

City of Cosmopolis
Workshop
May 3, 2017

Mayor Frank Chestnut presided.

Councilmembers present: Debbi Moran, Jonathan Fischer, Jim Antich, Carl Sperring and Kyle Pauley.

Staff present: City Administrator Darrin Raines, Attorney Steve Johnson and Clerk Treasurer Julie Pope.

Mayor Chestnut also introduced three members from the Parks Advisory Board Rod Matye, Stana Cummings and Ben King before opening the workshop at 6:00 PM.

Mayor Chestnut turned the meeting over to City Administrator Darrin Raines. Mr. Raines stated the purpose of the Parks and Recreation committee is to help plan summer recreation and the capital improvements budget and not the maintenance part of the budget. He stated there seems to be some confusion on this. Mayor Chestnut thought we should formally create a Mission Statement for the Parks Committee. Councilmember Jim Ancich brought up the fact that Cosmopolis has several small parks with no equipment in them. He stated that maybe we should liquidate some of the smaller parks and then putting that money into improving the other parks. Mr. Matye said that parks are a draw to recreation and tourism for Cosmopolis. Mayor Chestnut said the city is aware of the maintenance issues with the parks and we will get to them when money is available in the budget. Councilmember Moran said we needed to get some volunteers together again to help with the cleaning of the parks.

City Administrator Raines said the Parks maintenance budget was basically cut in half with the downturn in the economy. We did have a small budget for the maintenance of the parks but the money did not come in like we were expecting. He said the city has received help from two L&I people for the last two years and if it weren't for them hardly any mowing would be done in the parks. We use people that have to do community service hours which has also be very helpful. Mr. Matye asked how the Advisory Board could help generate funds so the maintenance issues could be addressed. He feels that their requests to the council aren't being heard. Mayor Chestnut said that of all the boards we have we do not have a citizen chairman for the Parks. He asked Councilmember Moran to see that a citizen chairman be appointed and to have them act as a liaison to the City Council. Councilmember Pauley said that had been done with Mr. Matye being appointed to this position. Councilmember Ancich stated that don't we need the money first before we do anything. Mr. Matye suggested we charge use fees and also negotiate our athlete agreements to bring money in for the parks. He also stated that there are grants available. Darrin said he was aware of the grants but with most of them the city would need to do a fifty percent local match.

In future, the City Administrator asked if Mr. Matye will send his parks agenda to him so he may include it in the council's packets. It would help with the two-way conversations.

Field and Park use agreements are another way of generating money for the Parks. Mr. Raines said the city needs to address this. The monies that these agreements bring in will help with the maintenance of our fields. If there are any organized team practices then we need to address a use agreement with the entity. Attorney Johnson said the City of Hoquiam has agreements with several athletic groups which helps cut the costs of maintaining the parks. Mayor Chestnut suggested that he, the City Administrator and Clerk Treasurer get together and come up with a fee schedule to use as a template prior to the May 17th council meeting.

Festival In The Park.... should it be considered as a city festival or a community festival. Mr. Matye would like it to be outside the Parks and Receptions prevue. Mayor Chestnut said we should send out letters to the businesses of Cosmopolis asking if they would like to parcipitate in the festival whether it be donations or some other way of helping. Mr. Mayte said the Advisory Board will be fine with running the festival this year then perhaps next year some other group will be taking over the running of it.

Park Signage...City Administrator Darrin Raines said Stafford Creek Corrections will supply the City of Cosmopolis with signs at a much lower cost than we have encountered in the past from other sign companies. Mr. Matye asked if this is a onetime thing Darrin stated that it was not.

Councilmember Ancich again brought up the sale of part of the Franklin Drive park acreage Attorney Johnson said we would have to look into what the deed states.

Mayor Frank Chestnut adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM.

Clerk-Treasurer

Attest:

Mayor