

**CITY OF SCAPPOOSE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 5, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.  
33568 EAST COLUMBIA AVENUE  
SCAPPOOSE, OREGON**

Mayor Burge called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Flag Salute**

**Attendance:**

**City Council Members:**

Scott Burge	Mayor
Donna Gedlich	Councilor
Judie Ingham	Councilor
Larry P. Meres	Councilor
Jeff Erickson	Councilor
Mark Reed	Councilor

**Staff:**

Jon Hanken	City Manager
Doug Greisen	Police Chief
Susan Reeves	City Recorder

**Press:** none

Council President Bernhard via phone

Excused: Legal Counsel

**Approval of the Agenda**

Councilor Gedlich moved and Councilor Erickson seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Ingham, aye; Councilor Meres, aye; Councilor Erickson, aye and Councilor Reed, aye.

**Public Comments**

Barb Hayden spoke in regards to the Scappoose Historical Society events at the Watts House. Two flyers were handed out to Council and staff which she went over. One flyer talked about an evening with Santa on December 12 and the other flyer she went over has the Watts House Christmas hours.

**Consent Agenda ~ October 15, 2012 City Council meeting minutes and Appointment of Lonny Welter, Columbia County and Tom Weaver, School District to the Transportation System Plan Committee.**

Councilor Ingham moved and Councilor Erickson seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda ~ October 15, 2012 Council meeting minutes, Appointment of Lonny Welter, Columbia County and Tom Weaver, School District to the Transportation System Plan Committee. Motion passed (6-0). Mayor Burge, aye; Councilor Gedlich, aye; Councilor Ingham, aye; Councilor Meres, aye; Councilor Erickson, aye and Councilor Reed, aye.

## **Old Business**

### **Skate Park Discussion**

City Manager Hanken went over the staff report. He explained as you recall at our last meeting staff gave an update regarding the RFP process for the repair skate park and at that time Council requested a list of properties that would be suitable for relocation of the facility if Council chooses to stop the RFP process and explore a different location for the site. He explained what you have before you is a listing that he put together in terms of what he considers reasonable properties. He went over the list.

**Heritage Park** - Current skate park location.

**Creekview Park** - Located on S.W. Creekview Place. Property is in a residential neighborhood and has no established facilities, such as restrooms or a parking lot. Front of the property is at street level and slopes to the creek on the western edge. City would need to go through a Site Development Review Process to improve this property for a skate park.

**Veterans Park** - Located on J.P. West Road. The property is classified as a City Park and is located next to a residential neighborhood. Site has recreational amenities including restrooms and a parking lot. The site has a relatively large open area on the southern end near J.P. West Road. In the past, the Soccer League has used this area for playing fields for the younger aged soccer players. Staff cannot confirm that it is still being used by the youth soccer program. There isn't any land use action needed for this site, but Council should notify neighboring property owners of any intention of relocating the skate park there.

**Miller Rd. Park** - Located on Miller Road. The property is classified as a Neighborhood Park and is in a residential neighborhood. Site has recreational amenities including a restroom and a parking lot. One concern that exists with this site is storm drainage. During the wet winter months portions of the park has significant standing water. A skate park would need to have a drainage system designed to move water to an existing storm system. The storm line, which was part of the Heron Meadows system, is very flat and shallow. It may also be at a higher elevation than some of the open area available for construction. There isn't any land use action needed for this site, but Council should notify neighboring property owners of any intention of relocating the skate park there.

**Site at S.E. 2nd Street** - This is the property the City purchased for the pool site. Site has no established facilities, such as restrooms or a parking lot. City would need to go through a Site Development Review Process to improve this property for a skate park. Utilizing this property for a use other than a community swimming pool could generate a lot of controversy.

**Site at end of N.E. 3rd Street** - This property was purchased to connect N.E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the Crown Zellerbach Road. The property is in a residential neighborhood. The Site has no established facilities, such as restrooms or a parking lot. City would need to go through a Site Development Review Process to improve this property for a skate park.

City Manager Hanken explained depending on Council wishes, if you would like to explore a different facility then he would recommend that Council would advise him to stop the RFP process, he is looking for direction on that.

Councilor Gedlich stated she wants to thank City Manager Hanken for reviewing these sites. She explained she visited a lot of the sites. She explained Miller Park is a long way to go with no sidewalks and it would be kind of difficult for the kids to get there. She explained regarding SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street she would be adamantly opposed to because we bought the property for the pool site and she would have to eliminate that site possibility. She is really concerned with the amount of money that they would put into other sites. She wishes the current site was a little bit larger however she thinks it fairly good because of its central location. Her only concern is when they went through this process years ago to do the skate board park that we currently have the youth tore it up, thousands of dollars. She stated at least here at city hall the police department is close by, we could fence it in, we could put lights and cameras out there so maybe the current location is more appropriate. She stated we have to remember that we are putting a huge fountain in Heritage Park. He stated maybe we need to fence the whole area and locking the gates at dark and making sure that an officer swings by the area two or three times a night.

