

City of Redmond
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION

Redmond City Hall – Council Chambers
15670 NE 85th Street, Redmond Washington

Thursday, May 3, 2012
6:30 p.m.

Meeting Convened: at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Commissioners:

Tina Sarin, Chair
Tom Sanko, Co-Chair
Cindy Jayne
Sheri Sanders
Peter McDonald
Colin Worsley
Nicholas Lee (newly appointed Commissioner)

Staff:

Carolyn Hope, Sr. Parks Planner
Betty Sanders, Sr. Park Planner
Teresa Kluver, Park Operations Supervisor
Sharon Sato, Parks Planning Division Dept. Coordinator

Youth Advocate

Paul DeWater

Absent: Ray Smalling

Audience – Tom Hinman. Anton de Leon, David Chicks

I. Call to order/Welcome to Citizen Guests

Ms. Sarin called the May 2012 Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed guests, commissioners, and staff members.

Chair Sarin introduced and welcomed Nicholas Lee, newly appointed commission member. Commission members and staff introduced themselves, highlighting their favorite recreational activity. Commissioner Lee works in the private sector as a strategic planner.

II. Approval of April Minutes

Motion by Vice Chair Sanko to approve April minutes as transcribed
Second by Commissioner Worsley
Approved Unanimously 7-0

III. Items from the Audience

David Chicks, Redmond resident handed out a map pinpointing the proposed trail connection at the northeast corner of the Grass Lawn neighborhood. Mr. Chicks then addressed the Commission regarding his trail proposal idea. He asked the Commission to

consider his proposal to build a stairway at the end of 86th to NE 87th Street. He stated that the current connection of the existing informal trail is inaccessible by bike due to its condition.

He asked the Commission to consider his proposal because of its vital connection to Redmond. Staff will pass Mr. Chicks recommendation on to Transportation Planning, who will be contacting him about the proposal, as they have already included a similar proposal in the Transportation Master Plan.

Tom Hinman, Redmond resident inquired about last month's minutes. Mr. Hinman, who attended last month's meeting, asked to review his comments for accuracy.

IV. New Business

A. New Parks Commissioners

Chair Sarin reported that two new commissioners were selected to fill the two positions (one currently vacant and one pending) and would be attending the June meeting. One new commissioner is a resident outside city limits with a Redmond address and the other is an inside city limits resident. Both will be attending the June Commission meeting.

Commissioner Smalling Resignation

Chair Sarin also announced that Commissioner Smalling had resigned his position on the Commission due to conflicts.

Commission Training Opportunity

Ms. Hope offered an opportunity for existing and new commissioners to learn about the rights and responsibilities of serving as a commissioner. She offered this as a good refresher for existing commissioners and training for new commissioners to learn about the rights and responsibilities of serving on a city commission/board. The training will be approximately one hour meeting and will be scheduled in the near future. Training will also include learning about the organization of the city departments and boards and commissions and their responsibilities, the roles and responsibilities of the Parks and Trails Commission and a review of master planning, the Comprehensive Plan, the PARCC Plan, and the City code.

Ms. Hope will contact Commissioners on a mutually agreed date and time.

B. Presentation on Mountain Bike Trails

Presentation moved to future meeting.

C. July Parks and Trails Commission Meeting

Chair Sarin noted that July's meeting would fall during the 4th of July holiday. She asked Commissioners to email her letting her know if they will be available to attend

the July 5th meeting and if not suggest another day that month, that would work better.

Chair Sarin will contact Commissioner once all feedback is received and a decision has been made on a date.

D. RYPAC Youth Summit/Potential Youth Advocate Candidate

Vice Chair Sanko introduced Anton de Leon. Both attended the Redmond Youth Partnership Action Committee Youth Summit which was held during the last week of April. Anton is sophomore at Redmond High School and is interested in the vacant Youth Advocate position. He was asked to submit his application to Parks Planning staff via email.

E. Commission Talk Time

Commissioner Sanders:

- Volks March Association

Commissioner Sanders reported that this world-wide organization promotes healthier living through walking. Routes are planned and participants are encouraged to log in their walking miles once completed. Often during weekend events medals are given out to participants that finish. She noted that on the weekend of May 5th a Volks March would be taking place beginning at Snoqualmie Ridge.

- Signage

Commissioner Sanders reported about an article (Guerrilla Student Project to Encourage Walking Gains Support – 04/29/12) she read in last week's Seattle Times. The article was written about "new healthy community effort encouraging people to walk their cities" and discussed how walking through the promotion of signs encouraged individuals to walk more and to their intended destinations.

Commissioners Sanders noted that she enjoyed the new directional signs in Redmond and how helpful they were to walkers. She also noted that a directional/mileage signs would be helpful at Redmond Town Center or on the Sammamish River Trail.

Ms. Hope noted that the Sr. Center had worked with the regional chapter of Volks to hold walks. Senior Center interest encouraged the creation of two new walking maps – East Redmond and West Redmond which focuses on the downtown area and Education Hill neighborhoods. All routes are pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Ms. Hope also noted that a new city transit/bicycle map had just been completed as well.

