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**ROSEBURG PARKS COMMISSION AGENDA**  
**WEDNESDAY, July 10, 2019**

**8:15 a.m. Regular Meeting      City Hall Third Floor Conference Room**  
**900 SE Douglas Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon 97470**

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*NOTE: IT IS UP TO EACH OF YOU AS COMMISSIONERS TO CALL 541-492-6730 AND LET STAFF KNOW BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MEETING IF YOU WILL NOT BE ATTENDING. THANK YOU.*

**I.      CALL TO ORDER**

**II.     ROLL CALL:**

Chair:                      Alison Eggers  
Commissioners:      Kyle Bailey                      Leila Heislein                      Diana Wales  
   Bob Grubbs                      Marsha La Verne                      Bob Walker

**III.    APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A.      June 5, 2019

**IV.    DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A.      Housing First Umpqua Park & City Sanitation Proposal

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** – At this time, anyone wishing to address the Commission concerning items of interest not included in the agenda may do so. The person addressing the Commission shall, when recognized, give his/her name and address for the record. All remarks shall be directed to the whole Commission. The Commission reserves the right to delay any action, if required, until such time when they are fully informed on the matter.

**V.     INFORMATIONAL**

**VI.    BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION**

**VII.   NEXT MEETING DATE:** August 7, 2019

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*\* AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE \*\*\***

Please contact the Office of the City Recorder, Roseburg City Hall, 900 SE Douglas Avenue, Roseburg, OR 97470 (Phone 541-492-6700) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time if you need an accommodation. TDD users please call Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900.

**CITY OF ROSEBURG  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
JUNE 5, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Alison Eggers called the meeting of the City of Roseburg Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 8:15 a.m. Wednesday, June 5, 2019, in the Third Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Chair Alison Eggers, Commissioners Bob Grubbs, Kyle Bailey, and Leila Heislein,

Absent: Bob Walker, Diana Wales, and Marsha La Verne

Attending Staff: City Manager Pro-Tem / Public Works Director Nikki Messenger, Parks and Recreation Program Manager Kris Ammerman, and Department Technician Chanelle Rogers

Others Present: Citizens Lesa Soder, Ellen Porter, and Ken Ferguson, Housing First Umpqua Betsy Cunningham, UCAN Mike Fieldman, Adapt/HTAG Wayne Ellsworth, and Dream Center Christopher Hutton

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Grubbs moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Heislein and approved with the following vote: Chair Eggers and Commissioners Grubbs, Bailey and Heislein voted yes. No one voted no.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Recreational Trails Program Grant Application:** Ammerman informed that the Recreational Trails Program grant application program is open and staff plans to submit a grant. Applications are due by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Ammerman said the proposed project will include the heavy restoration of approximately 1600' of the Umpqua River Greenway multi-use path located near Deer Creek Park. There is also a section that will get drainage upgrades to allow the water to flow away from the path to eliminate future undermining. The 10' wide section is raveled and cracked and has exceeded its useful life. Staff applied for this section last grant cycle but did not receive funding. Ammerman said the grant has a minimum 20% match of \$33,000 coming from a combination of in-house labor and the Bike Trail Fund. Commissioner Grubbs asked if there was anything different with the application this time since we didn't get it last time. Ammerman replied that staff are looking at adding some benches and tables along this section.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bailey moved to recommend to the City Council the adoption of the Resolution in support of the grant application seeking RTP funding. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Heislein and approved with the following vote: Chair Eggers and Commissioners Grubbs, Bailey and Heislein voted yes. No one voted no.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** Multiple citizens addressed the commission regarding issues with illegal camping in the parks. One group of citizens would like to have "No Camping" signs installed along the path system in Gaddis Park to help prevent the illegal camping that happens along the river bank in that area. The other group of citizens were asking for additional trashcans, restrooms, and sharps containers placed within the park system. Discussion ensued. Staff will reach out to other park agencies to see how they handle this issue and will bring information back to the commission at a future meeting.

