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## Parks: Board works on plans to raise money

Continued from Page 1

side which ones should be pursued.

- Memorial benches: Residents or businesses could purchase benches in honor of loved ones with an added fee to help pay for parks.

- Park sponsorships: Businesses could pay a fee to sponsor a park, which would include a small sign with the business name.

- Fence signs: Businesses could pay a fee to post a sign or banner on the fence at one of the parks. A design standard would be needed for uniformity.

- Park rentals: People could rent the parks for public and private events.

- Tournaments: The city could organize tournaments for various sports.

- Carnivals and fairs: The parks could host fund-raising events, such as holiday-inspired fairs that include vendors or performers. Guests and vendors would pay a fee.

- Adult sports leagues: The city could manage an adult league in which players are charged a fee. Concessions sold during the events would also benefit the parks.

- Yard sales: Unused or repurposed materials, such as old fencing, wood from fallen trees or compost from mainte-



Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

A memorial bench sits beside the Warrenton Waterfront Trail south of the bridge on Harbor Drive.

nance, could be sold.

- Donation boxes: Coin boxes could be placed at local businesses, trailheads, and at parks during heavy-use times.

- Kayak and bicycle rentals: Space could be leased to a vendor who would provide equipment for rent to tourists and residents.

- Food carts and stands: Food trucks could augment the concession stands or provide options at other parks with the vendor paying a fee for the privilege.

- Nonprofit options: Groups may be interested in helping the city maintain its parks or could obtain grants for park activities.

"An example of low-hanging

fruit is the kayak concession at Skipanon Park," Balensifer said. "We have a kayak dock built in accordance with the 2000 Vision Plan, yet we've never really marketed it as a kayak facility.

"We could provide an entrepreneurial opportunity for someone in the community or an existing business to rent kayaks there. The city makes money, the business makes money and people can still use the park for free. But if they don't own a kayak, they can now access one on site."

Other proposals, especially those requiring staff oversight, will be a harder discussion.

"Warrenton has grown much faster than the staff to support that growth," Balensifer said. "Nevertheless, I believe they are worth discussing to see if we can eek out some staff time to make it happen. I'm not afraid to say we may need to contract some help out, too. The important part is to move forward."

Many of the city's parks and park amenities have come through an endowment left by the late Quincy and Bessie Robinson.

The privately run trust built the soccer fields and community gardens, paid for new playground equipment and built the city's main park, which bears their name.

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