

City of Falls City
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday July 19 2018 11:00 am
Meeting Location: 320 N Main Street, Falls City

Committee Members Present: Jill Anzalone, Dani Haviland

Staff Present: Mayor Gordon

1) Roll Call

Meeting cancelled the meeting due to no quorum. Absences included; Janet Propp, Dennis Sickles, Lori Jean Sickles

2) Committee Announcements, Comments and Ex-Officio Reports

Next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting: Wednesday August 16, 2018 at 11:00 AM

_____ **PR Committee Chair Lori Jean Sickles**

Attested: _____ **PR Committee Member**

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Notice of Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

AGENDA

CITY OF FALLS CITY, OREGON

Meeting Location: 320 N Main Street, Falls City

Meeting Date: Thursday July 19, 2018 at 11:00 AM

Posted on July 13, 2018

NEW TIME!!!

- 1) **Call to order** Roll Call: Janelle Anzalone ___ Lori Jean Sickles ___ Dennis Sickles ___
Vacant ___ Janet Propp ___ Vacant ___ Dani Haviland
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3) **Motion to adopt the entire agenda**
- 4) **Consent Agenda: Motion Action Approving Consent Agenda Items**
 - a. Meeting minutes June 20, 2018 (p. 1-2)
- 5) **Public Comments:** Citizens may address the Committee or introduce items for Committee consideration on any matter. The Committee may not be able to provide an immediate answer or response, but may direct staff to follow up on any questions raised. Out of respect to the Committee and others in attendance, please limit your comment to five (5) minutes. Please state your name and city of residence for the record.
- 6) **Old Business**
- 7) **New Business**
 - a. Parks and Recreation District (p. 3-19)
- 8) **Correspondence, Comments and Ex-Officio Reports**
- 9) **Committee Announcements**
- 10) **Adjourn**

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A motion was made by Committee Member Haviland and seconded by Committee Member Propp to move the meetings to the third Thursdays of each month. Motion carried 5-0-0. Ayes: Janelle Anzalone, Dani Haviland, Dennis Sickles, Janet Propp

8) Correspondence, Comments and Ex-Officio Reports

Committee discussed the 7th of July parade. Committee Member Haviland added that Mt. Gospel Fellowship will hold an extravaganza.

City Manager Corthell and Mayor Gordon will be invited to the next meeting. Committee Member Anzalone would like to add a Park and Recreations District as a funds source on the 2020 Ballot. It will be a taxable District.

9) Committee Announcements

Next Parks and Recreation committee meeting will be July 19, at 11:00 am.

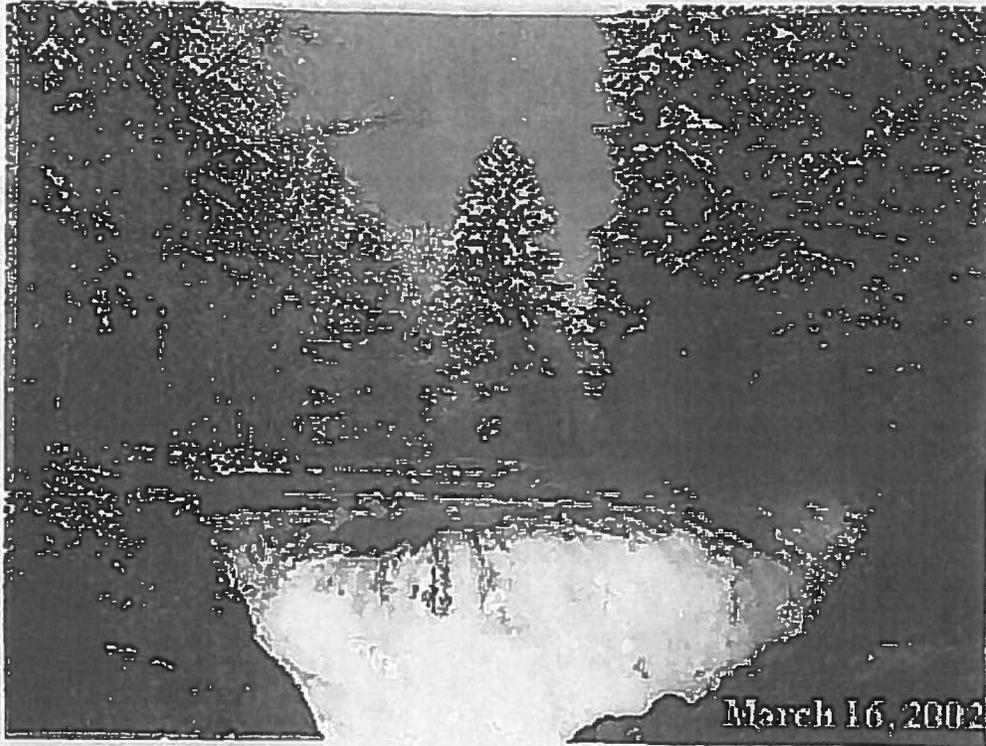
10) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.