Councilor Ingham stated bringing this up at the last meeting she is pretty adamant about the location where the skate park is currently is probably the poorest location for a skate park in the City. She stated it's good that all the option that the City has at this point for a skate park were brought forth so all of you could think about that. She thinks the Veterans Park is the perfect location for the skate park since it has the parking lot and restrooms. She stated the park hours are dawn to dusk. She stated there is a level of protection at Veterans Park for the park and the residence around the park because there is a big consideration about being in a residential neighborhood. She stated all of the locations in the City that we would put a park, except for the current location, which is a poor location, is in or close to a residential area. She can't see throwing more good money after bad at this park. She stated it will continue to have its restraints even if we were to fix it. She explained there is no growth potential to the size of the park. She stated it is too bad that the swim pool property is not developed at this point because it is a big piece of property and there would be plenty of room for a skate park but that would be after all of the plans were done and the facility for the pool was done before we could see where a skate park might be located and accepted by the citizens of Scappoose, but she thinks that is a long way off. She thinks we should look at and definitely consider Veterans Park as the location. She stated we can start small and grow.

Councilor Erickson said basically you are looking at \$125,000, which will replace roughly something the same size we have now. He explained you scrapped that out, there is no repair, and you rebuild and you rebuild with a builder who knows what to put in skate parks. He explained you don't put cyclone fencing two inches from the edge of the riding surface, you don't put bushes and bark dust along the parks, you don't do it. He explained he doesn't think a skate park at Veterans Park would be a good fit. He explained with the money you have you are better off to replace exactly what you have in the exact same footprint. He stated the only neighbors are the City itself and then realistically down the road he doesn't really see a whole lot expansion.

Councilor Reed explained his concern with Veterans Park is we have other youth using it for other activities so he doesn't know if it would be a scheduling issue or whatever. He explained his other concern is he wonders if we are pushing that particular neighborhood a little bit too much. He explained we have received very little complaints with the functions that have been there and he just wonders if adding another venue like this would just push those residence to where they just had it.

Councilor Meres explained there are a lot of good points. He stated one thing he does believe is that it should be moved. He thinks Veterans Park is an ideal place for it. He stated the thing that troubles him the most, and he doesn't see any of you out in the audience, is for some reason there is a lot of vandalism that happens in this park and the particular area that he is talking about is the gazebo. He stated when he goes to the park and he looks at what's going on there half the kids have a skate board in their hands. He stated there is more damage going on in this park as far as he knows. He doesn't know why but one of the reasons might be because there isn't anybody around here. The City offices close at 5:00 p.m., the Police Department is out doing their job, the library closes, the Watts House is closed and you've got the train and the highway so you can't hear any of the noises and you can't see a lot of activity. He stated it is a hard call, the City doesn't have any money to build a new park but something needs to be done. He explained his opinion is just to move it but he would be will to go along with spending \$125,000 but he feels that we are going to keep spending money on this particular area.

Council President Bernhard (via phone) explained he appreciates all the comments and he apologizes for not being there tonight. He stated he agrees with Councilor Reed, Councilor Erickson and Councilor Gedlich on keeping it at the location where it is at this particular time. He stated he strongly recommends before we even consider moving the park to a residential area that we actually have concrete proof from City Manager Hanken and Police Chief Greisen on the vandalism reports that have taken place over all the years at the Heritage Park. He stated from a vandalism standpoint the only thing he doesn't agree with it is you are asking now people within that particular area to police the skate park itself, he thinks that is pushing too much on that particular area up there. He doesn't think Veterans Park is the answer to all of our problems, it always seems like Veterans Park comes up on every single thing and he doesn't think that is the answer every single time. He stated what he would like to see is if this Council seriously considering moving this is that they have concrete proof from Chief Greisen and City Manager Hanken of all the years of vandalism that we've had in that area and then ask yourself the question "are we really going to put this into a housing development and expect them to police that particular area for the City." He stated to him that doesn't make a whole lot of sense. He explained he thinks where it is currently makes sense, there is a police presence. He stated he has been on the Council for nine years and the vandalism issue within that park has been a constant issue within that park and you seriously want to consider moving that into a residential area, that doesn't make any sense. He stated he strongly recommends this Council does not move forward with this and if you do consider moving forward with this you better have your facts straight.

