

City of Redmond
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION

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

Thursday, May 5, 2011
6:30 p.m.

Meeting Convened: at 6:31 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Commissioners

Cindy Jayne, Chair
Mary Bourguignon, Vice Chair
Peter McDonald
Colin Worsley
Tom Sanko
Ray Smalling
Tina Sarin
Sheri Sanders

Staff

Craig Larsen, Director of Parks & Recreation
Jean Rice, Park Analyst
B Sanders, Sr. Parks Planner
Carolyn Hope, Sr. Parks Planner
Dave Tuchek, Parks Operations Division Manager
Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Division Manager
Mark Hickok, Asst. Recreation Division Manager
Sharon Sato, Dept. Coordinator

Youth Advocates

Ganesan and Lin

Audience – 0

I. Call to order/Welcome to Citizen Guests

Commission Chair Jayne called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. welcoming Commission members and staff.

II. Approval of April 7, 2011 Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Bourguignon to approve the April 7, 2011 as presented.
Second by Commissioner Smalling
Motion to approve minutes carried: 7-0

III. Items from the Audience

None

IV. New Business

A. Elections

Commissioners nominated and unanimously voted to approve the appointment of Commissioner Sarin as the new (2011-2012) Commission vice-chair.

V. Old Business

A. Discussion – Does PTC Support a Bond? (handout)

Chair Jayne asked for further discussion and input by Commissioners on the proposed bond/levy and MPD initiative. She opened discussion on the Commission's general comments and thoughts.

Q – When would any measure (MPD/Levy/Bond) go on the ballot?

A - Potential for the primary of 2012 (August or November).

Q - Percentages needed to pass a measure.

A - MPD – simple majority, Levy – simple majority, and Bond – 60%.

Q – MPD no longer an option?

A - Complex campaign, other jurisdictions to “weigh in” (Kirkland, King County, Bellevue). Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of an MPD and proposed costs (dollars per year, per household – would people be willing to contribute, timing, increase taxes).

Q – Would people be willing to contribute in times of economic hardships?

A – Dependant and how the package is put together and presentation (responsibility for the future, taking care of what we have, stewards of Redmond, invest in our community to ensure strength and sustainability). Combination of projects. Take care of existing amenities, rather than acquiring new amenities. Scale to community needs – something for everyone.

Commissioners agreed that more community is necessary before a determination can be made as to whether a bond/levy/MPD measure would be most beneficial to the community. A decision will be determined by November 2011 in order to move forward in 2012. Education throughout the year is important. Commissioners felt that an informational packet would be beneficial in educating the public.

B. Discussion – Data Collection

Chair Jayne summarized the goals in past data gathering efforts – what has been collected and what data is important and worthwhile.

Ms. Rice gave the Commission a handout of a summary of the data collected and an overview of the information collected by the department (how, why, when, where – very specific). Provides determination on costs, scheduling, budgets, maintenance and operation costs, and planning.

Recreation Data – Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Division Manager (handout)

Ms. Bettencourt gave an overview of the types of information Recreation uses to operate Recreation programs and facilities (program management, facilities needs, budget planning, decision making, volunteer management, performance measures, goals and priorities). Surveys establish initiative priorities in areas of weakness and shape future programming goals.

Parks Planning Data – Carolyn Hope, Sr. Parks Planner (handout)

Ms. Hope reported that the information gathered by the Parks Planning group has been used to develop the PARCC (Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture, Conservation) Plan and community indicator reports, cost benefit ratio, park and trails in the system, park inventory (miles of trails, parks and acreage acquired). Data collected by Recreation (CLASS data base) is always a primary source of information as well. Parks data has been collected by some Commissioner and public volunteers to improve the Parks Dept. level of service.

Ms. Hope also added that surveys were utilized when updating the PARCC Plan (park usages) and a survey that the City of Redmond does every other year is also used in meeting community needs and demands.

Commissioners brainstormed ideas to more effectively gather data in a more efficient and convenient way.

C. Recreation Programming – Outdoor/Sport – Jeff Hagen, Sports Program Administrator (Handout)

Mr. Hagen gave an update on the status of the city's sports programs in Recreation. He noted that the community is supportive of parks and recreation programs, facilities are outstanding and great volunteers.