_____ Parks Committee Chair L. Sickles

Attested: _____ Parks Committee Member _____

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The Falls City Parks and Recreation District

*A Proposal developed by Janelle Anzalone with considerable input from
citizens of Falls City, Oregon*

In times of economic hardship, concerns about the environment and issues restricting access to wild places, the test of a great city is how it overcomes such things and prevails. This proposal is the key to doing just that.

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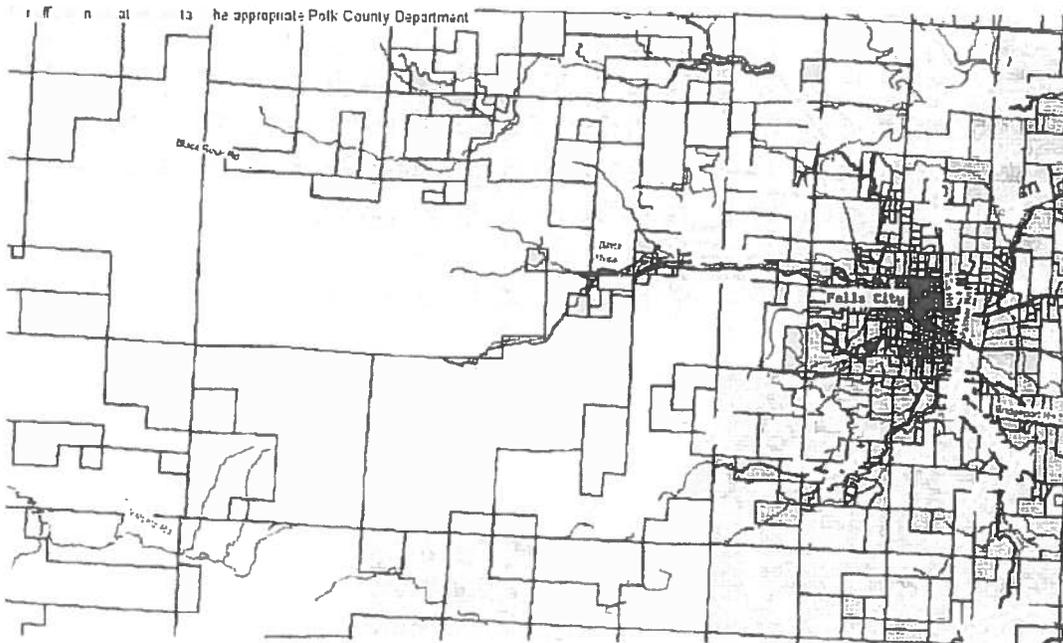
**Proposal for the
Falls City Parks and Recreation District
FCPRD**

Introduction

A Park and Recreation District is a special service compartment of government that stands on its own merit and is governed separate from the city. It has the power of taxation by vote and therefore its own monetary standing; it doesn't compete for city dollars, it operates by an elected board of individuals, it has the authority to provide services that are recreational.

The Objective of the FCPRD is to create a local, self-serving entity that's focus surrounds Falls City parks, natural areas and wildlife habitats. This type of mini-government is provided for by the State of Oregon Constitution and Revised Statues. We would use the designation as a means to design, build and manage recreational opportunities and facilities.

The boundaries of this district will be the same as the school District 57,
(In pink and to the left of the map below.)



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If we had already taken advantage of this policy we would not be in the situation we currently are with our town's Falls or the destruction of the wetland on Sheldon. We see no reason not to pursue something with such a promising outcome. Recent information suggests the possibility of further natural resource inventories. The more additions that we have, the more significant our little neck of the woods becomes. Significance produces better eligibility for funding. Furthermore, people who have unmapped wetland on their property could become eligible for grants and other incentives to protect their wetland. Additionally, when we acknowledge a wetland and decide to protect it, we gain desirable species. The more diversity we have in the area, the more people want to come see it. They come, we make money and opportunities present themselves. This town desperately needs this, because unlike other towns, we are not on a highway, we don't have an attraction to our little town. This town is struggling to survive; this District could very well be our saving grace.

