

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

MARCH 1, 2021

11:00 A.M. – 11:23 A.M.

REMOTE ONLY

COUNCIL PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS STEADMAN (CHAIR) AND KUNKEL

COUNCIL ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER COX

STAFF PRESENT: SCOTT SPENCE, JEN BURBIDGE, SUE FALASH, JEANNETTE SIELER,  
JENNY WILSON, PERI EDMONDS

ACTION: APPROVE COMMUNITY RELATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
AGENDA

MOTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED BY COUNCILMEMBERS KUNKEL  
AND STEADMAN

**UPDATE FROM LACEY PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

STAFF: JEN BURBIDGE, LACEY PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION DIRECTOR  
JEANNETTE SIELER, RECREATION SUPERVISOR  
SUE FALASH, RECREATION MANAGER

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Staff provided an update on upcoming programs, events, and activities available. Programs continue to be modified to meet safety requirements as the City receives direction and guidance from the Governor's Office and Thurston County Public Health.

The Spring 2021 Newsletter will be available March 16, with registration open March 31 for online and over the phone only. The Summer 2021 Newsletter will be available May 19 and registration will open May 26. The typical registration schedule is running three to four weeks behind due to COVID.

The 2021 Cultural Celebration will be held virtually this year on March 27. Virtual booths will be live for 30 days after the event. Visitors can create virtual booths, submit performance records, or share a demonstration about their heritage.

Staff continue to work on multiple scenarios for summer events, such as Lacey Intune and 3<sup>rd</sup> of July Fireworks.

### **LONG LAKE BEACH LIFEGUARDS UPDATE**

PRESENTER: JEN BURBIDGE, LACEY PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION DIRECTOR  
JENNY WILSON, AQUATICS SUPERVISOR

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

The staff shortage of lifeguards continues to be a challenge for 2021. Parks currently has six certified lifeguards on staff, but only a few have enough experience to work at Long Lake. They would need the equivalent of 10.5 FTEs to cover Long Lake seven days per week.

In 2020, the lake was not staffed with lifeguards due to lack of certified staff and inability to certify new staff due to COVID. There were no reported injuries in 2020. The Police Department staffed officers at the Park during high-peak hours from late June to early September. A review of police contact made at the Park included smoking/vaping, alcohol use, dogs in the water and on the beach, and unsupervised children.

The Parks Department will not be able to hire enough qualified lifeguards to staff Long Lake Park this summer.