City of Redmond
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION

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

Thursday, November 3, 2011
6:30 p.m.

Meeting Convened: at 6:33 p.m. | Meeting Adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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

Staff:
Craig Larsen, Parks and Recreation Director
Carolyn Hope, Sr. Parks Planner
B Sanders, Sr. Parks Planner
Jean Rice, Dept. Financial Analyst
Dave Tuchek, Parks Maitenance Manager

Audience – 1

I. Call to order/Welcome to Citizen Guests

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

II. Approval of May Minutes

Motion by Commissioner McDonald to approve the October 6, 2011 minutes as presented.
Second by Co-Chair Sarin
Motion passed: 8-0

III. Items from the Audience

Mr Harrison, a Redmond resident and certified professional Horticulturist, came to speak to the Commission as a representative for Sustainable Redmond.

Mr.Harrison thanked Commissioners for volunteering their time to represent citizens of Redmond and congratulated the City of Redmond and the Parks Department for being voted one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in the United States.

Mr. Harrison complimented the efforts that the Parks Dept. had put toward on the Grass Lawn Park project. He noted that the Parks Department has high qualtiy standards and added the efforts that Parks had placed on the sustainable features, such as the Rain Garden, was very commendable.

Mr. Harrison requested the Commission take further steps to ensure that the all city park properties become enitrely pesticide free parks. He then read the definition of "pesticide free" as practiced by King County. He asked that the City be a front runner in other innovated practices to control weeds and insects on publicly used areas.

Dave Tuchek, Parks Operations Manager, was asked to address Mr. Harrison's concerns. Mr. Tuchek stated that the City has had two pesticide free parks in the City's parks system for sometime now – Nike and Viewpoint Parks. In the past two year Perrigo and Grass Lawn have become pesticide free Parks. He noted that in extreme cases a pesticide might be used to eliminate wasp nests or control rodent; with minimal use of Round-Up. He added that emphasis is placed on hand pulling weeds, mulch and overplanting to squeeze out weeds.

Mr. Tuchek will email a document to Commissioners containing information regarding practices used by the department to encourage and maintain pesticide free practices. He offered to return with a more indepth report at a future meeting.

IV. New Business

A. RYPAC/Commission Potluck for December

Chair Bourguignon asked Commissioners to check their calendars for availability for December 1 @ 5:00 p.m. for the joint RYPAC and Parks & Trails Commission potluck.

Commissioners are to email Sharon Sato, Parks Planning Dept. Coordinator, to r.s.v.p. More information will follow via email as it gets closer to the date of the potluck.

B. Artist Selection for the Redmond Central Connector with the Arts Commission

Arts Commission members joined the Parks & Trails Commission to listen and discuss the artist selection for the Redmond Connector. Chair Bourguignon welcomed the Arts Commission (RAC).

Mr. Heim, Arts Administrator, reported that he had advertised for a Call for Artists. The "call" produced 30 initial applicants; three out of the 30 were selected as finalists by a selection panel of six professionals. The panel included City staff, a landscape architect, Arts Commissioners, Parks & Trails Commissioner, Microsoft Art Curator, and Artist.

Mr. Heim gave a brief overview of the selected artist, Mr. John Flemming. Mr. Heim reported that Mr. Flemming is an architect and artist who create works that are architecturally and environmentally directed and the majority of his works are created with recycled materials. One of Mr. Flemming's most recognizable art pieces is the "Grass Blades" on the Seattle Center's north side, which was installed in 2002.

Mr. Flemming was selected due to his experience, his use of recycled materials, his locale (Seattle), his unique creativity, his understanding of the entire workings of the project, inspiration, human element in his art (watching, touching), experience, artist/designer/architect collarboration, his technique of integrating art art into design, connection to the master plan, perception of all art, and broad spectrum thinking.

Mr. Heim gave a PowerPoint presentation of Mr. Flemings' work which demonstrated design and art into his pieces. The artwork demonstrated his uses of recycled materials into design, longevity of art, and outcome of his beautiful artwork.

The art piece will be 161st and 164th, promenade (per master plan) which is the Key area focus due to the "ffot" traffic expected to that site over the next few years.

Chair Bourguignon asked Mr. Heim if a motion would be appropriate to show the Commissions approval for the chosen artist.