**INFORMATIONAL:** None

**BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

*Chanelle Rogers*

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Chanelle Rogers, Public Works Department Technician



## CITY OF ROSEBURG MEMORANDUM



**DATE:** July 10, 2019

**TO:** Parks & Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Kris Ammerman, Parks & Recreation Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Housing First Umpqua Park & City Sanitation Proposal**

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### **ISSUE STATEMENT AND SUMMARY**

At the last Parks Commission meeting, a group of interested citizens provided input regarding their request to place sanitation facilities within City parks to better accommodate those who are living outside. The issue for the Commission is whether to forward a recommendation to the City Council to support the placement of some, none, or all of these facilities within the Parks system.

### **BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS**

The attached document, entitled "Park and City Sanitation Proposal" has been provided to staff from Betsy Cunningham, Board Chair for Housing First Umpqua. Staff expects Ms. Cunningham and others to attend the Commission meeting to present their ideas for consideration.

The intent of the proposal is to place portable toilets, trash receptacles and sharps containers in locations that can serve those who are living outside. With the exception of two, all of the locations listed are within parks. The locations outlined in the request are as follows:

- Eagles Park — toilet placed in park or in city owned parking lot adjacent
- South end of Mill Street\*
- Micelli Park--south end
- Templin Beach--north end of parking lot
- Deer Creek Park
- Bike path from Deer Creek Park to Gaddis Park
- Gaddis Park---toilets at each end of bike path
- Fir Grove Park---one near the soccer fields and one near the Wooley Center
- Stewart Park—across the river\*
- Duck Pond
- Charles Gardiner Park

*\* Public rights-of-way not located within City parks*

Of the locations listed above, Micelli Park, Templin Beach Park, Gaddis Park, Fir Grove Park and the Duck Pond all have permanent bathroom facilities that are locked when the parks are closed. All of the restrooms, with the exception of Gaddis Park which is maintained by the user group, are available to the public during the day.

Staff has researched other municipalities that have implemented similar programs and was unable to find any information, with the exception of Portland. The Portland City Council has just recently approved spending close to \$1million dollars in a similar effort. Much of that cost will be to staff the units to guard against vandalism and other damage, which is certainly a concern here in Roseburg. To be clear, the Housing First Umpqua proposal does not include staffing.

### **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS**

The proposal indicates an annual cost estimate of \$50,000 to provide the listed facilities. Email correspondence received May 29, 2019 from Ms. Cunningham indicates that “our proposal is not dependent upon the city allocating money or other resources to pay for the toilets, trashcans or the maintenance of them.” Since the group has not started fund raising yet, it is unclear how difficult it may be to raise that amount of money annually.

### **TIMING ISSUES**

The group supporting the placement of these facilities seeks approval as soon as practical in order to begin their fundraising efforts.

### **COMMISSION OPTIONS**

The Commission has the following options:

1. Recommend the City Council support some, none, or all of the options outlined in the report; or
2. Recommend the City Council support a smaller trial area/period and request the group report back with results; or
3. Request additional information prior to forming a recommendation to forward to City Council; or
4. Decline to make a recommendation at this time.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The issue of people illegally camping in the parks system is a complex issue. If an outside group is willing to provide and maintain additional trash receptacles and sharps containers, that seems like a win-win. The Commission has already supported the installation of sharps containers within the parks system (June 7, 2017). This decision was not popular with everyone.

The issue surrounding portable toilets is even more complicated. The Commission may recall that the three Laurelwood residents who spoke at the June 5th meeting were opposed to placement of the toilets between Deer Creek and Gaddis Park. There is also concern that installing portable restroom facilities in parks that have permanent restroom facilities available during the day sends a mixed message. The parks close at dusk. Providing additional facilities for use when the parks are closed may be interpreted as supporting the illegal activity.

### **SUGGESTED MOTION**

No suggested motion has been prepared at this time.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Proposal

## Park and City Sanitation Proposal

We have a problem in the city of Roseburg because our riverbanks have become the default toilet and trash dump for people who live along our river and other locations outside. This proposal seeks to address this issue.

Over the past several months, the problem has come to a head and needs to be addressed. The amount of trash, fecal matter and other infectious waste being deposited on the ground is creating potential environmental, sanitation and public health risks that not only adversely impacts people who are homeless but everyone who lives or visits here. We need to solve this now.

The city and the people of the community need to address the sanitation and public health concerns that exist because so many people are living outside and have no place to go to the bathroom or appropriately dispose of their trash. We can no longer ignore the public policies that have allowed this issue to continue. However, we must make sure that any solution recognizes the basic human rights, and dignity, of those who have nowhere else to go.

