

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

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

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Council:

David Carson
Tom Flynn, Chair
John Stilin
Hank Margeson (*Attending Council Member*)
Pat Vache (*Attending Council Member*)

Staff:

Carolyn Hope, Parks Planning/Cultural Arts Mgr
B. Sanders, Senior Planner, Parks
Alaric Bien, Senior Planner
Josh Heim, Recreation Program Administrator
Lisa Rhodes, Recreation Program Administrator
Colleen Kelly, Assistant Director of Community Planning
Mark Hickok, Recreation Division Manager
Michelle M. Hart, MMC, City Clerk

Convened: 4:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 5:32 p.m.

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

Winter Shelter

Mr. Alaric Bien, Senior Planner, stated that the men's shelter is planned to open November 15, 2013, at a building newly leased by Bellevue from Sound Transit. Bellevue will lease the building to the Congregations for the Homeless, who will run the shelter. The women's shelter opened on November 1, 2013, at the Redmond United Methodist Church. On December 15, 2013, through January 15, 2014, the women's shelter will be at the Redwood Family Church. The women's shelter will move to Bellevue First Congregational January 15, 2014, through March 2014.

Ms. Colleen Kelly, Assistant Director of Community Planning, stated that Sophia Way is in financial trouble, and may have to close down as an organization. They may consider offloading certain programs to other agencies, but that may not be tenable due to the lack of planning time. City of Redmond staff has been working with the other funders and staff at Sophia Way to see if there is a viable plan going forward, before the City can recommend additional dollars to the program. The new executive director is coming to the Council tonight, November 5, 2013, to share directly what the organization is up against. The organization is currently housing over 100 women in their programs. Ms. Kelly is not sure what the cause of the financial difficulties are; however, there has been a lot of turnover on the board and the executive director had to quit because of an illness.

Tennis Lessons Contract

Mr. Mark Hickok, Recreation Division Manager, reported that the Teenie Tennis contract will be presented to the Council at the December 3, 2013, meeting. The contract will bring a projected revenue of \$20,000 for the City.

Redmond Lights Update

Ms. Lisa Rhodes, Recreation Program Administrator, stated that the Redmond Lights Celebration will include the Redmond Central Connector grand opening. The Council is being asked to ride their bikes from City Hall to the old railroad trestle to kick off the luminary walk. There will be a virtual ribbon cutting with lights at the trestle opening because it will be dark. Artists and the former poet laureate will be on site.

New event elements:

- Carousel at the Redmond Marriott
- Life-size snow globe for picture taking
- Live reindeer and ice sculpting
- Surrey bike rides
- Bonfire
- Eastside Incubation and Ignition Fusion Fire Troupe are pending

2013 Sponsors: Swedish, Think Redmond, Home Depot, Genie Industries, ING Financials, Menchies, Whole Foods, Frontier Communications, and Smith Brothers Farms.

There will be no chili cook-off this year because it has become cost-prohibitive as health permits have risen 80 percent. There will be activities at City Hall, lighting will be refocused, some businesses on Leary Way will have discounts, and there will be some street closures.

General discussion ensued regarding which streets are closing.

Approval of Consultant Agreement for Downtown Park Master Planning Services

Ms. B. Sanders, Senior Planner, stated that the review panel for the Downtown Park consultant contained eight staff members; one member each from the Arts Commission, Parks and Trails Commission, and the Design Review Board; the Steering Committee and the public. The recommended consultant is PFS Studio from Vancouver, BC. A memo will be provided for the Council at the December 3, 2013, meeting. The budget for this is \$250,000, but the cost is likely to be more than that.

General discussion ensued regarding what the estimated cost over the budget will be, and where are the extra funds coming from.

Cultural Access Fund

Mr. Joshua Heim, Recreation Program Administrator, stated that the Cultural Access Fund is an initiative from the major arts organizations in Seattle and some eastside cities. It is a proposal to the Legislature to create and enable cultural access tax districts that are county-based. It will create a steady fund to keep doors open for arts facilities. The fund will come from a sales tax increase, and will provide free or reduced price access to arts programs.

General discussion ensued regarding if less people will come to Redmond if there are free arts programs in Seattle.

Tateuchi Center Resolution

Mr. Joshua Heim, Recreation Program Administrator, informed the Committee that during the next Arts Commission meeting they will deliberate on a resolution for the Council to support the Tateuchi Center in Bellevue. Microsoft is encouraging eastside cities to support the center because it may become a regional facility. The center can't raise enough money through private funding, so the hope is the county can designate some of the lodging tax to help fund the center. The Tateuchi Center plans to open in 2016.

General discussion ensued regarding if Redmond would have access to some of the same dollars that Bellevue is trying to receive. Has the county invested in facilities like this before? Is Seattle being asked to take a stance? What buildings are going to be torn down for this facility? Will there be any other complementary cultural buildings around it?

Arts Commission Name Change

Mr. Joshua Heim, Recreation Program Administrator, stated that the Arts Commission is interested in changing their name to the Arts and Cultural Commission. The reasoning is that arts and culture is closely related and integrated. The code has to be amended through an ordinance.

General discussion ensued regarding how culture is perceived in the community.

Authorize the Mayor to Accept a Grant from the Washington State Recreational Conservation Office for Redmond Central Connector Phase II (\$500,000)

Ms. Carolyn Hope, Parks Planning and Cultural Arts Manager, stated that the City of Redmond was awarded a \$500,000 grant. The grant contract will be brought to the Council for approval.