

Kelso Parks & Recreation Department

1606 Tam O'Shanter Way

P.O. Box 819

Kelso, WA 98626 Ph: 360-577-7119 Fax: 360-425-6591



**AGENDA
PARK BOARD MEETING
July 16, 2012
7:00 PM-Council Chambers**

1. Call To Order – Scott DeRosier
2. Approve Meeting Minutes:
 - February 16, 2012 Meeting Minutes
3. Presentation – Pathways 2020
4. KGSA Field Use Request – Scott DeRosier
5. Parks Updates – Tim Mackin
6. Upcoming Events in the Park – Tim Mackin
7. US Cellular Cell Tower – Tim Mackin
8. Park Board Comments
9. Comments From Audience
10. Adjourn Meeting

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Park Board Meeting
July 16, 2012 @ 7:00pm
City Hall Council Chambers

Attendees:

1. Mary Carter
2. Scott D
3. Jerry Phillips
4. DAN JONES
5. Bob Smith
6. Waz Nere
7. Paul Gorman
8. Melissa Mallins
9. Jennifer Chapman
10. Kathleen Johnson

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Park Board Meeting
July 16, 2012 @ 7:00pm
City Hall Council Chambers

Attendees:

1. Adrian Kassenbaum

2. CHRISTOPHER L. JOHNSON

3. MIKE MONTERO

4. Nina Casper

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

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Park Board Meeting

February 16, 2012

Call to Order:

Scott DeRosier called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at City of Kelso City Hall Conference Room 203, 203 S. Pacific Ave.

Those present were as follows:

Park Board Members

Scott DeRosier

Jerry Phillips

Bob Smith

Dan Jones

Staff

Tim Mackin, Parks Lead

Nina Caulfield, Recording Secretary

Excused Absence

Pamela Jo (PJ) Enbusk

Also in attendance:

Gary Archer, City of Kelso Council Member

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Jerry Phillips made the motion, seconded by Bob Smith to approve the minutes of January 19, 2012. Motion carried, all in favor.

Business:

1. Presentation – Architectural Update for Skate Park by Rick Roberson

Rick provided a brief history of how the park came to be. He then described the current state of the park and how much it is loved by the youth of our community. It is, however, in serious need of an update. It is lacking in landscaping and providing the "wow" factor when viewed by the many people who pass by it while traveling on I-5. His plans showed improvements made in access, seating, and lighting. The costs for this suggested renovation would near \$200,000. Upon hearing this, many board members made money saving suggestions, discussed alternate revenue sources, and provided contacts to Rick. All agreed they would like to see this happen. Rick was invited to return with an update.

2. Park Updates

a. Rick Roberson gave an update about the roses. They are currently in storage and are ready to be planted once the weather gets a little better. Rick was also able to reach

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both of the boys who created the sign. He reported they were both excited about the update.

- b. Verizon finished today with the installation of their tower. Cowlitz fence will complete their fencing.
- c. Tim reported that the US Cellular is preparing to install tower very soon. Discussion followed regarding how close their planned site was to the storm lines. It was clarified that this issue would need to be dealt with prior to installation and would delay installation.
- d. Scott started a discussion regarding the appearance of the towers, agreeing with a statement Bob made last meeting regarding the hardware components taking away from the aesthetics of the park. The question was raised as to why the Park Board was not part of the Cell Tower decision. (The contract was directly negotiated and developed by the City Manager)

3. Little League Remodeling Update and General Comments

- a. They are considering putting netting on the backstops.
- b. They did a big clean up the other day and are considering moving the two PUD meters to clean up that area as well.
- c. Plans were brought to Tim regarding the installation of an archway. It was initially planned to be big enough to drive through, but after discussion, it was agreed that just one big enough to walk through would be the better decision.
- d. Scott stated that they removed the two storage containers and was able to haul 5 loads of dirt out of there in order to clean up the field. This needs to be done every 4 or 5 years.
- e. They are working on their batting cages.
- f. All sign-ups are starting.

