaque commemorating Carl Siegel at the Rotary gazebo; Pete said to go ahead and add it.
- Green Street: Pete adjusted the lights. Somebody messed with the box, the lock is lost and the box now cannot be closed

Recreation Update (Jaime)

- Discussed departmental organization; Jaime will be moving into the Superintendent of Recreation role on July 2nd. Introduced Olivia Ballard to the new commissioners and explained her role.
- Revolving fund: general discussion of how the revolving fund works. Recreation is self-sustaining; money goes into the revolving fund. It is open year round; the cap this year will be 2 million dollars. We take in money to use in the future, i.e. money taken in February FY25 won't be allocated or spent until FY26. This year, because we have not done any big projects, we have a 300,000 cushion.
 - Discussion about the poor condition of Hopkins Field. The school liaisons will bring it to the schools.
- Getting ready for summer staff training; Olivia will meet with the playground staff tomorrow night. Staff training will take place on Thursday.
- Job descriptions: some are time sensitive and should be on the next agenda for discussion; having the job descriptions go to Compensation is important, ideally as a complete packet so we don't need to go before them multiple times.
- Jaime recommends moving forward with having an MOU discussion between the Council on Aging and the Recreation & Parks department.

Correspondence

- Stein Skaane requests permission to store two boat trailers at Riverhead for a Pleon/Eastern youth sailing program, for the duration of the camp, from Tuesday, June 17th through Saturday. Motion to allow for two trailers to be parked at Ushers for \$100/day from tomorrow to the end of the week. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 1st, at 6 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn