



MINUTES
KEIZER PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Keizer Civic Center

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** CALL TO ORDER – Chair Matt Lawyer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present:

Matt Lawyer, Chair
Lisa Cejka, Vice Chair
Tanya Hamilton
Gwen Carr
Clay Rushton
David Loudon
Bob Shackelford

Youth Liaison Present:

Liam Stitt

Staff Present:

Robert Johnson, Parks Division Manager
Dawn Wilson, Deputy City Recorder

Council Liaison Present:

Councilor Kohler

Absent:

Michael Pantalone
Jill Gust

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. October 2024** Lisa Cejka moved for approval of the October 2024 Minutes. Gwen Carr seconded. Motion unanimously passed as follows: Cejka, Carr, Rushton, Hamilton, Loudon, Shackelford, and Lawyer in favor with Gust and Pantalone absent.

- 3. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS** The board consented to discuss item 4a first and would later re-visit the appearance of interested citizens because there were so many people wanting to speak on item 4a.

There were no interested persons wanting to speak.

4. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

- a. Carlson Skate Park ~ Presentation by** Parks Division Manager Robert Johnson has worked with a group of volunteers of the Carlson Skate Park having an interest in repairs to the park.

Volunteers on Possible Future Projects

Paul Willam Massey, Salem and Co-founder of KP Crew, presented a three-tiered plan for the Carlson Skate Park. He expressed appreciation for the skate park, which attracts 400,000 people from the community because it's the only safe and comfortable skate park in the area. He shared that they posted their proposed plan on Instagram and received overwhelming responses.

Mr. Massey summarized that the first proposal was for a covered structure over the bowl to protect the skateboarders from the rainy weather. They would also like lighting for the skate park because it gets dark so early during three seasons. If they had to choose one proposal, they would choose the covering.

He stated that the main purpose of adding an extension was for additional obstacles and a street section for a generic quality of life feature that a lot of other skate parks have. The park wasn't built by skate park professionals so a lot of obstacles were left out. He explained how he arrived at the estimated costs. He shared that he was personally and aggressively open to looking for grants. Mr. Massey felt that Keizer's community was special with all of the people who cared about the skate park and wanted to communicate.

Chair Lawyer complimented KP Crew on their courage to bring forward their well-thought-out, researched, and articulate proposal. He agreed that their timeline was very accomplishable. He shared options for various grants and commended the KP Crew for all of the work they had done.

Jacob Motley, Keizer, expressed the importance of having the cover and lighting of the skate park would greatly improve the quality of life for those using the skate park.

Yufan Nguida, Aumsville, responded to a question about the skate park in Wilsonville because the bowl was gray, lacked creativity, and didn't engage with skateboarding. He likes to use the Keizer because of its community and felt that all the people were an added safety measure in case of an injury. He explained how Oregon skateboarding with concrete skate parks was very different from California. He has interacted with the Deer Park folks in Salem by offering to volunteer to make improvements, but they were not very receptive to the ideas.

Carson Mays, Salem, expressed his appreciation of the Keizer Parks and Recreational Advisory Board and for KP Crew's work in preparing the proposal. He shared that the mini-bowl was his holy grail and that skateboarding makes for a hard-working person. He agrees that the covering was essential. He prefers to skate with the KP Crew.

Chair Lawyer commented that Mr. Johnson would do everything he could to try and help with the proposal and if KP Crew returned with a lot of money,

then the City could move forward with the plan. Chair Lawyer advised the KP Crew to not limit themselves in their vision.

- b. Update on the Gold Star Monument at Ryan J Hill Memorial ~ The City received unanimous support from the City Council for the Gold Star Monument. City Manager Adam Brown is working on the grant proposal and application for submission to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.** Chair Matt Lawyer shared an update on the Gold Star Monument at Ryan J. Hill Memorial. The City Manager set the September of 2025 date for it to open. The City had a donated tree-removal service, and Rotary would be removing the fountain. The grant money was coming in, and there was more talk in Oregon about starting other Gold Star Memorials.

c. Parks Reports:

Mike Pantalone ~ Northview and Country Glen

Clay Rushton ~ Bair and Chalmer-Jones

Bob Shackelford ~ Meadows and Bob Newton

Chair Matt Lawyer ~ Ben Miller and Mike Whittam

All ~ Keizer Rapids Park

Clay Rushton reported that *Bair* and *Chalmer-Jones* looked great with no issues. The pickleball courts look great in Keizer Rapids Park.

Bob Shackelford reported that everything looked good at *Meadows and Bob Newton*. He shared that a widow-maker was reported in one of the trees, and Mr. Johnson reported the next day that it was removed. The pickleball courts are awesome and very nice with the wind sails around them. He had been playing quite a bit on the pickleball courts.

Chair Matt Lawyer reported that *Ben Miller* had quite a few kids playing.

All ~ Keizer Rapids Park - Lisa Cejka reported that there was a lot of use at the pickleball courts, and the wind-barriers seemed to help all the players. The whole park, the amphitheater, and the paths looked great and were well-maintained. She saw that the camera project was completed.

Liam Stitt shared about his trip to Mt. Tabor Park in Portland where he met a woman who told him about an organization called Quiet Parks International. Their mission was to preserve the quietness in the world and that noise pollution was all around us. Mt. Tabor received an official Quiet Park Award. He spoke about the testing of noise and how folks could nominate any park they wanted so that an assessment would be conducted in an effort to receive the Quiet Park Award.

5. STAFF REPORT

Parks Division Manager Robert Johnson shared that the Mike Whittam Park looks good and that staff removed a very large tree limb. Staff was essentially wrapped up for the leaf season. Staff has been winterizing the drinking fountains, and they removed the boarding floats on the Willamette River. The contractor installed the last parks' camera today to hopefully solve crime with the data.

6. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Councilor Daniel Kohler shared about a driver who did some cookies at the turf fields, and they were found because of a park's camera.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Parking Issue at the Keizer Little League Park ~ See paragraph 3(H) in the attached contract**
- There have been continued parking issues at Keizer Rapids Little League Park with people parking on the bike lane when there were big tournaments. The contract states that the manager (For the Love of the Game) was responsible for maintaining the parking for scheduled events.
- The Parks Board has no authority over the contract or enforcement issues, and the problem doesn't lie within a park.

Councilor Kohler shared that he attended the Traffic Safety, Bikeways and Pedestrian (TSBP) meeting where they just wanted more parking spaces paved and striped. He explained that if there was paving and striping, there would probably be less parking because of all the engineering.

The board's understanding was that this parking issue would be a TSBP item for them to handle. Discussion ensued about creating another access from Mike Whittam Park, but the parking was owned by the church.

Chair Lawyer shared the Most Transformative Award for Keizer Rapids Park from Travel Salem for the dedicated City staff, volunteers, and past and present council members for their hard work and contributions. Mr. Lawyer complimented Mr. Johnson on his work.

Chair Lawyer reminded everyone that the annual Keizer Holiday Lights Parade would be on Saturday evening.

- b. **Next Meeting:
January 14, 2025**

8. **ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned: 7:27 p.m.

Minutes approved: _____

"Agenda Management Services are being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number 21.019 awarded to City of Keizer by the U.S. Department of the Treasury."