

Changes to master plans for parks approved quietly

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

This time the process was simple.

Keizer City Councilors on Monday approved amendments for the master plans for both Keizer Rapids Park and Chalmers Jones Park.

Aside from one brief question, there was no discussion

as councilors unanimously approved the motion.

As previously mentioned in the Keizertimes, the master plans were amended by the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board last month, with final approval needed from the council.

Monday's quick approval marked a big difference in how another master plan amendment for KRP went in 2014.

Back then, the Big Toy play structure was moved into the filbert orchard area and 28 acres had to be incorporated into city limits, requiring months of meetings and hearings, with part of the process including discussions of what amenities should be part of the park in the future.

This time around, the mas-

ter plan amendment was once again centered around the Big Toy – built last June – but in a far simpler setting. A planned improvement for the park is a looped pathway system, with part of that pathway providing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access to the Big Toy.

At the same time, the master plan for Chalmers Jones Park had to be amended to more accurately reflect the development of the adjacent Keizer Civic Center, which opened in 2009. Though that amendment was recognized as being needed in 2014, it was decided to delay the work until later.

Bill Lawyer, Public Works director for Keizer, noted there is no cost involved with the amendments.

"The additional path would be an additional expense, but at this time there is no direct fiscal impact in approving these master plan amendments," Lawyer said.

In response to a question

from Mayor Cathy Clark, Lawyer said the amendment will be useful in the upcoming application for a poured-in-place surface for the Big Toy. City staff is submitting an application to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department this spring and is hoping to secure funding to pay for the pathway, the surface and a bathroom.

"The cost of the pathways is not substantial compared to some of the other things being considered," Lawyer said.

With Chalmers Jones Park, the master plan has needed altering for years since the current plan was from before city hall opened in 2009 and the layout is slightly different than the plan shows.

"It's something we've known we've needed for a while," Lawyer said during last month's Parks Board meeting. "We decided to not include it with the last master plan update for Keizer Rapids because we didn't want to mud up the topic then."



(From left) Cilt Holland, Bill Lawyer, Lore Christopher and Mark Caillier discuss revisions to the Keizer Rapids Park master plan in 2014. Smaller updates were recently approved to master plans at both KRP and Chalmers Jones Park.

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