REDMOND CITY COUNCIL PARKS AND HUMAN SERVICES (PKHS) COMMITTEE/ SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY

Trestle Conference Room 15670 NE 85th Street, Redmond, Washington

Monday, August 5, 2013

Council:

David Carson Tom Flynn, Chair John Stilin **Staff:**

Carolyn Hope, Parks Planning/Cultural Arts Mgr B Sanders, Senior Planner Craig Larsen, Parks Director Josh Heim, Recreation Program Administrator Michelle M. Hart, MMC, City Clerk

Convened: 4:30 p.m. Adjourned: 5:27 p.m.

Committee Chair Tom Flynn, opened the meeting, announced the Council members in attendance, and overviewed the agenda.

Haida House Update

Ms. Carolyn Hope, Parks Planning and Cultural Arts Manager, provided an update on the completed roof restoration for the Haida House. Shatter-proof glass material will be added and the sculptures on the house will be refurbished. The sculpture refurbishment has been contracted out to Artech. Ms. Hope is working with the Landmarks Commission to make sure the restoration techniques are approved. The work is expected to be completed in 2013. The roof restoration was completed by the same contractor who constructed the Anderson Park picnic shelter.

General discussion ensued regarding if there was any video taken, if there are any glass windows that can be coated, and if the contractor would like to talk to the Historical Society?

Downtown Park Consultant Selection and Proposed Honoraria

Ms. B Sanders, Senior Planner, provided an update on the Downtown Park Consultant process. The Request for Qualifications was made on July 1, 2013. The effort was made to reach a national level of design firms. On the closing date of July 31, 2013, twenty-two (22) Statements of Qualifications were received from all over the country. The review panel, including staff members, the Arts Commission, the Parks and Trails Commission, and the Design Review Board, will narrow the submissions down to 3-5 firms. The process of choosing the winner starts with a competition where the firms are given a small project to work on in August and

September. On September 25-26, 2013, there will be an in-depth, two-day session. In the morning, the firms will take a tour of the downtown parks and historic sites, and in the afternoon, will work independently to incorporate what they learned from the tour into what they are presenting. Thursday morning will be a more traditional interview, and Thursday evening will be a public forum with a more formal interview. Since it is a long process, the firms will get an honorarium of \$10,000 each and will be reimbursed for a portion of their travel. The total cost for this process is approximately \$30,000 to \$60,000. The Approved Master Plan Budget is \$250,000; however, because this significant project involves making a signature location for the City and uses a public engagement process, Ms. Sanders recommended that the budget be increased to \$600,000.

General discussion ensued regarding the meeting location for the public forum; proposals becoming part of the public record; if there are more fees for an out-of-town company; and if Brown Street is going to be a connector to other trails.

East Rail Corridor Regional Advisory Committee Update

Ms. Carolyn Hope, Parks Planning and Cultural Arts Manager, provided an update on the East Rail Corridor Advisory Committee. All of the owners of the corridor have a representative and are working to collaborate regionally towards the goals for the corridor. The corridor will also feed the county trail master plan. Some of the ideas were:

- partnerships should move forward with regional connections
- signage and wayfinding
- regional characteristics
- funding opportunities
- recognize heritage and view corridors

The Technical Committee will be submitting recommendations in September 2013.

General discussion ensued regarding view corridors and how it affects property owners and how vegetation management is important to make sure the public can see the trail.

Farrel McWhirter Park Innovation Project

Ms. Carolyn Hope, Parks Planning and Cultural Arts Manager, discussed the arena renovation at Farrel McWhirter Park. Because the fence is not rounded off at the end like a typical arena, it is not safe for beginners and children to take lessons there. The other arena used is 15-20 minutes away which takes at least one-half hour out of class time just to get the horses and students to and from that arena. The proposal is to fix the fence, replace the footing material, add lights, and add some irrigation to control the dust. \$60,000 was awarded to complete the project. Ms. Hope is planning on submitting the permits in a week and start construction in October 2013. It should take three weeks to complete.

Sound Transit Art Guidelines

Mr. Josh Heim, Recreation Program Administrator, talked about how the Sound Transit Art is potentially the biggest investment in public art in one project. Having worked closely with Sound Transit, they created a set of priorities and guidelines for how the public art should express itself in the two Overlake Transit Stations. Mr. Heim worked internally with Planning, Public Works, Parks, and the Arts Commission to come up with an abbreviated set of guidelines.

- Emphasize the Overlake Village Station over the Overlake Transit Station
- Focus on gateway opportunities
- Use the pedestrian bridge for artwork
- Focus on residential commuters and the parking garage at the Overlake Transit Station

General discussion ensued regarding if Microsoft is going to help fund some of the art and if art should go on the pedestrian bridges.

New Poet Laureate Recommendations

Mr. Josh Heim, Recreation Program Administrator, recognized the recommended new Poet Laureate, Michael Dylan Welch. Mr. Welch curates poetry nights at the Redmond Association for Spoken Word and SoulFood Books. He sits on the Washington Association of Poets Board. He started a number of local literary events and operates a small press. Mr. Welch is known nationally for his haikus and one was featured on the back of a stamp. For the next year, he wants to focus on Poetry in the Parks at a City of Redmond park and a poem a week for the Redmond Library.

General discussion ensued regarding whether or not the City has documented what our Poet Laureates have accomplished.