

The Community Services Committee of the City Council for the City of Junction City met on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon.

PRESENT: Chair Andrea Ceniga, Councilor Rob Stott, and Councilor Sandie Thomas; City Administrator, Jason Knope; HR/Admin Services Manager, Stephanie Moran; and Public Works Superintendent, Jeremy Tracer.

1. Call to Order

Chair Ceniga called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – November 5, 2019

CONSENSUS: The Committee consensus was to approve the November 5, 2019 minutes.

4. Densmore Bench Request

Manager Moran presented the request from Kendra Densmore to donate a bench to the City in honor of her grandparents, LeRoy and Claire Terrien, who were long time residents of Junction City. Ms. Densmore had provided information on the type of bench and where it could be placed at Oak Meadows Park. A plaque on the bench would be approximately 4" x 8". Resolution No. 1031 had been followed and Section 6 applied to this bench donation.

CONSENSUS: The Committee consensus was to recommend that the Council accept this bench donation.

5. Laurel Park Upgrades

Superintendent Tracer asked for Committee feedback and direction on some potential upgrades at Laurel Park.

- Security Cameras: He included a bid for 5 cameras that would monitor the gazebo/bathroom area, Dutch's Field, skatepark, and the breezeway. There have been ongoing problems with vandalism and damage at the park for years.
- Light Posts: (A document was distributed on where lights could be placed in the park). Could place these along the sidewalk to provide more light and security at night. Could use the same light style that was at the pool, which staff was very happy with. Single head posts were \$700 each and double head posts \$950. A conduit would need to be installed and bids would be needed from an electrician to hook them up. It was noted that a combination of single and double poles could be placed in the park. There was around \$30,000 in the Parks Capital Outlay Fund and they would probably want to figure \$2,000 to \$2,500 for each light fixture installed.
- Sidewalks/Parking: Current head in parking along Kalmia Street was not long enough for an average sized vehicle, so could move the sidewalk 5 or 6 feet adjacent to Kalmia and redo the sidewalk and parking area. Also redo sidewalks on the south side of the park. Estimated

costs were \$25,000 to \$30,000. Part of the funding for this would come out of the Street Fund.

- Landscaping: Putting in some shrubbery and bark to make the area look nice.
- Bathrooms: In last year's CEP (Capital Expenditure Plan), staff purchased new fixtures for the bathrooms at Laurel Park, but those had not yet been installed because there was so much vandalism, graffiti, and drug use at the park. Currently, these bathrooms were locked at all times. Last year automatic locks were put in, but people found a work around to get in. It was hoped that with security cameras and more lighting, things would improve at the park.

CONSENSUS: The Committee consensus was in favor of doing upgrades to improve the park and having staff obtain bids for sidewalks, parking asphalt, and installation of lighting, and to obtain additional bids for the cameras. Administrator Knope suggested having the City Engineer look at lighting impacts for the additional lighting.

6. Agenda Forecaster Review and Discussion

Manager Moran presented the agenda forecaster.

Councilor Thomas asked if a cultural study needed to be completed before doing any digging at the Reserve Park area. Administrator Knope responded that was correct, and the cultural study was on hold, as the City was waiting to hear back from the residents in that area on what they would like to see in that park.

7. Other Business

Lyle Day Park

Superintendent Tracer stated that he wanted to get the Committee's opinion on making improvements at Lyle Day Park.

- There was a small playground there.
- There used to be horseshoe pits, but those had been removed.
- It had one tennis court which was in in the 2020 CEP to be resurfaced.
- It had 2 half court basketball courts.
- There were bathroom facilities that were used by Camp Sunshine and during the Scandia Run. Other than that, the bathrooms were locked and not used. Staff would like to improve the bathrooms, so they could be open at all times, but that would take some work.
- There was a large open grass area and a path.
- Staff would like to redo or refurbish the lighting along the path.

Councilor Thomas noted that people often let their dogs run in the grass area but did not always pick up after their dogs and children played in that area. She added that people took the dog waste bags as fast as the City put them out and it would be nice to have signs put up that it was against the law for people not to pick up after their dogs.

It was asked if there were dog waste bags at Laurel Park. Superintendent Tracer responded that he was not sure but there should be and staff could definitely add those.

Superintendent Tracer stated that what spurred this conversation was that there was \$10,000 set aside to refurbish the tennis courts at Lyle Day, but staff wondered if that was what the community would want. Did the community want a tennis court, a spot for a dog park, spot for pickleball or maybe a full court basketball court?

Councilor Ceniga noted that especially with Winnebago using the lot there, a lot of people traveled with little dogs and she did not think the tennis courts at Lyle Day were used that much. It was noted that there were tennis courts at the High School and at Bailey Park.

Councilor Stott noted that pickleball was very popular and asked if it was played in town. Superintendent Tracer responded that pickleball had been played at the breezeway at Laurel Park.

Superintendent Tracer added that the tennis courts at Bailey Park were also set to be resurfaced and pickleball courts could be put in there. He would need to do more research to see what a pickleball court would need.

Councilor Thomas asked if staff had any feedback from the community on what they would want. Superintendent Tracer responded that he would love to have feedback.

Councilor Ceniga asked how they would find out what the community wanted.

Manager Moran responded that a flyer could be put in with the utility bills.

Administrator Knope added that the City had tried a number of ways to get community feedback on parks, including using Survey Monkey and other means and had received a low response rate. He added that it might be worthwhile to reach out to the Tri-County Tribune to see if they could write an article to advertise a meeting with a specific date and time where the public could come talk about the different parks.

Councilor Ceniga thought it would be a good idea to reach out and get feedback from the community, before the Committee made a decision.

Administrator Knope stated that he would work with Superintendent Tracer on notice examples that could be published in the local paper and a plan to obtain community input and bring that back to the next Committee meeting.

CONSENSUS: The Committee consensus was in favor of staff bringing back information on obtaining community input.

10-Acre Raintree Property

Superintendent Tracer asked for Committee input and direction on if they would like staff to start working on the 10-acre parcel the City owned at Raintree Meadows.

- That parcel was not in the City limits and with it being in the county, there were restrictions on what the City could do with that property.
- A few years ago, the City brought forward a proposal to annex that property into the City limits. Concerns were expressed from folks who lived in that neighborhood that they would

not have input on the final design of a park. They were also concerned with traffic and parking. At that point, the Council decided to table the annexation and to move forward at a later date.

- There was a small park already in Raintree.
- The 10-acre parcel would be challenging to develop as a park, due to the detention pond and the drainage way on the east side. In addition, the City did not have public access back to Bailey Lane from this property.
- Superintendent Tracer noted that after the area was annexed, he could see plowing the area and replanting grass, to make it a nicer green space.
- It was noted that the area could be a good dog park, as many people in the area already took their dogs there and a walking trail could be put in. A pedestrian footbridge might be able to be installed over the drainage area.

CONSENSUS: The Committee consensus was in favor of annexing that 10-acre parcel into the City.

Superintendent Tracer noted that he would work with Planning Technician Tere Andrews to find out what the steps for annexation would be.

8. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kitty Vodrup
City Recorder