

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

6:30pm

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

NOTES

Members Present: Johnny Calkins, Jane Fusek, John Kulstad, Heidi Conzelmann, Jennifer Ortega, Scott Binder, Charlie Caldwell, Ciara Torres, Dana Merrill, Laura Bridy, Patti Stuart

Members Absent: Julie Giannini-Previde, Phil Heidrick

Meeting Notes:

Communications:

None

Public Comment:

None

Botanical Garden Volunteer Recruitment

Member Jane Fusek asked the committee for feedback on ways to publicize the botanical garden and the need for volunteers to help maintain it for the upcoming spring, summer and fall seasons. Several suggestions were made including:

- Scheduling a monthly work day, tentatively planned for the 2nd Sunday of the month in the afternoon, starting in April
- Posting the work day schedule in local news outlets, including the local senior newsletter
- Creating flyers and distributing at CalPoly Humboldt and sharing with the Master Gardeners program

Rules & Regulations Revision pertaining to Community Forest

Staff presented a DRAFT revision to the MCSD Rules & Regulations Rules 46-48 to the committee. Committee members commented on the rule 47.02 pertaining to motorized and electric vehicles stating that there are several types of electric bicycles currently being used by the mt. biking community and suggested that there be more concise description of what is not allowed rather than a blanket prohibition of all electric vehicles.

Staff indicated that meetings with the Mt. Bike community are scheduled and that the language may change once more information is gathered. It will be the responsibility of the standing committee, once formed to make rule and guideline recommendations to the District as part of the community forest management process.

Committee members asked about law enforcement protocols and hoped that would be a topic that the standing committee addresses.

Committee members also asked about the staffing needed for maintenance of the forest and what the District's plans for that are.

Community Garden:

Charlie is working with the Boys & Girls Club staff, the Humboldt Skatepark Collective to create a plan for collaborative efforts to rehab the garden space. Boys & Girls club staff and Charlie want to engage teen club members to take on aspects of the rehabilitation of the garden.

Dept. Director Report:

Recreation Program Updates

- Drop-in Pickleball is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9:30am to 12:30pm at the McKinleyville Activity Center. Drop in is \$4 per person.

- March Beginning Pickleball class is almost full. Class will run March 6th to March 27th.
- Drop-in Kung Fu is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5:30pm-7:00pm \$10 per person per class. Bulk class passes are available to purchase at \$7.50 per class.
- Drop-in Tai Chi is Sundays 11:00am-12:00pm \$10 per person per class. Bulk class passes are available to purchase at \$7.50 per class.
 - The Martial Arts classes are averaging 10-14 people per class.
- Fast Break Friday's, a drop-in basketball program for youth ages 13 to 17. Drop-in is \$5 per participant. It is averaging 18-20 participants per week.
- Sunday Night drop-in Basketball is averaging 8-10 participants per week.
- Playgroup for children 0-5 years old is running every Thursday from 10:30am-12:30pm.
- The 2024 Youth Basketball League for youth in 3rd thru 9th grades is hosting 26 teams. The league will finish the season on Saturday, March 2nd.
- Registration for the Pee Wee Basketball league for Kindergarten thru 2nd grades is now open.
- Totletics Soccer begins on March 9th. There are only 4 spots left for the program.
- Breakout: Skate Camp February 20-23, 2024 is full. Breakout is a day camp program for youth age 6-11.
- Cooking classes for kids: January hosted a class on Eggs which was a sold out class. March will host a Mexican food class and the class is already full.

Park & Facility Maintenance Updates

The Parks crew and NHES continue the routine schedule for maintenance on Central Ave. and Open Space Zone landscaping. Staff continue to keep up with daily/weekly routine facility and vehicle maintenance. Hiller Sports Site fields are now closed for the winter. Monthly inspections were conducted on all facilities and Open Spaces.

Facility Rentals & Use

- 12 Azalea Hall Rentals plus a weekly and a bi-weekly meeting room rental in January through February.
- 9 parties were booked through the Party Program at the Activity Center in January through February.

Vandalism Report

Vandalism in the restrooms at both Pierson and Hiller Park are an on-going issue.

Hewitt Ranch Property Updates

No updates at this time.

North Bank River Property Updates

No updates at this time.

Other updates:

- Staff has been participating in weekly training for a Recreation database software program upgrade.
- Staff continues to work with MUSD to provide staff for the school districts after school programs.
- Staff continues to participate as members of the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the McKinleyville Family Resource Center Board of Directors and the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods Board of Directors.
- Staff continues to provide support to other departments of the District; assisting with accounts payable, and payroll.

AdHoc Committee Reports:

- Skate Park—benches are installed. HSC is planning fundraisers
- Fisher Ranch Estuary project— new signs installed.
- BMX— staff gave update on project timeline and current status
- Community Garden—see agenda item note

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Community Garden Plan

Community Forest Committee appointee from PARC

Draft Parks & Rec Operating Budget

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 20th

Adjournment:

- Adjourned: approximately 7:21pm