Recently, a small group of people got together to try to find a temporary solution this problem, while we work on creating a better solution to address the growing number of homeless people in our city. The group is made up of representatives of grassroots organizations, public entities and non-profit organizations. Each of the non-city entities are listed at the bottom of this proposal, as each group has endorsed it.

Two folks associated with the City of Roseburg were at this meeting and were involved with the discussion about the proposal; however no one from the city has taken an official position on this. Also, city staff has been invited to provide input on what we came up with, and we have taken that input into consideration. We have attempted to address concerns raised by staff, yet recognize that the city has a variety of demands on it, some of which may appear to be at odds with providing these services in our city. We do not agree that this is the case.

We looked for the simplest and most inexpensive way to try to solve this problem as quickly as possible in the most humane way. We recognize that there is no guarantee that it will work but the proposal provides an opportunity for a quick and cost-effective way to see if it will.

Here is what we propose:

- **Place portable toilets in various locations near where homeless are living outside.**
- **Provide trash services in those locations.**
- **Install Sharps containers along with the toilets and trash cans.**

We have compiled a list of locations that might be feasible based on three main considerations:

- **Proximity to where people are living outside.**

- **Placed where everyone, not just those who are homeless, can use them.**
- **Location in places that are accessible and easy to maintain.**

Here are the locations we identified. We came with these through the collaboration of those doing outreach to homeless residents, a local neighborhood association and its Neighborhood Watch members, as well as some of our homeless residents. We also asked city staff to provide input.

We believe that each of these locations provide the needed access to toilets, trashcans & Sharps containers for those who are living outside, as well as others, and can be readily maintained.

- **Eagles Park — toilet placed in park or in city owned parking lot adjacent**
- **South end of Mill Street**
- **Micelli Park--south end**
- **Templin Beach--north end of parking lot**
- **Deer Creek Park**
- **Bike path from Deer Creek Park to Gaddis Park**
- **Gaddis Park---toilets at each end of bike path**
- **Fir Grove Park---one near the soccer fields and one near the Woolley Center**
- **Stewart Park—across the river**
- **Duck Pond**
- **Charles Gardner Park**

As you can see, all but one of these locations are in a city park or in part of our park system. None of these are in the encampments, but in places the general public uses, who also may need restrooms and trashcans. So this proposal will not just serve the needs of our homeless residents, it will also serve the needs of anyone enjoying these parks.

Although some on the list are in locations that have public restrooms, these are not open 24 hours 7 days a week. Instead they are open a limited number of hours or only on special occasions, which does not meet the sanitation needs of those living outside. Recognizing that permanent public restrooms may have been closed due to problems, this proposal is recommending porta-potties, which are much easier and cheaper to replace or repair.

Costs & Funding:

We have estimated the cost to be less than \$50,000 a year to provide porta-potties, trash cans and Sharps containers to these locations, as well as three others. The three additional locations have had porta-potties for the past three years and have proven to reduce the problems regarding public toileting that was happening in the downtown area of the city before they were put in. Some of these locations already have trash cans, and one already has a Sharps container, which has proven successful in reducing the hazard of exposed used needles where it is located.

We propose funding be a combination of some commitment from the City, combined with independent fundraising, to raise the money needed to provide these services for one year. We have sketched out a plan to raise the money from the community, which includes businesses and individuals. We have already developed a fundraising letter but, cannot start the process of asking the community for money for this, without city approval.

We have already gotten the commitment from the HIV Alliance to provide and maintain the Sharps containers. UCAN has agreed to be responsible for managing the money and services, much like they do for the toilets already downtown.

We ask the members of the Roseburg Parks and Recreation Commission to approve this proposal and refer it to the Roseburg City Council for final consideration.

*Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.*

Mike Fieldman, Executive Director  
UCAN

Dr. Bob Danneoffer, Executive Director  
Douglas County Public Health

Ruth Smith, President  
SERVICE/SE Roseburg Neighborhood Watch

Betsy Cunningham, Board Chair  
Housing First Umpqua

Christopher Hutton, Board Member  
Dream Center, Under the Bridge Ministries

Wayne Ellsworth, Facilitator  
HTAG (Homeless Transitions Action Group)