

PARKS MEETING NOTES FOR AUGUST 9TH 2023

9:30 FIRESIDE ROOM

The hybrid meeting was called to order at 9:32 and by Ollie Iversen with a quorum of Ken Lee, Martin Howard, Marty Pease, Mike Bucy and Ollie Iversen. Also, present were Scott Thomas, Town Administrator, Mary Wohlub, Town Councilperson, and guest Marn Hanneman.

Public comments- *Guest Marna Hanneman said she was there to observe and had no comments.*

Old Business

A. Pavilion Update-Ollie reported he learned that the contractor, Michael Kipp of Michael's Custom Woodworks Inc told Brian Lease that he could not do the job due to two items. First he was too busy to build the pavilion this Summer/Fall and could build it next Spring. Second, he could not agree to pay prevailing wages, per the contract. Brian is working on the issue at this time. More information to come soon.

B. Fish Slide Repairs-Ollie reported he, Brian Lease and John Doyle are meeting today at 1:30 to discuss the slide and how it should be repaired. This will be discussed at the next Park's meeting.

C. Trees on Morris Street-This discussion was opened by Mike Bucy and Martin Howard, the two Parks commissioners who are researching the tree planting situation on Morris Street. Mike assured us the tree plan was solid by telling us there would be a soil analysis, prior to planting, with a lining to solve root issues along with fertilizer and fresh dirt. He listed the three types of trees, suggested by the arborist for this area, they are a Golden Bell Tower Parrotia, or a Musashino Zellkova or possibly a Kindred Spirit Oak. The one to be used or some of each have yet to be picked. Each of these trees have a life of about 15 to 20 years. We talked about bringing in the Chamber, because of their interaction with the merchants and the possibility of them doing the weekly watering for a period of time. The committee is looking at 8 sites along both sides of Morris Street with a possible 4 more sites further to the East on Morris. The cost per tree, including lining, planting, fertilizing and fresh dirt is guessed to be about \$3,000/ each. Because there is no budget for this, we discussed how we could start an "Adopt a Tree Fund," which could take on the name of possibly "Help beautify La Conner," to build a fund to purchase and plant the trees. The contract must make sure whomever we use, must pay prevailing wages to the workers. As always, Public Works must be involved throughout the entire project up to final approval. Parks then votes to approve the plan and sends it all on to the Town Council. They decide yes or no and if approved it goes to Public Works and they put it out for bids. A long process, yet it works, and we get what we want.

New Business

The preliminary budget for 2024 will be turned into the Council by September 1st and we are putting into the budget all our ongoing projects starting with Jordan Street Park, the drinking fountain at Conner Waterfront Park, then Beautify La Conner with trees on Morris Street, and then Maple Park. Scott Thomas

told us the estimated ending balance for the Park & Port Fund will be about \$164,000 over half is for wages and benefits.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32

Ollie Iversen

Parks Commission