Mr. Hagen gave a brief overview of the outdoor/sports programming:

- Fields are always in high demand
- Spring, summer and fall – no space available
- Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays
- Users – programs, rentals, community agreements
- Hartmand Park – men's baseball, soccer, kickball, Redmond West Little League programs, adaptive recreation, softball, rentals – Select Baseball, football), Lake Washington Youth Soccer, Adult Soccer Leagues, Cricket League, High School – softball and baseball, tennis
- Grass Lawn Park – evening adult leagues, adaptive recreation programming, camps and clinics, adult soccer, LWYSA, senior softball groups (year-round), tennis, senior tennis, junior high and high school teams, picnics, drop-ins
- Reservoir Park – junior high and high school
- Perrigo – tennis, senior tennis

Programs, Rental Revenues, Participations

Mr. Hagen reported that in 2009 new fields were installed and the revenue for Grass Lawn Park increased from \$77k to \$110k, booking the fields year round. Fields and facilities are carefully programmed so that space is utilized to accommodate as many in the best way possible. 90% of rentals/users/leagues work or reside in Redmond. Mr. Hagen reported that annually the number of teams have stayed the same, but have doubled since 1999.

Outdoor Space – What’s missing?

- Unable to host tournaments
- Cricket and LaCrosse Field Options
- Space for Adult League Growth and Demand
- Turf at Hartman Park
- Tennis Courts/covered

Indoor Space – What’s Missing?

- Good quality indoor surface issues
- Availability (after school child care)
- Inadequate equipment
- Construction
- School activities
- Parking
- Storage
- Exercise/fitness rooms
- Basketball and volleyball courts
- Showers and locker rooms
- Sports training spaces
- Versatile training space

Marymoor Park

- Improve communication
- Partnershiping – programs, events, tournaments

Fitness Initiative

- Expand Fitness/wellness classes
- Employee fitness/wellness
- Market and promote healthy options
- Fitness at parks and recreation sites
- Community fitness related to recreation/park events

D. Comprehensive Plan – Carolyn Hope, Sr. Parks Planner

Ms. Hope reported that the Comprehensive Plan would be going before the Planning Commission in six weeks with a targeted adoption at the end of the year.

Ms. Hope gave a brief update on the revisions to the Plan per staff's and Commission recommendations which include:

- Addition of the Watershed Preserve
- Updating goals
- Adding a fitness aspect
- Improving health through programming
- Increase activities through parks and trails (re-word)
- Adding – “all types of modes of travel”
- Reduce conflicts between trail users and other users
- Increase in community use – school sites fro community use
- More than sports

VI. Old Business

A. Redmond Central Connector – Carolyn Hope, Sr. Parks Planner

Ms. Hope reported that plan is in its conceptual design phase; the final version in 2012. The City Council will consider adoption of the plan on June 7. The Mayor's Reception for the RCC will be held on the same evening (June 7). The design phase will begin in late summer or early fall of 2011. She reported that construction would begin sometime in 2012.

Update on the STB hearing in Washington, DC (a legal proceeding involving GNP Railroad). Ms. Hope reported that a decision would be made sometime in June.

B. National Trails Day

No scheduled National Trails Day event planned this year. However, staff reported that there are several ways to participate in the event either locally, within other jurisdictions (King County, Kirkland, Sammamish, Bellevue), or on your own.

C. Plant a Seed Presentation – Jean Rice, Dept. Analyst

Ms. Rice passed out the update Plant a Seed Presentation schedule and briefed the Commission on the changes (additions – times/dates, deletions).

VII. Project Updates/Commission Updates

A. First “Plant a Seed” presentations – Commissioners Sanko and Jayne

Commissioner Sanko reported on his presentation to the Ben Rush PTSA. He reported that there were approximately 30-40 individuals in attendance, including teachers and parents. He felt that those that voiced their opinion were interested in maintaining current park inventory, new and existing trail connections, and aquatics center (pool discussion was highly discussed).

Commissioner Jayne reported that her presentation to the Sustainable Redmond group went well; members were interested in more trail connections and an aquatic center.

Commissioners felt the survey needed to be more concise, shortened, and have more information (dollars per household, per year and what do you get for \$\$\$).

VIII. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner McDonald to adjourn.

Second by Commissioner Bourguiguin

Motion carried: 7-0

Next Commission Meeting

June 2, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Redmond City Hall

Council Conference Room