Funding

The FCPRD will actively and relentlessly pursue assistance through grants, programs, volunteers, private donations and other fund raising endeavors on local, state and federal levels. Additionally, the District will ask voters for a .50-cent per \$1000 of Assessed Value tax to serve as matching funds, operating expenses and project cost. For a homeowner with an AV \$89,000, (the average in Falls City), the cost for one year would be \$44.50. The FCPRD will serve the Falls City community at large as well as visitors. We know that taxes send voters running, but we believe what we offer in return will be well worth it. This small tax will have major benefits.

Recall that the District 57 boundaries go up the mountain all the way to Valsetz. The timber companies hold 38 million dollars worth of assessed value within these boundaries. At .50 cents per thousand, that's \$19,000 a year for our parks district from the forest. Our local budget once benefited considerably from annual revenue sharing, but legislation changed that and now funding is on a spiral downward. Revenue from the taxes in this park and recreation district would total \$35,500 annually with more than half coming from holdings outside city limits. In addition to the .50 cent tax and outside grant

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Luckiamute River and her tributaries through policies geared toward cooperation with neighbors and the surrounding community. Efforts to be responsible stewards working together for a better future will be well rewarded when we realize these goals improve our natural resources.

Other aspirations will include building campgrounds, acquiring access to and if need be fixing up the old railroad grade and/ or other potential trail areas. Easement incentive programs exist at all levels of government for property owners. Laws govern their rights, responsibilities and protections. Trail organizations, Polk and the state of Oregon all offer various grants for trails as well as provide very lucrative deals to those who participate in easement agreements. See appendix

Other objectives include possible property acquisitions for trail expansion. We may choose to work with the timber companies, county, state and/or federal agencies to assume responsibility for other areas of interest in District 57. For instance we could reopen Gerlinger Park, tend to the Little Luckiamute Trail, develop the old dumpsite (Socialist Valley) for ATV trails, and we could refurbish our baseball field and bring Falls City sports back to life. We live in such a unique place with so many different outdoor characteristics that the possibilities are endless.

There are a lot of beautiful natural spaces out in the Falls City area and we could steward these magnificent places together and proudly nurture their use and protect them from harm while preserving our ability to access them.

The FCPRD could potentially absorb the responsibility for the up keep of other public areas, like the Community Center gardens, City Hall's landscape, the bridges, the right-of-ways and the stairs. I think that we all agree that we need to give some relief to our city workers, but also our parks eat up at least \$10,000 of city funds every year. That's more that the city budget can afford and not enough for the jobs that need to be done. Designating District dollars for park upkeep and improvement essentially makes it pay for itself. The more the District does for the city, the less the city has to do. The money that we save them is money that can be reallocated for other things the city needs. That's called a win/win situation.

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Local Hire

The FCPRD will take its job very seriously and with a thoughtful intent to benefit Falls City people. We will give locals first consideration on all job opportunities and groom promising individuals for a future in the District. We foresee many job openings as well as avenues for education. In some cases the District could utilize FAFSA, other grants, scholarships and assistance to facilitate various educational programs.

There are schools available for those seeking education in Park and Rec Districts specifically. There is a natural resource management school in Port Townsend, WA. Sponsored by the International Northwest Parks and Recreation Association. It's a 2-week crash course in Park and Rec administration and stewardship. Anyone expressing interest in working in the FCPRD could take this class using FAFSA grants. We could offer a sponsorship program for kids who express a desire to become a part of our Park and Rec District. Education is one of the most fundamental goals included in our mission. Local budgets are failing our children's futures', this proposal promises to help out with that.

Community Development

The District would hope to work with the Falls City schools, FACES, the Parent Group, the Art Council, Master Gardener's and other community associations to provide classes aimed at teaching about the river environment, exploring all it has to offer and connecting that to our personal health and well-being. We will work with various entities to discover and foster individual talents and aptitudes in our kids. Ideally a youth education professional would sit on the District's Board and the kids themselves will be a part of developing and implementing various projects.