F. Redmond Wild

Commissioner Jayne reported that in the past month 20 Redmond parks had become certified wildlife habitats. To celebrate certifications a Redmond Wild Tour has been set up for June 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. starting at Grass Lawn Park, this tour will focus on private residences. There will be another tour for downtown Redmond (balconies in high rises, school – Einstein Elementary, and Water Conservation Rain Garden on the Sammamish River Trail – off the NE 8th Street Bridge). A map will be provided.

Commission Jayne added that the category of public spaces had been fulfilled however certification is being sought for private residences (80 more houses).

G. RYPAC – Youth Summit

Vice Chair Sanko reported that approximately 200 students (8th grade to high school seniors) attended the one day summit held at the city's recreation center - Old Redmond School House Community Center. Ken Wong, Teen Program Administrator/Manager, organized the event along with students. One of the topics of concern was the ability for students to travel from one facility to another (orientation of teen facilities from one another has been a problem).

Students also voiced concern about the condition of the basketball courts at Hartman Park.

H. Talk Time Assignments for June

Peter McDonald and Colin Worsley

Commissioner McDonald voiced his concern about the amount of pedestrian and types of use (equestrian, biking, walkers, runners) and safety on the Sammamish River Trail.

Ms. Hope noted that the trail would be center striped again this year.

V. Old Business

No new Business items

VI. Project Updates/Commission Updates

A. Green Redmond Partnership

Ms. Kluver gave a brief update and Powerpoint presentation on the Green Redmond Partnership. She gave a brief summary on the background of the organization and reported on the City's partnership with Forterra - 2 year contract (aka Cascade Land Conservancy), 20-Year Forest Management Plan, volunteer statistics, forest restoration, funding efforts, the Forest Stewardship Program, participants in the program and partnerships (REI, Mountains to Sound, Starbucks, and EarthCorps).

Ms. Kluver reported that success in outreach (diversity – young, old, families, ethnicities) is a primary goal. She noted that a session to train Forest Stewards would take place on June 2nd. For the spring and summer months a work party will be held at a designated park the last Saturday of each month ending in October.

Information (20-Year Plan) can be accessed at www.greenredmond.org.

B. Redmond Downtown Central Connector

Ms. Hope reported that the Redmond Central Connector Plan review is at 90% design completion. She went over the plan and highlighted some of the specific amenities of the trail project such as lighting, staircase; wayfinding signs, landscaping, rain gardens, art, and parking lot.

Ms. Hope invited Commissioners to attend the City sponsored Walk and Talk Connect Redmond event on May 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Veloce - 8102 161st Avenue NE, Redmond. Mayor John Marchione, John Fleming – artist, Craig Larsen – Parks Director, Guy Michaelson – Berger Partnership and Parks staff will be in attendance. Mr. Fleming will discuss his art concepts. A reception will follow the walk at the Veloce. A few of Mr. Fleming's art pieces will be available for viewing. Free admission.

C. Downtown Park

Ms. Sanders reported that the city will wait to implement the new plan after the last four buildings onsite have been demolished (buildings will be demolished around the first part of 2013). Ms. Sanders reported that if budget is approved the interim plan will begin construction spring 2013. She noted that, at this time, staff is focusing on event planning for the site. Staff is considering the City's first "Summer in the Park" programs beginning Sunday, July 15 as part of the Derby Days celebration. Ms. Sanders asked the Commission for their ideas:

- Teen Tuesday – non-competitive programs, interactive, music (bands), learning experience (Bocce Ball, croquet)
- Senior Night
- Family Night – early evening programs – 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Movies
- Special Artists – Lucia Neare's Theatrical Wonders

D. Spiritbrook Park

Ms. Sanders reported that she is working on the opening day celebration. She noted that a tentative date during the week of June 11 had been suggested. Ms. Sanders will coordinate with the staff at Ben Rush Elementary School to make sure it does not interrupt the school's planned year-end activities. Ideas for the celebration would be a small barbeque and/or neighborhood picnic.

Information will be sent through the school's PTSA's weekly newsletter.

E. Group Health Site Update

Ms. Sanders followed up on the concerns raised by resident, Mr. Tom Hinman at the April meeting, regarding how the Parks and Trails Commission has been involved in selecting tree mitigation sites for the Group Health site. Ms. Sanders explained the City's process for reviewing private development proposals. She explained that due to the size and complexity of the site, the owner developed a master plan for the site, which was the basis for a development agreement with the City. This was signed at the end of 2011.

Ms. Sanders explained that the Commission does not directly review private development however Commission decision such as proposing locations of future trails or parks may impact developer plans. Parks staff members are involved in a cross-departmental team that reviews private development applications.

Discussion took place.

VII. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner McDonald

Second: Commissioner Sanders

Motion carried: 7-0

Next Commission Meeting

June 6, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Council Conference Room