Mayor Burge stated what we are talking about is location of the skate park.

Gregory Demeaux, Scappoose, explained he tends to agree with Councilor Erickson that we should keep it at the existing site because it would cut down on cost. He stated he does have an issue with people talking about vandalism and keeping an eye on the actual park therefore their point about not having it in a residential zone. He stated he would really like to see the statics on vandalism and actual police calls to the actual park with issues. He stated as far as extra costs he thinks this site makes it a much better choice and we've been waiting on this for years and he thinks it's about time we get going on this.

Councilor Gedlich explained she was on City staff when the park was built and within the first two to three years there was thousands of dollars worth of damage. She stated off and on all of these years there has been vandalism there.

Brandon Johnson, Scappoose, explained on behalf of the vandalism, they don't want that at the skate park either. He explained they know they are very lucky to have the skate park, at all, because a lot of towns don't. He explained most of the people behind him, including him and Tyler are bmxer's and they're not skate boarders. He knows that none of them are doing the vandalism. He explained they would like the skate park to be big enough so the bmx bikes could be there. He explained he talked to the City Manager about if the City would allow bikes. He explained the skate park, to his understanding, is too small for them to be there because of the liability reasons. He was told that if the City allows bikes at the skate park the liability insurance would drop them.

Councilor Erickson replied basically you've got to get through step one before you get to step three, which is what you are concerned about. He stated you have got to get to the point of convincing Council to give you a park there before you get to figuring out who's on it and what time. He stated now grant it if it is smaller than there might be a discussion on hours of use for each particular sport.

Councilor Ingham replied that won't work if bmxer's aren't allowed in lieu of insurance.

City Manager Hanken replied the issue was again you get back to your Council rules state it is for skateboarders only and until you change that rule...

Mayor Burge replied it was a safety issue. He stated Councilor Erickson is correct that if you had a set time.

City Manager Hanken replied it goes back under your ordinance bikes are not allowed. He stated until you change that policy if you say bikes are not allowed and you are allowing them and somebody has an accident, you're not following your policy and that's where you run into liability issues.

Mayor Burge replied he thinks for bmxer's it's another issue, first we need to get through this a decide are we going to spend the money to do the park here or are we going to delay the park and look at another site and try to figure out how to fund it.

Councilor Gedlich explained tonight she would just like to discuss the location.

Councilor Ingham replied she thinks the site is directly related to the types of activities that are going to take place at the park. She doesn't think you try to build a park first and then decide how you are going to use it. She stated if we are to make vandalism the major consideration whether or not to move this park or to build this park then we might as well just shut it down. She asked why spend \$125,000 on a park that were deciding is going to be terribly vandalized or we won't move it to another place because of a vandalism issue. She stated if a vandalism issue is that big of a deal then maybe our \$125,000 would be better spent elsewhere. She stated now having said that she doesn't agree with that thinking at all.

Councilor Erickson replied you only have \$125,000 and you have something that needs to be fixed now, that is actually dangerous now and these people would like something to ride next summer when there is nothing else to do.

Brandon Johnson explained part of the money issue they were thinking of maybe holding a jam or a competition to help raise money.

Mayor Burge replied that would be putting it off long term.

Tyler Jackson explained he doesn't see why bikes and skate boarders can't be there at the same time.

Councilor Ingham replied because the park is not big enough.

Brandon Johnson explained to separate each day for bike rider and skate boarder is a perfect idea and he doesn't have a problem with that. He thinks we should keep the skate park in the same location and fix it and maybe add one or two more obstacles.

Councilor Erickson talked about raising money for lighting. He explained at the park in Beaverton they have a light that shuts off and when it shut off the park is closed.

Brandon Johnson talked about having a gazebo or something over the skate park to keep it dry in the winter.

Robert Anderson, Scappoose, read over his paper. (He handed in a copy for the record). He thinks it would be a great idea to stay in the same spot. He explained it has been brought up to him that the railroad track is a potential hazard; he doesn't remember any hazards or anything wrong with that, just the noise really. He stated he can't speak for everyone but he is pretty respectful of other people's stuff. He feels if there is a new park built there should be a camera and someone could be watching that and then they could find out who was causing problems. He explained he has noticed one of the problems at the park is graffiti and he feels if a cop would just walk by and do a walk through and see what everyone is doing he thinks that would be a good idea. He explained the skate park is a great opportunity for youth to get along and relate to each other.

