

City of Redmond  
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION

Redmond City Hall – Council Chambers  
15670 NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street, Redmond Washington

Thursday, February 2, 2012  
6:30 p.m.

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Meeting Convened: at 6:33 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Commissioners:

Mary Bourguignon, Chair  
Tina Sarin, Co-Chair  
Peter McDonald  
Cindy Jayne  
Tom Sanko  
Colin Worsley  
Sheri Sanders

Staff:

Carolyn Hope, Sr. Parks Planner  
Dave Tucheck, Park Operations Manager  
Mark Hickok, Recreation Division Manager  
Betty Sanders, Sr. Park Planner  
Jean Rice, Sr, Analyst  
Cindy Johnson, Recreation Supervisor

Absent and Excused: Ray Smalling

Audience – 0

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I. Call to order/Welcome to Citizen Guests

Mary Bourguignon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and welcomed Commissioners and staff members.

II. Approval of May Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Sanders to approve the January 5, 2012 minutes as amended by Commissioner Jayne.

Sections amended included section - Items from the Audience; Overlake Group Health site and Redmond Wild (please see attached).

Second by Co-Chair Sarin

Motion passed: 8-0

III. Items from the Audience

None

IV. New Business

A. Bond/Levy – Carolyn Hope

Ms. Hope gave a very brief presentation regarding the results of the bond/levy survey, adding that the questions were similar to the city-wide survey. Results of the two surveys were similar in response. Questions were focused on willingness to pay more to improve the City's parks and transportation system at a rate of \$150 per year, which is \$12.50 per month per household. The initial responses indicated that it was favorable at a rate of 49%. If approved to go before the public the City will be asking for a \$6M bond.

Ms. Hope went over the types of questions asked on the survey and discussed the results with the Commission. Staff has been met since the surveys were returned and have been discussing the best way to communicate with the City Council and citizens to get the message across. She added that the City has created a 20-year Comprehensive Plan for the city; noting that not all the projects in the Plan are funded. The document will be used as a resource in the upcoming CIP and budget process.

Ms. Rice noted that the total 20-year package for all disciplines (water, sewer, infrastructure, including parks) is approximately one-billion dollars. Noting that all projects are not funded and there is a big gap between the funded and non-funded projects.

Commissioners discussed the survey questions, results and demographics (wages, ages, social economic standing). Ms. Hope noted that the survey results were 90% accurate. Preservation, maintenance and safety ranked high on the funding scale.

Ms. Hope invited and encouraged Commissioners to attend the February 14 Council meetings where funding strategies will be discussed.

Ms. Hope reported that the Planning Dept. will be holding three neighborhood network meetings in February and March – February 23, March 1 and March 7, City Hall Building, 7:30 p.m. She added that these meetings would be an excellent opportunity to network with the community.

Ms. Rice responded that a reminder and any attachments would be emailed out to the Commission before the 14<sup>th</sup> for their information.

Mr. Tucheck noted that although Redmond has done an excellent job maintaining its current parks system, it is becoming increasingly difficult with the uncontrolled increases in costs by outside vendors. He added that the long-term capital outlook and renovation is a problem.

Ms. Hope added that the projected 6-year revenue stream indicates that funding for parks will barely meet minimum standards due to the economical downturn.

B. Awards – Co-Chair Sarin

Co-Chair Sarin addressed the Commission on the idea of nominating the Redmond Central Connector for the National Trails Award. She noted that the nomination is not due until October, but wanted Commissioners and staff to be aware of it.

Ms. Sarin will share the information with the Commission via email or the website to access the information is [www.americantrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org). There are a number of trail categories available to apply for.

C. Nominations for Vice-Chair

Chair Bourguignon reminded the Commission of the upcoming election for Vice-Chair. Chair Bourguignon's term on the Commission will end on March 3, at which time Vice Chair Sarin will be the newly appointed Chair. Nominations for a new Vice Chair should be emailed to Sharon at [ssato@redmond.gov](mailto:ssato@redmond.gov) and elections will take place at the next meeting.

Deadline for nominations is slated for February 27 midnight.

V. Old Business

A. Youth Advocate Application/Paul DeWater - Bourguignon

Paul DeWater, a senior at Redmond High School, submitted his application for one of the vacant Youth Advocate positions in December January 2012.

Co-Chair Sarin made a motion to accept Paul DeWater as the Commission's new youth advocate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McDonald. Commissioners unanimously voted in favor of Paul assignment.

Paul's term will begin on March 12012 and end June 2013. He will be invited to attend his first meeting on March 1, 2012.

