

**July 12, 2016
Omak Park Board
Meeting Minutes**

Board Members and Staff Present

Billie Holden, Chair (absent)
Michelle Gaines (Advisory Member)
Orlando Gonzalez (absent)
Joe Lagrou
Keith Kistler

Sarah Grooms
Cindy Gagné, Mayor
Todd McDaniel, City Administrator
Jodi Coggins, Utility Clerk
Ken Mears, Public Works Director

Citizens

Brian Bourgeois
Todd Thorn
Andrea Fercho

Allisa Carlson
Jerry Debacker
Margaret Hartzell

Call to Order

Chairwoman Grooms called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. with a quorum of the Board present.

Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes was tabled until September.

Todd Thorn

Todd Thorn, Andrea Fercho, Margaret Hartzell, Allisa Carlson and Jerry Debacker have been working on a proposal to open the dike running from Central south to Aston Island to the public. He and his group have spoken with approximately 90% of the owners of property along the dike. The 10% not contacted mostly included vacant homes for sale. The comments from everyone interviewed are attached, and they are largely positive with a few suggestions.

Public Works Director, Ken Mears brought up the liability and maintenance that this walk path will represent. He would like to see a funding source setup for maintenance. He agreed to provide a cost estimate to Todd Thorn for maintenance of the already walkable dike on the north side.

The board discussed the Army Corp of Engineers involvement with the dike. City Administrator McDaniel said the Army Corp of Engineers would need to approve any changes to the dike; however, in the past they have been fine with asphalt just not structures or fencing. Administrator McDaniel is sure that a walk path on the dike is in the Park Plan. Public Works Director, Mears also confirmed that the Department of Natural Resources owns some of the footage between the dike and the river. The City Attorney will need to get involved and he will help with rewriting the language in the agreements to allow for public access. Administrator McDaniel said a formal letter will need to go out to all property owners along the dike.

Additional information was supplied to the board regarding funding sources for creation of the trail and continued maintenance. The information is attached as well as all information supplied on the dike.

Margaret Hartzell requested on behalf of their group that signs be created for the old landfill site, Aston Island and the dike. She provided examples and suggested that a general theme or look be designed for all trail/walking paths in the City. The signs can include information on the location as well as City codes if needed. The parking at the old landfill site was also discussed and determined to be adequate at this time.

Member Kistler moved seconded by Member Gaines to recommend to the Council that the dike be opened to the public and to provide the signs requested for the old landfill site, Aston Island and when appropriate the dike. Motion carried unanimously.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm



Jodi Coggins, Utilities Clerk