Motion by Parks and Trails Commissioner McDonald, on behalf of the Parks & Trails Commission, to approve John Fleming as the artist for the RCC project as recommended by the selection panel.
Second by Parks and Trails Commissioner Co-Chair Sarin.
Unanimous 8-0.

Motion by Arts Chair McCune, on behalf of the Arts Commission to approve John Fleming as the artist for the RCC project, as recommended by the selection panel.
Second by Arts Co-Chair Leavitt.
Unanimous: 9-0.

A joint recommendation was made from the Arts Commission and the Parks & Trails Commission to accept the review panel's recommendation to approve Mr. Flemming as the selected artist and award the commission to him. If approved by the Commissions, the next step will be approval by the City Council.

V. Old Business

A. Redmond Central Connector 30% Plan Review – Carolyn Hope

Ms. Hope brought the 30% plans to the meeting which was presented to the Commission in a Powerpoint presentation. Ms. Hope noted that the comment period for the 30% design would be two weeks. Ms. Hope will post the plans on Monday, November 7 and invited the Commissioners to make comments within a two week comment period.

The 30% design included:

- Sammamish River Trail – ramp up to RCC (trestle across the river)

- Ties – key design element repeated throughout as part of the identity of the Connector (more detail in the 60% plan) Ties are significant to tie the linear space together.
- Stairway at Redmond Way and to the west (depending on level of grade if rail is put in) depending on the geometrics of the trail
- East of Redmond Way – gravel stormwater maintenance road turned into a creative pathway
- Stairway near Redmond 160 – two more ties – level to adjacent property
- Sweeping trail to the existing intersection of Bear Creek Parkway and 161st.
- Series of islands and eddies to maintain you are still on the trail
- New improvements along 161st
- Station area block (old King County Shop site)
- Temporaty public parking lot – integrate with Connector
- Opportunities along trail for LID (from trail or adjacent properties)
- Leary Way – change traffic flow (two lanes north), proposal to drop second lane northbound at 176th and adding an island to accommodate a bike with trailer
- 164th Avenue NE extension – "punch through" by Hobby Town
    - Raised cross walk and mini-round about at intersection, no light
- Trees along 176th right-of-way undisturbed
- 166th - TC Open Space plaza – opportunity site for integrated art or art piece
- Enlarge island and crossing at one-way traffic
- 170th redesign to signalized intersection (Bartells, Red Robin area - working driveway out of Bartells)
- Trail crosses and eventually hook up to Bear Creek Trail
    - Information kiosk, signage
- Speed limits – straight 15 mph, downtown curves 7 mph (all downtown will be paved in 1st phase to Sammamish River Trestle – from Bear Creek Trail)

B. <u>Prepare for Joint PTC/Council Meeting</u>

Chair Bourguignon announced the date of the joint Parks and Trails Commission and City Council meeting for Tuesday, November 29. The Council is interested in what the Commission's future plans are and will discuss the potential ballot measures.

Ms. Hope reiterated some of the issues from prior meetings and focus group discussions. She suggested reviewing the goals of funding strategy (needs, proposed approach and steps to implement) to prepare for the joint meeting.

Goals – symbols, departmental, mayor's and community goals through Park Plan meetings, City's Comprehensive Plan and community meetings.

Need – Revenue and meeting levels of service (LOS) – population boom - $1.2M collected, as an average, over the next 6 years. Ms. Hope pointed out that this would only provide maintenance on existing projects, not enough to develop any new facilities.

- Tax Increase – Voter approved tax hike. (6 year, plus limitation on what to ask for) When compared to other cities on eastside Redmond has the lowest tax rate per household on the east side – rate applied to the value of home.
- Bonds (10-20 year bond, the larger the bond the less impact there will be on the homeowner, 60% voter approval), capital bonds and
- MPD – inside or beyond city limits, perpetual taxing district, 50% + 1 voter approval and can raise money for operational and capital projects
- Ballot measure – what to fund (PARCC Plan priority list, CIP)
- Capital bonds or Levy Lift
- Ballot measure – how much would you be willing to pay? Less than $10 or more than $100?
- Low proverty rate in Redmond
- Redmond receives $8 out of the total collect amount of taxes collected from each household

Ms. Hope gave statistics of levies, bonds and elections results from previous election in King County.

Voting Trends – Jean Rice and Carolyn Hope

- Council wants to know where the funding gaps are and what funding needs there are.

Through activities (Derby Days) and Plant a Seed presentations the city has been able to reach out to over 250 people.

