

City of Bandon

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA DOCUMENTATION	DATE: Dec 3, 2018
SUBJECT: Review & Discussion of Parks & Recreation Commission Report on Potential Locations for a Swimming Pool in City Park	ITEM #: 5.2.1

BACKGROUND

Several months ago, the City Council requested the Parks & Recreation Commission to work with City Staff to study potential locations for a swimming pool in City Park and report back with their findings. This item is on the agenda to allow Council to review & discuss the results of the report. No decision being requested.

FISCAL IMPACT

Report Only.

RECOMMENDATION

Motion to accept the report of the Parks & Recreation Commission and thank them for their efforts.

SUBMITTED BY



Robert J Mawson, City Manager

City of Bandon

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA DOCUMENTATION	DATE: October 2, 2018
SUBJECT: Pool Location – Bandon City Park	ITEM NO: 8.3.1

BACKGROUND: The Bandon Pool Committee has received a tentative bequest of approximately \$2.5 million from an unknown benefactor to be used for a new swimming pool in Bandon. As part of the bequest, the benefactor has stated that in order to receive the funds, the pool shall be located within the City Park as it currently exists.

The Pool Committee made a presentation to the City Council, and the City Council then directed the Parks and Recreation Commission to examine potential locations within the park for such a pool and to provide a recommendation to the City Council.

Staff prepared background information on potential locations in the park, recognizing limitations associated with available infrastructure. Due to the location of wastewater lines, water mains, and access to the storm drain system, the location would need to be located in the northern half of the parks, and the closer to the northern boundary, the better. The primary locational limitation is due to the provision of adequate storm drainage. The storm drain located in 8th Street SW provides the best option.

The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the location in general terms at their August 9, 2018 meeting (minutes attached) at which time they identified a location near the library, and the possible location near the eastern entrance to the park at 11th St. Comments from the public received at the meeting indicated that members of the Pool Committee favored a location in an open area at the northern portion of the park where Kensington enters the park. The Commission requested to meet at the park at the start of the next meeting and requested that the basic footprint of the pool building be staked to provide an “on-site” understanding of the possible locations.

On September 13, 2018, the Commission convened their meeting at the City Park. Staff had roughly staked the corners of a pool building near the Library (Site 1), identified the location near Kensington but did not stake the footprint (Site 2), and staked the corners near the eastern park entrance near 11th (Site 3). The attached map identifies the three locations.

Site 1: This is the Parks and Recreation Commission’s preferred location. It is located east of the library parking lot. While the exact footprint location was not determined, the Commission liked this location due to the option to share existing parking, while providing a smaller number of new spaces. This would reduce the overall impervious surface coverage in the park. Further, they appreciated the grouping of larger structures in this area, leaving the major areas of the park open for passive and active recreation uses. Generally speaking, the Commission thought locating the building as far north as possible, with re-location of the access on Lincoln being an option better “tuck the building” into the landscape. It was proposed that a new access from the library parking lot to 8th Street – in the Madison Street right of way – be opened to facilitate the new traffic associated with the pool and improve on-site circulation.

Further, it was recognized that the pool would also serve as a wind block for the bandstand/amphitheater area in the park. The existing berm would likely be removed as part of this work, as well as a few of the existing trees near the berm.

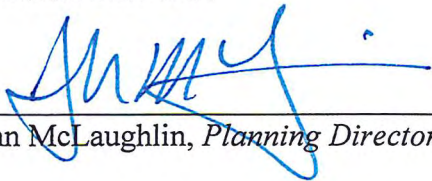
Site 2: This site was considered acceptable to the Commission. This location would be in the open area near where the rights-of-way for Kensington and 9th Street intersect. Access would likely be from new improvements to these two streets, provide new auto access into this area of the park from Jackson and 8th Streets. Concern was raised over the loss of a larger open area, but the Commission felt that the site could accommodate a new pool and parking area.

Site 3: This site was considered unacceptable by the Commission. This location, near the eastern entrance of the park on the north side of 11th Street was considered to be too intrusive to the entrance of the park, setting completely different gateway experience than occurs today. Access and parking were also thought to be troublesome by the extension of 10th Street from Jackson, and likely a new driveway access out to 11th Street.

