



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for February 16, 2023

Present: Jason Jancaitis, Michael Paiewonsky, Forrest Tiedeman, Emily Anderson, Paul Moore and Charles McCabe

Absent: Craig Molway

Staff present: Eric Devlin

Sydney Hy and Dorian Rose were both present as well, Sydney is awaiting appointment to the commission as an associate member and Dorian indicated interest in becoming an associate member as well.

Mr. Paiewonsky opened the remote public meeting at 7:30pm. All members participated remotely.

Minutes

January 19, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed for approval.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the January 19, 2023 minutes, as amended.
Second by Mr. Moore.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – Absent, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
6-0 in favor

Invoice:

Legal ad (Free Press Advertiser) - \$270.90

An ad was placed by staff in the Free Press Advertiser for the Swains, Towners and Ell pond 2023 Request for Determination of Applicability.

Motion by Mr. Tiedeman to approve payment of the \$270.90 invoice for the Swains, Towners and Ell pond 2023 Request for Determination of Applicability Free Press Advertiser legal ad. Second by Mr. Paiewonsky.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – Absent, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
6-0 in favor

Public Hearing:

Request for Determination of Applicability – Ell, Swains and Towners Ponds by Melrose Park Commission & Melrose Conservation Commission for annual nuisance aquatic vegetation management in the three ponds the Commission manages.

Request for Determination of Applicability – First Pond/ Mt. Hood by Melrose Park Dept. Aquatic Vegetation management plan - First pond

The two filings were heard together by the Commission. Conservation Staff and Joan Bell from Melrose Parks/Mt.Hood superintendent were present.

Staff briefly described the proposed treatment plan for Ell, Swains and Towners ponds. Continuation of the same ongoing chemical treatment plan as last 3 years. Alum for phosphorus control and copper-based algaecide in Ell pond, diquat and glyphosate herbicide usage in Towners and Swains pond for aquatic weed control.

Joan Bell- Same chemical treatment plan for Mt. Hood. Parks has put in a request in the City Capital improvement plan to do an all ponds study. The study would evaluate the health of all of the ponds and whether dredging would be feasible for First pond.

Ms. Bell recently spoke with the High school CAD teacher about an aquatic robot that was recently constructed in their class. The class is testing the aquatic robot in the pool at the YMCA and they are looking to see if the robot would be able to help us with the pond issues as well.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to issue a negative 2 determination of applicability to for both the Swains, Ell, Towners pond Request for Determination and the Mt.Hood/First Pond Request for Determination. Second by Mr. Tiedeman.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancitis – yes, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – Absent, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
6-0 in favor

Discussion:

Annual Election of Officers –Staff requested nominations for the roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk and Treasurer.

Mr. Paiewonsky was nominated to serve as Chair.

Mr. Moore was nominated to serve as Vice Chair.

Staff was nominated to serve as Clerk.

Mr. Tiedeman was nominated to serve as treasurer.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to accept the 2023 officer nominations of Mr. Tiedeman as Treasurer, Staff as Clerk, Mr. Moore as Vice Chair and Mr. Paiewonsky as Chair. Second by Mr. Moore.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancitis – yes, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – Absent, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
6-0 in favor

Pond Management – funding, pond issues and related items-

Staff stated that difference in price between the two companies was about \$1,500 between the new company and the regular treatment vendor, the new treatment vendor being higher in price. 1 year treatment contracts. Staff will get a contract proposal from both companies for review at the next meeting.

Ell pond treatment for water chestnut is under a multi-year contract, staff proposed using the new company for only Towners and Swains pond.

Budget discussion -staff started preparing a City filing fees table comparing other surrounding towns as examples. Separate fees from tree committee items. Any change to filing fees will likely require going before the City Council for a change to wetlands ordinance.

Discussion on other changes with filing fees such as no disturb zone distance and tree ordinance. Staff will look at application types and share with the commission members. Possibility to use the filing fees to sort of establish a capital fund. Mr. Tiedeman was assigned to review the filing fee table.

Tree ordinance and any other changes to the wetlands ordinance to be discussed separately.

Potential new members – Dorian Rose expressed interest in joining the Commission as an associate member.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 16, 2023 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to adjourn. Mr. Moore seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

Adjourn
8:30PM adjourn

Approved

Date.

Pursuant to the ‘Open Meeting Law, ‘ G.L. 39, 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Commission constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Commission as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.
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