The Commission continues to seek out youth volunteers for the remaining one vacancy through area schools, newspapers, website, Facebook,

B. Downtown Park Acquisition Update - Rice

Ms. Rice reported that, thus far, the City had acquired all the properties that they were seeking except for one building. Negotiations are still taking place with one property owner.

The city is receiving lease revenue from the properties/buildings that the city has acquired. The revenue will be used to maintain the buildings.

Decisions about the future of the buildings will take place sometime at the end of the year.

C. Commissioner Openings

Chair Bourguignon informed the Commission that currently there is one position that has been available for sometime and another will become available after March 31<sup>st</sup>. One vacancy is specific to a resident and the other a non-resident position with a Redmond address.

Commissioners discussed places and methods to advertise the vacancies. Ideas included – OFC Trilogy, library, e-news letters (Redmond West LL, Redmond East LL, Equestrian Society, and Cascade Bike), parks (Grass Lawn, Perrigo, and Watershed bulletin boards), reach out to seniors, teams and leagues, recreation groups, and at the community center through recreation programs.

Commissioners would like to get a more diverse age (seniors and teens) range for the open positions.

VI. Project/Commission Updates

A. Outdoor Programs – Cindy Johnson

Ms. Johnson, Recreation Program Administrator, gave a brief overview of some of the programs being offered in Recreation for the coming months. Brochures for each program were made available.

Juel Garden – Ms. Johnson reported that this spring the City's community garden program will be in its third year of operation. The program began in spring 2010; a partnership between the Recreation and Park Operations Divisions. The program started with 38 garden plots and 22 gardeners; this year Recreation has worked with Park Operations to expand the existing garden plots to 55 and currently have 32 gardeners, with 23 plots still available. All plots are surrounded with deer fencing and water easily accessible. Ms. Johnson noted that some participants garden year round. Information is posted on the City's website, Facebook, and bulletin boards.

Farrel McWhirter Park – Ms. Johnson reported that the FM Pre-school Program runs from September thru May and current enrollment is 54 families. Three different classes- Recreative Play, Pre-school Adventures and Pre-K are offered two to three times a week. Registration is now in progress.

Outdoor Pre-School – this program has no physical indoor space or classroom; each parent needs to provide recommended clothing for their child in case of adverse weather. Tuesdays and Thursdays the 2.5 hour class is held outside in the outdoor classroom area located on the northern perimeter of park.

Equestion Program – the Farrel McWhirter riding school is a program that offers a set curriculum. Student start in the entry class and then advance through levels;

students start as young as 2 (2-5 years of age) with the Pre-School Pony Pal Program. Classes offer students the opportunity to learn how to groom, increments of short rides, and then will eventually advance to the 4-7 year olds program and 9-12 years old. Once graduated student can join the Riding Club where in exchange for volunteering time they will get riding lessons from staff members. Adult equestrian programs are offered as well.

Ms. Johnson handed out information brochures.

B. Spiritbrook Park – B. Sanders

Ms. Sanders reported that the park is near completion. Park Operations staff is currently in the planting stage which is one of the last steps to completion.

Ms. Sanders reported that a specialized drainage field was put into place to remedy the field/neighborhood drainage problem that has, in the past, been a problem on the park site.

Temporary fencing will be put into place, for approximately two months, to protect the field, however when the remaining site work is complete the park will be open to the public. A six-inch vertical curb will be installed to protect the park grounds from unwanted auto entry into the grassy/playfield area.

C. Downtown Park - Sanders

Ms. Sanders reported that the planning process for the park has begun.

Staff is brainstorming -

- 1 +/- acre park – how to use and activate the space.
- Improvements – something to do or park amenities (benches, tables)
- Kick-off long range planning for the future park
- Start master planning process

Commissioners brainstormed ideas for proposed activities at the park – picnic, Bochi Ball, chess set, temporary art).

D. Dudley Carter Park – Carolyn Hope

Ms. Hope gave the Commission a brief update on Dudley Carter Park. She reported that staff was working on a 4-Culture grant to replace the roof on the Haida House. Letters of support for the grant have been received.

Ms. Hope reported that interested parties had expressed interest in dedicating the park. Ms. Hope has been working with these individuals and staff to what this might entail. A possible September date has been tentatively agreed upon for a soft opening to bring awareness of the park to citizens. Music, crafts, and carvings

by the Snoqualmie Tribe have been suggested as possible events as part of the dedication.

E. Redmond Central Connector – Carolyn Hope

Ms. Hope reported that 60% plans were due at the end of February at which time she will be bringing those plans to the March Commission meeting.

VII. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner McDonald

Second: Commissioner Sanders

Motion carried: 8-0

Next Commission Meeting

March 1, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Council Conference Room