Denise Jackson, Scappoose, explained someone brought up Veterans Park and several times Veterans Park has been flooded, just last year, the whole park. She explained Miller Park is out of the way. She explained she read in the minutes from the last Council meeting that Police Chief Greisen doesn't want to babysit, she explained as a parent she doesn't expect him to babysit. She stated as a parent, to her this location is a safe place. She stated she is an involved parent, her kids don't run the streets but her kids are treated like hoodlum. She stated this keeps them intact, keeps them responsible in this location. She explained they have had some officers who have spoken to them very disrespectfully; she isn't going to say they haven't mouthed off. She stated if they want to be treated respectfully, they need to treat respectfully. She stated it is a good location and she does understand the vandalism, she grew up in Portland and we are lucky it is not worse. She thinks with it where it is located it keeps them responsible because they don't know if they are being watched. She stated she doesn't expect the Police Chief to be a babysitter but it is his job to protect and serve.

Mayor Burge explained he has been on Council for almost fourteen years now and it seems like we have these waves where there are bad kids but this group isn't a group of bad kids. He explained when it comes down to location for him, this location isn't perfect but every location would have issues. He stated for the amount of money we have this is the right place for it and he

feels it should stay where it is. He explained he would rather build the skate park now and find a way that maybe both bmxer's and skate boarders can use the park.

Council President Bernhard explained he feels there isn't the vandalism at Veterans Park because there are just as many parents at the park as there are kids.

Councilor Ingham stated besides looking past location, she is always one that if you guys want to keep the park where it is, it's your park and we need to listen to you, it's important. She explained her request of them is you all are saying that you are against vandalism so she is asking them to help control the vandalism. She is putting the responsibility on the youth to take care of their park. She explained our Police Department it taxed to the hilt. She explained it is not that you can't count on our Police Department to protect and defend and Ms. Jackson is right, they are not babysitters. She stated a lot of the time the Police Department doesn't have the time to drive by the skate park and make sure they are behaving themselves. So she is putting the responsibility on those who use the park to take care of your facility, to take care of your skate park.

Mayor Burge explained he wants to hear from Council on the skate park location.

Councilor Gedlich stated she wants to keep it at the same location where it is and proceed with the RFP.

Councilor Meres stated he is having a hard time getting past the vandalism, this park is getting trashed and he doesn't know why. He stated he would vote keep it here.

Councilor Ingham stated she wants it to go where they want it to go and she just wants them to take care of it.

Councilor Erickson stated he's ready to rebuild.

Councilor Reed stated you have to police it yourself.

Councilor Ingham stated you have to take care of your park.

Council President Bernhard stated he supports Councils decision.

Mayor Burge stated he wants to keep it in the same location. He wants to move forward with where it is. He talked about going to a Seahawk game and they had problems up there and on the back of the stadium seats there is a sticker that says "turn in the knucklehead" and he feels that is a good thing to do ~ turn in the knuckleheads that are causing problems.

Tyler Chatterson, Scappoose, explained his biggest concern in talking about vandalism is it is everywhere even in Scappoose, Portland, St. Helens, everywhere, vandalism is a huge thing. He is an artist and you always see it where ever you go. He explained even if you build a new park it is going to happen eventually, even if you have the cops drive by two or three times a night, or even during the day.

Mayor Burge stated to City Manager Hanken that he thinks he has his direction that we are going to continue down the path of the RFP that we have.

Ray Shult, Scappoose, explained bikes aren't allowed there and he knows that but it should be posted, there are no signs.

Police Chief Greisen explained because the signs keep getting torn down. He explained the City does keep putting them up and they keep getting torn down.

Mayor Burge stated he knows the City Ordinance does have the rules as well because it was passed by the Council. He stated if you guys came to the Council with an idea of how bikes and skate boards can share the park Council would be more than happy to put it on the agenda and have a discussion on it.

### **Announcements**

Mayor Burge went over the calendar.

### **City Manager**

City Manager Hanken explained the grand opening for the tennis courts will be on November 14, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. He explained the Public Works Advisory Committee held its first meeting last week and will be meeting again on November 15. He explained City Hall is open until 8:00 p.m. tomorrow night to drop off ballots.

### **Council**

Councilor Gedlich thanked everyone for coming.

Councilor Meres explained he wouldn't be opposed to changing the rules to allow bikes on the skate park.

Councilor Ingham thanked everyone for coming.

Councilor Erickson stated well done, you have seen how it works.

Councilor Reed stated he just wants to reiterate what Councilor Gedlich, Councilor Ingham and Councilor Erickson said.

Mayor Burge thanked everyone for coming. He said we are going to have a new skate park; it's been a long time coming.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Burge adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

  
Scott Burge, Mayor

Attest:   
Susan M. Reeves, MMC, City Recorder