4. Park Board Comments:

- a. Kelso Girls Softball discussed the condition of the Safeway field. There are rocks, nails, and broken concrete all through the soil. 6 inches of soil has been removed and replaced with 6 inches of clean soil. However it has since been tilled, which caused the issue to return, so the soil replacement process will need to be repeated.
- b. Between the School District and the park we have 5 fields that are Softball regulation which helps when you bid for state tournaments. We had a state tournament 2 years ago which brought 47 teams into Kelso. Out of those 47, over 30 of them were heads to beds in our local hotels. The lodging and other money spent is a great boost to our local economy. Several years ago Scott asked the Manager of the Red Lion to calculate how much revenue they generated in one Softball season and only for those who were there for the tournaments. The answer was \$56,000. The hotel tax on that is 1%. This is just

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one example of the amounts that should be reinvested in our parks due to it being park generated revenue. Bob stated that he spoke to the Legislature and that the lodging tax money can be used to reinvest in the parks as the Board used to be able to do. Some years ago they were directed that it could only be used for advertising. Scott suggested that this be put in a matching grant park fund. Jerry agreed and used the Longview Park Board grant fund as an example. Archer stated that he will bring this issue to Council.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott DeRosier', written over a horizontal line.

Scott DeRosier

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Tim Mackin', written over a horizontal line.

Tim Mackin, Parks Lead



Report to Kelso Parks Board
July 19, 2012

Presented by members of Team Longview

Paul Youmans, Pathways 2020
Jennifer Schapman, Cowlitz County Health Department
Melissa Mullins, AmeriCorps Member
Gayle Reid, Kelso Resident

Continuation of Tobacco Ban in Longview Parks

Background: In 2009, Longview Parks and Recreation received an ACHIEVE grant to reduce chronic disease in the community through policy and environmental change that increased access to healthy foods, provided for more active living and reduced exposure to tobacco. Team Longview was formed and completed assessments and a plan for improving the health of Longview residents. In December 2009, the City Council at the request of Team Longview, approved the appointment of a committee to explore the issues of smoking and tobacco use in Longview parks. The committee did extensive research of what other communities were doing and surveyed 1466 people on the question of should Longview's parks be tobacco free? or prohibit smoking only where children play? or should there be no policy at all? The results were

- 65% Tobacco-free
- 24% Tobacco prohibited around playgrounds
- 11% No rules

The committee, with the support of Team Longview, recommended that tobacco use in the city's 17 parks be prohibited, with six parks that serve as regional sport or recreational venues allowing tobacco use only in designated areas. The Mint Valley Golf Course was excluded. On July 8, 2010, the City Council adopted that recommendation in Ordinance 3142 (13.01.062 TOBACCO PROHIBITED) A twenty-four month sunset clause was included which would have the ordinance expire on August 8, 2012 unless the City Council took legislative action to extended it. Team Longview, with the support of Cowlitz on The Move and Pathways 2020 agreed to monitor tobacco use and report back to the City Council in 2012.

Team Longview has completed its research and measurement of community attitudes towards tobacco-free parks in Longview and the effectiveness of the current ban.

Comments from City Officials:

Richard Bemm, Retired Parks and Recreation Director (February 2012)

I have not had any complaints or issues reported to me. I have observed at high use park facilities such as play equipment and sport fields that there is very little smoking taking place and have witnessed some adults asking others to refrain from smoking. When there is only one family around, I have seen a couple times that there is a person smoking. I have also seen people come to a play area, see the sign and put out their cigarettes.

Jim Duscha, Chief of Police (June 2012)

No problems. I don't know if we had any complaints. I do support this.

Dick Mueller, Longview Parks and Recreation Supervisor (March 2012)

Staff have noticed a reduction in smoking in the parks and decreased litter (cigarette butts & tobacco trash). The no tobacco in parks ordinance has taken very little staff time as citizens have self monitored themselves successfully. I noticed at the summer concerts a reduction in smoking and compliance in no tobacco in the parks. At the youth ball parks (Archie Anderson & John Null) this month



I observed parents and other adults walk from activity areas out to the sidewalk and street curb to smoke. I feel children and park users have a healthier place to relax, enjoy, be active and play due to the tobacco free parks ordinance. This sets a positive example for Longview teenagers as adults set an example and norms that tobacco use in public places intended to improve health is not an acceptable practice in our community.