Derby Days Booth & Plant a Seed Presentations Results

Percentage of citizens that would fund park related projects:

% of citizens	Funding
33%	Fund RCC @ $2 per year, per household
20%	Community Park renovations and other project @ $22 per year, per household
22%	Neighborhood Parks @ $4 per year, per household
23%	Aquatic/Recreation Center @ $120 per year per household
2%	Would not fund any parks at all

Focus Groups

- Facilitated by EMC Survery Group
- Two groups of 8 people
- Key message – Redmond is a great place to live, small town feel, easy access to jobs, transit options, more affordable, safe, clean, beautiful, great parks, good transportation system
- Did not rate construction problems high
- Did not know what city services were – hard to distinguish city, county projects
- Happy in Redmond, appreciate high quality of life
- Problem - most people in established neighborhoods with existing parks do not see a problem in lack of parks related services or facilities
- Need to be clear and concise and reach out to citizens to show there is a need
- Reach out to show there is a need – current and future needs to accommodate future growth in populations

EMC will be going to Council Study Session on November 22, 2011 Council Study Session. EMC will be giving the results of the survey and be making a recommendation to Council on next steps. The statisically valid survey will be the key element in evaluating funding and provide information as to:

- Determing public support
- Timing
- Cost per household
- Length of measure
- Projects
- Information to support measure

Next Steps

January – Survey
March – Recommendation to City Council
April – Public Outreach
May – Final Recommendation to Council
June – Council Action

Chair Bourguignon suggested that discussion between the Commission and Council should focus on what was learned, what was done, how the Commission has reached out to neighbors and where they need to focus on next. Chair Bourguignon suggested the Commission should focus on; 1) what is in the PARCC Plan and how were needs assessed, 2) what are the community's comments and, 3)what would the Council like the Commission to do in the future .

Commissioner Sanders will be addressing the current demand for fields and facilities not being met and Commissioner Sanko will address the Commission's visioning the future (addressing comments from Plant a Seed Presentations).

Commissioner Jayne felt that addressing the need to go forward (see the need, see the opportunity, but is the timing is not quite right) with the survey was very important and should be emphasized. Commissioner McDonald emphasized legacy to the next generations (stewardship). Commissioner Smalling will research bonds, MPDs, and levys.

A final list will be put together assigning remaining Commissioners specific topics of discussion.

Commissioners further discussed subjects for the upcoming joint meeting. Chair Bourguignon will email assigned discussion items to each Commissioner.

Ms. Hope will email the PowerPoint presentation to each Commissioner.

VI. Project Updates/Reviews

A. Teen Programs – Ken Wong

Mr. Wong began by stating that the Teen Program has evolved and staff continues to evaluate the needs of the community. He commended the Commission for being very supportive of teen programs. Teen programs have been in service for 19 years.

Mr. Wong reported that access to services for teens has been satisfied by levy dollars (such as the After School Program for teens), this enables the City to reach out to teens who in many cases would not be able to access this program. RYPAC meets with the school district's superintendent once a month to work on issues to best serve teens in the community.

Mr. Wong discussed the social and economic issues that the community faces, how RYPAC and other teen programs are meeting those needs and how those programs have been meeting the needs of the entire community. As an example; pilot programs that go into the community to serve teen economic, social and educational needs.

Mr. Wong noted that the next Teen Summit (where teens and the school district meeet and work together to discuss issues) would be coming up in 2012. Teens from the community will gather to lead and discuss issues and concerns of youth in the community – which issues need to be addressed to support youth and discuss and solve issues. Mr. Wong is hoping the event will attract 150 teens to this years' Summit.

Chair Bourguignon added that she has seen the program at Redmond Jr. High grow expedentually and has given youth the opportunity to do things that they would not normally be able to do without the programming available.

Mr. Wong thanked the Commission for their support and noted that an evaluation process has been in place to see why programs are successful, what types of activities have been beneficial and why.

The Commission thanked Mr. Wong for his dedication and hard work for bringing quality programming to youth in Redmond as well as, contributing to the 100 Best Cities for Youth award.

VII. Commissioner Updates/Review
None

VIII. Adjourn
Motion by Jayne to adjourn
Second: Sarin
Motion carried: 7-0

Next Commission Meeting
December 1, 2011
Bytes Cafe
RYPAC and Parks & Trails Commission Potluck
5:00 p.m.

Redmond City Hall
December Commission
6:30 p.m.
Council Conference Room