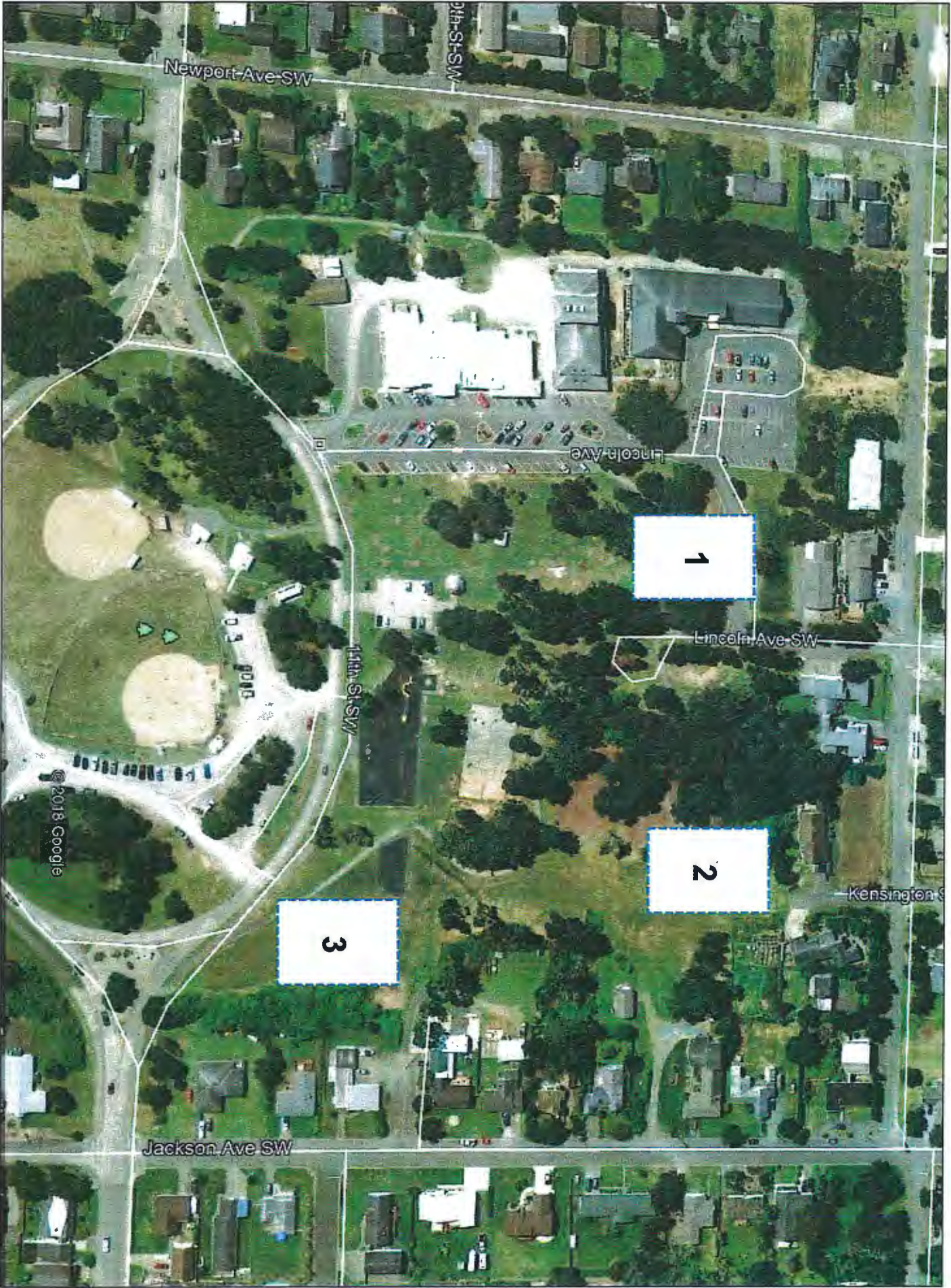
An additional site was recommended by an audience member at the September meeting – the existing baseball field at the southeast corner of the park. This site was also considered unacceptable by the Commission due to the high use of the baseball field and use of the outfield area by soccer players in the fall.

RECOMMENDATION: This recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission was provided at the request of the City Council. The Council is encouraged to discuss the options and provide additional comments to Staff regarding future steps and direction to the Bandon Pool Committee.