Other Park and Recreation Districts

Other areas of Oregon that have created Park and Recreation Districts are enjoying great success. Willamalane Park and Rec District is down in Lane

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build athletic fields, a 10,000 square foot skate park and a BMX jump area inside one of the parks. They hosted ESPN championships there.

Chehalem Park and Rec District at Newberg has an ABA certified BMX track, a skate park and a 10-hole Disc Golf Course. All in all they have 18 parks. They also received a lot of their lands and parks as donations and gifts.

America is home to 400 million people. That number is growing by leaps and bounds. Reportedly, people are migrating away from big cities and into smaller ones. We would be right to fear development of our scenic areas. One way to protect our wild and beautiful places is to make a strong effort now to secure them.

Benefits to Community

The FCPRD is a good thing. The benefits to this community are considerable. It will provide activities for all ages, education about our environment, protection for our wildlife, the watershed and scenic areas. It will create jobs and pride at home. It will generate income and provide for economic growth and opportunity.

Professionals in the Oregon Park and Rec Dept., Fish and Wildlife, BRMBA, Grant coordinators and other special districts already support the idea of a Park and Rec District in the Falls City vicinity.

Employment

The FCPRD will employ a full time administrator who would work for the District's Board of Directors. A full description of this job will undoubtedly grow with time, but to start with the individual hired for this position will be in charge of marketing, grant writing, fundraising and budgeting. This person would be in charge of various projects, volunteer services, promotion, project goal priority and sequence. We would accomplish these efforts expediently and effectively.

The District will also employ park personnel. In the beginning there would be two part time positions. One job would be labor intensive, a caretaker position that would maintain the grounds in our parks, remove invasive species and monitor facility use, among other things. Recall, this job would, in part, absorb some public work responsibilities as well as \$10,000 worth of current city expenditures.

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Additional Revenue

Remember this is the first year plan. We anticipate funding and revenue to increase dramatically over time. Revenues would come from things like non-resident user fees, membership fees, rentals, classes, activities, fieldtrips, events, donations, grants and fund raising activities.

We could develop an area for camping and charge competitively. Willamalane Park and Rec District charges for fieldtrips, summer camps and many other things. They rent out picnic shelters for \$40 an hour. Tualatin Park and Rec District charges even more. Chehalem Park and Rec District charges nearly \$30 for 1 hour of class.

Job positions would increase as needed too. The district board will give first consideration to local contractors for any construction projects. The same thoughtfulness will be given to all aspects of this plan; Teachers, instructors, designers, engineers...whatever is needed.

Fiscal Responsibility

Oregon Revised Statutes govern Park and Rec Districts. These laws, including fiscal responsibility statements and annual budget reporting, have oversight through the state. These laws also protect park systems from lawsuits and property taxes.

Other Business

Other first orders of business will include the formation of a security committee. As soon as the district passes we can start taking applications for potential members. This may be the most challenging issue we will face in the first year. However, I have confidence that we can work together with other committees and community members to address security issues.

Additionally, relationship building with agencies and grant pursuits will begin immediately. In fact, conversations with Oregon Park and Recreation personnel, Luckiamute Watershed Council, skate park agents and trail building organizations are already taking place.

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- Wetland development
 - Species protection and attractions

- Concerts in the Park
- A Senior Center
- Sports
 - Repair the ball field
 - A Falls City softball team
 - Volley Ball, Basketball, Softball, Baseball, Soccer...
- Boys/Girls Clubs
 - Craft Shack
 - Guidance and education
 - Hiking, fishing, bird watching
- Educational Programs/Classes
 - Bug walks, river bug walks, habitat and species identification,
 - Geology and the river environment
 - Health Awareness
 - Preventative Care Exercise, yoga/healing movement
 - Nutrition
- Campgrounds
- Aerial tree trails- these are a really cool new thing, they use the tree tops for trails.

Q18

Rovers, Parks and Recreation Magazine, June 2004; www.nrpa.org

Climate Change: a creeping catastrophe, the possible links between climate change and health form one of the most controversial topics of our time, an interview with Dr. Collin Summerhayes, Bull World Health Organization, News, 2010

Network of cities tackles age-old problems; Jane Parry investigates how cities around the world are catering for the explosive growth in the number of people aged over 60, Bull World Health Organization, News, 2010

Growing America: Demographics and Destiny, Josh Kotkin, With America expected to grow by 100 million people in the next 40 years, how will states and localities run a bigger, more diverse country? May 2010; <http://www.governing.com>