Jennifer Schapman, Health Educator, Cowlitz County Health Department (March 2012)

As the health educator with the Cowlitz County Health and Human Services Department, I receive and log all Smoking in Public Places Law complaints; there have been zero complaints in the past two years regarding the tobacco free policy for the City of Longview Parks ordinance.

Community Survey:

During the months of May and June, a survey was conducted in-person and on-line regarding tobacco issues in Longview and Cowlitz County. 884 respondents offered these answers for questions on tobacco use in Longview parks.

Currently Longview parks are tobacco-free. Should they continue to be?

Yes. 86.1%	No. 13.9%
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Have you noticed a change in tobacco use in Longview parks during the past two years?

Less.	28.3%
More.	7.5%
No Change.	14.9%
Have not noticed.	49.3%

Would you like to see other tobacco-free areas? (Check all that apply)

Cowlitz Fair Grounds	79.8%
Park area around Longview Public Library	71.1%
Mint Valley Golf Course	40.3%
Kelso Spray Park	63.6%
Kelso Parks	67.7%
Cowlitz County Parks	68.8%

Analysis:

Clearly, the interest in Longview is to keep Longview’s parks as tobacco-free. This is what the people want.

In Kelso, the results showed 63.3% for the Spray Parks and 67.7% for all Kelso Parks to be Tobacco Free. We recognize that Kelso has their own culture and whatever approach has to fit within their standards.

A value that we recognize is the reduction of litter and the improved appearance in tobacco-free parks as well as the health of families using the parks. Kelso has at least four options.

1. Adopt a voluntary no tobacco policy.
2. Prohibit tobacco use at areas where children play.
3. Prohibit tobacco use, except in designated areas such as parking lots.
4. Prohibit tobacco use in all parks.

The Cowlitz County Health Department has tobacco grant funds available to purchase signs for the Kelso Parks.

1. Where Do You Live?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Castle Rock, WA		5.6%	47
Kalama, WA		3.1%	26
Kelso, WA		25.6%	214
Longview, WA		63.4%	531
Woodland, WA		1.2%	10
Rainier, OR		1.1%	9

Other (please specify) 46

answered question 837

skipped question 47

2. Currently Longview parks are tobacco-free. Should they continue to be?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		86.1%	750
No		13.9%	121

answered question 871

skipped question 13

3. Have you noticed a change in tobacco use in Longview parks during the past two years?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less		28.3%	245
More		7.5%	65
No Change		14.9%	129
Have Not Noticed		49.3%	427
answered question			866
skipped question			18

4. Would you like to see other tobacco-free areas? (Check all that apply)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Cowlitz County Fairgrounds		79.8%	561
Park Area around Longview Public Library		71.1%	500
Mint Valley Golf Course		40.3%	283
Kelso Spray Park (Near Kelso Senior Center)		63.6%	447
Kelso Parks		67.7%	476
Cowlitz County Parks		68.8%	484
Other (please specify)			92
answered question			703
skipped question			181

5. Do you or someone in your home smoke? (Check all that apply)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Self		19.5%	166
Spouse		7.7%	66
Partner		4.7%	40
Child (Under 18)		0.5%	4
Child (Over 18)		3.4%	29
No Smokers		72.0%	614
	Other (please specify)		36
answered question			853
skipped question			31

6. Do you have children living with you under 18 years of age?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		42.3%	365
No		57.7%	498
answered question			863
skipped question			21

7. (Optional) Enter To Win: Gift Certificate To Peyton's Produce, Garden Basket, or Outdoor Basket

		Response Percent	Response Count
Name:		99.5%	590
Email Address:		82.6%	490
Phone Number:		93.3%	553
		answered question	593
		skipped question	291