SUBMITTED BY:



John McLaughlin, *Planning Director*



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
BANDON CITY HALL
August 9, 2018**

Present: Vice-Chair Esther Williams (1-0), Commissioners Wendy Harvey (0-0), Christine Hall (0-2), Brad Owens (1-0), Estelle Womack (0-5)

Absent: Donnie Goddard, Troy Russell

Staff: City Planning Director John McLaughlin, City Planner Dana Nichols, Minutes Clerk Blythe Tiffany

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Williams.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken as indicated above, with Commissioners reporting meeting time (listed first), as well as outside work time.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioners had received copies of the Minutes of the meeting of June 14, 2018.

Owens moved for approval of the minutes; Womack seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote of those present, 5:0.

4. New Business

4.1 Chair and Vice-Chair Election

Hall moved to elect Esther Williams Chair; Womack seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously, 5:0.

Owens moved to elect Hall Vice-Chair; Womack seconded the motion which was passed unanimously 5:0.

4.2 SOLVE Clean Up Day

Commissioners had been provided with copies of a staff report and related printed materials. The staff report reviewed the history of the SOLVE organization and the City's participation in past fall and spring clean-up days. This year's fall clean-up day is scheduled for September 29, and, the report stated:

... The City received a \$100 grant from SOLVE, which is intended to be used to purchase mulch and gloves, and we are looking for donations of native plants to enhance and maintain some of the existing planter beds. Other projects may include a clean-up of the pump track, removal of holly and ivy from planter beds and the area behind the disc golf course, and litter pickup throughout the park.

The report also stated:

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Staff has provided the commission with a simple sketch of the intended plan for the day's events and will continue to refine the projects as we get closer to the event staff has contact the Public Works Department to ensure that planter beds will not get in the way of routine park maintenance projects and that the planter locations are near enough to water, since the plants will require some attention in their first year...

The staff report concluded with:

...Staff is also working on a project to meet our Arbor Day Foundation Tree City requirements through the planting of new Sitka Spruce seedlings and 6 foot Monterey Cypress trees. While we initially thought the September 29th date would be close enough to the rainy season to begin the planting project, our experts have informed us that the trees will do much better if planted sometime in December or January...

There followed some discussion of the various issues raised in the report, and it was agreed that more discussion would follow, as necessary, prior to the event.

4.3 (PARK)ing Day

Nichols had provided the Commission with copies of an article on a global PARKing Day event on September 21: The concept of turning a parking space into a park for a day. She explained that staff had thought it might be good to participate by putting one where the City intends to install a parklet (in front of the Coffee Café), as discussed by the Commission at previous meetings.

It was the consensus of the Commission that the City should pursue the matter, and Nichols stated that staff would have more information for the next meeting.

4.4 Tree Removal Request - 830 Division (Spruce)

The commission had been provided with copies of a application, with attachments, from Diana Herzig for permission to remove a Sitka spruce tree, which now has roots growing above ground in her driveway, walkway and flower beds. Accompanying documents included a site plan, a written narrative outlining the reasons for the request, pictures showing the invasive roots, an estimate and opinion from Branching Out Tree Service (quoting a price of \$800 for removal, and opining that the tree is a hazard, due to the root system and communication line running overhead, through the tree), and a proposed site plan (with sample pictures) for replacement with a gnome house/fairy garden.

During discussion, McLaughlin explained that the tree had been planted in the City right-of-way by a previous owner, and had since grown to 200 feet. He stated that there are valid reasons for removal, including the large roots growing into the yard and driveway. He added that he does not see this tree as critical to the City's "urban forest" inventory.

The Commission approved the removal, by consensus, but indicated that it would be better to replace the tree with one more appropriate for the area.

5. Old Business

5.1 Future Pool Location

McLaughlin noted that the Commission had previously discussed, in hypothetical terms, the possible location of a swimming pool; now, the pool committee has received the promise of a \$2.5 million bequest, which requires that the pool be located within the existing City Park, and the Parks and Recreation Commission has been tasked with providing some guidance to the City Council on location.

He stated that he had discussed the issue with the Public Works Department, and was advised that the pool would need to be located north of 11th Street, due to drainage issues. Prior discussion with the Commission considered possibly locating the pool across from the library, where it would have access to parking, as it would be in the vicinity of other buildings in the park, and would serve as a windbreak for the picnic area.

