

**City of Lowell, Oregon
Minutes of Town Hall Meeting
December 11, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Mayor Paulson

Council Members Present: Mayor Paulson, Judith Rennert, Gary Reese and Jim Burford

Council Members Absent: Pam Bryant

Opening Comments: Mayor Paulson gave a brief introduction to the purpose of this meeting, and encouraged public to complete a questionnaire.

Councilor Reese stated he wanted to know what the town wants in regards to the topics.

Councilor Rennert stated the parks are an important role in our community. The new park signs were displayed for the public to see. She stated the signs would be going up soon to assist the police in code enforcement.

Councilor Burford thanked the public for coming.

Business:

- **Limiting Park Hours:**

Mayor Paulson gave an intro to possible issues that need to be considered, and asked for public comments.

Hall O'Regan would like to see park hours set to be closed from 10 PM to 6 AM.

Jackie Heideman voiced concern on how it would be enforced.

Mayor Paulson explained that the posting of hours would give OPD more ability to enforce code.

Councilor Reese stated the council has been working with the OPD on the time of patrol.

Kathy Hern asked if code enforcers were possible.

CA Hamilton explained the need to be post certified prior to confronting anyone.

Suzanne Kintzley inquired what happened to the neighborhood watch program.

Councilor Burford responded that the program is at a standstill.

Councilor Rennert requested OPD be notified of problems.

Councilor Reese stated that would help the police know what is going on in the area.

Also he would suggest for the community to resist limiting activities in one park and not the other. It would just encourage movement of the problems from one area to another.

Maggie Osgood stated she likes the 10 PM for park hours. Also questioned the need for new signs, since these don't have park hours.

Councilor Reese explained they made these signs with approved ordinances already in place to get something up as soon as possible. Additional signage could be added later at minimal cost.

- **Alcohol Use in Park:**

Mayor Paulson gave a brief intro on examples of cities with such bans in place.

Councilor Rennert stated she is neither for or against, but feels it needs to be consistent.

Bill George agrees with restricted use, not banning of alcohol in the parks.

Suzanne Kintzley feels that people need to take responsibility for their actions, and they need to clean up after themselves. Her family enjoys the parks.

Hall O'Regan would hate to see a total ban on alcohol, he sees the park used a lot for reunions and birthday parties.

Karen Burford not in favor of a ban.

Councilor Reese suggested the idea of possibly obtaining a permit for use in the park.

Maggie Osgood feels if a family needs to get a permit, they would just go somewhere else.

Suzanne Kintzley thought permits were a good idea.

Councilor Burford commented on the increase work for City Hall this would cause.

Hall O'Regan stated the people that have organized parties clean up after themselves. They are not the problem.

- **Smoking in Parks**

Mayor Paulson gave information on cities that have banned smoking, and in parks with youth activities.

Jackie Heideman has a concern with the wood chips at the playground and possible fire.

Councilor Burford suggested restricted areas in the park and providing receptacles for disposal of cigarette butts. He has a concern with the infringements upon people's rights.

Hall O'Regan would like to see a designated area.

Kathy Hern also liked the designated area concept.

Maggie Osgood would like to see no cigarette smoking on the children's play area.

Councilor Reese thought the restricted area is a good idea.

- **City wide Leash Law**

Mayor Paulson explained we have adopted the Lane County Animal Control Code, but feels the need to bring specific language out front in our code.

Councilor Rennert recited the verbiage on the Dexter Lake Marina sign. Lane County Code does not refer to leash, but 'dogs at large'. It does mention cleaning dog waste matter. So if we want to add to our code we do have to mention leash.

Bill George asked for clarification on 'city wide' pertaining to own private property.

Councilor Rennert clarified that the code would not pertain to one's own dog and property.

Councilor Burford would like to see the same language as the Dexter Lake sign.

Councilor Rennert likes Councilor Burford's idea of being consistent with signage.

Suzanne Kintzley stated that dogs are not allowed on school property and it's posted.

Councilor Rennert read a statement from Councilor Bryant in regards for the need of a leash law.

- **Other related park and animal control issues**

Mayor Paulson requested input from the community on the recoup of fees from the owner when Lane County Animal Control is called out.

Maureen Weathers would be in favor if the owner is convicted.

Jackie Heideman voiced concern about how we would collect fees.

Councilor Reese commented on possibility of community service.

Bill George made a comment that parks are a very important for our community. What is budgeted for our parks should be used in our parks.

Maureen Weathers stated she is in favor of complaint generated on disruptive behavior and inform people how to file a complaint. Focus on the problem, not make rules that effect our livability.

Jackie Heideman would like to see more education especially for the kids. Do we have a curfew?

CA Hamilton stated, Yes we do have a curfew. He would like to work on keeping a record of complaints and tract a pattern. Also there is a form available at City Hall for written complaints.

Suzanne Kintzley had a idea for an immediate solution to stop traffic at night by turning off the Wi-Fi at closing. Also she would like to see the park signs to be more welcoming and encourage people to be responsible, not don't, don't, don't.

Maureen Weathers would like to have an immediate method to file a complaint, such as a message phone.

Councilor Reese explained that the police have discretionary to approach people, we don't want to restrict this process.

Maureen Weathers would like to see the county police reports on our local area in 'The Bridge' to inform our public what is going on, and to educate our public. Encourage them to report.

Mayor Paulson encouraged people to call 911 to report.

Adjourn: 8:18 PM

Approved: _____
Stephen Paulson, Mayor