Another option would be to put it to the north/east of the present picnic area, which would require the removal of many trees, and possible reconfiguring of the picnic area. The pool could then be accessed from the north end of the park. That location would also put it closer to the neighbors.

Hall stated that, the problem she had expressed during the previous discussion had to do with the integrity of the park. With more buildings and parking lots and the removal of trees, there will be less park. She would elect to do something that would impact the park the least; perhaps by locating it at the entrance to the park (in the empty area just before the children's playground).

Owens noted that the entrance area would require that additional parking be put in. He stated that the first spot would be better, considering the available parking; his second choice would be where the trees are, as indicated by McLaughlin.

McLaughlin demonstrated with a large aerial photo of the park, approximating how the pool would fit in.

Harvey stated that she would like to see the least impact on the park.

Williams asked why south of 11th Street could not be considered, and McLaughlin explained that the area is very wet, and the installation of utilities would be very difficult.

Williams noted that the trees in the second suggested area were shore pines, which are almost at the end of their life.

No one was in favor of taking up the current picnic area.

Will Turner stated that he lives on Jackson Avenue, at the edge of the park. He was not in favor of building the swimming pool in the park, as it would destroy the park's integrity.

Bart Taylor, representing the swimming pool committee, stated that the person giving the gift wants the pool in the City Park (it is a condition of the gift). That money could be built into a fund to provide sustainability for the maintenance of the pool. He stated that there will be a Charter amendment measure on the ballot in November which would prevent the City from spending any City funds on the maintenance of a pool; this should alleviate any concerns about funding which the public may have. He stated that the pool is a community venture, and he believes that the better location would be closer to the library and other existing buildings, where it would be less intrusive.

Dan Green, also a member of the pool committee, stated that one cannot build anything of this size without infringing on the neighbors somewhat. The committee's current property is not good. This gift could be received in a matter of years, rather than decades. The community needs to consider the greatest good for the greatest number.

In further discussion, Taylor added that the park is the center of the city, and is for its citizens. The private, non-profit pool corporation will do better than a municipality; it is not asking for City funds, just a place to put the pool. "It's everyone's park."

Green added that most people in Bandon do not have a pool. The community pool will give children an opportunity to learn to swim and provide recreational and rehabilitation opportunities. He finally sees the possibility of it happening.

McLaughlin stated that staff will return with more information for a future meeting.

6. Staff Update – None

7. Public Input

Will Turner provided Commissioners with copies of a handwritten list of items needing to be done in City Park:

1. 5 year plan to plant trees
2. Remove fire cookers
3. Repair water main cave in
4. Remove and cease the dumping of grass clippings
5. Remove waste dirt mound at north end of park

In commenting on his list, Turner stated that he was very concerned about the life and health of the trees in the park, and that a five-year plan is needed. He had noticed transients cooking in the park and had called police before; the cookers should be removed. For several years, there has been a hole at the water main receptacle, which had rotting plywood covering it, with a traffic cone on top; it needs to be fixed. He stated

that grass clippings had filled in a drainage ditch; grass clippings should not be dumped in the City Park.

He concluded that, in the City Park, the City has a “jewel,” which “needs to be polished and maintained.” He added that he is familiar with the Park, as he walks through it every day.

The Commission thanked Turner for his observations, and asked that staff look into the various issues listed.

8. Open Discussion

Owens stated that he felt that there was some confusion about the intent of the discussion about the pool; it was not to be a debate on the pool, but a matter of considering options, per the Council’s request.

Hall stated that, with regard to the pool, as much as she wants one, she feels like Turner; she would like to keep the park as the park. She added that, perhaps it would not impact the park as much as she is thinking it will; the Commission should go out to the park as a group and have McLaughlin show them the various options.

McLaughlin stated that, as staff works on the issue, they can stake the various areas.

Harvey stated that she learned to swim early in life, and the thought of a pool is very exciting. However, she is torn, as she loves the trees and the park. She will try to be open-minded. She added that she is honored to be on the Commission.

Womack stated that she would like to see the location be in a place where a lot of parking will not have to be added. She added that she liked the idea of walking out there.

9. Other – None

10. Adjournment

Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Blythe Tiffany
Minutes Clerk