

City of Redmond
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION

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

Thursday, December 1, 2011
6:30 p.m.

Meeting Convened: at 6:33 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 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
Jean Rice, Dept. Financial Analyst
Dave Tuchek, Park Operations Manager
Mark Hickok, Acting Recreation Manager
Ryan Spencer, Recreation Program Administrator
Pete Sullivan, Sr. Planner

Audience –3

I. Call to order/Welcome to Citizen Guests

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

Chair Bourguignon thanked Ken Wong and the students from RYPAC for organizing the potluck/meeting held prior to the evening's Parks and Trails Commission meeting.

II. Approval of May Minutes

Motion by Co Chair Sarin to approve the November 3, 2011 minutes as presented.
Second by Commissioner Sanders
Motion passed: 8-0

III. Items from the Audience

Gary Smith, Redmond resident, requested to address the Commission regarding Dudley Carter Park. Mr. Smith announced there is currently a Dudley Carter exhibit at the Redmond Library.

Mr. Smith stated that his topic of interest was to make Dudley Carter Park better known to citizens in and around Redmond. He suggested holding some events at the location to familiarize citizens with the park.

Mr. Smith suggested that when the park is dedicated several of Dudley's apprentices might be invited to demonstrate carving techniques; perhaps drawing more interest to the park.

Miguel Llanos brought up the idea of a plaque on the existing artwork and a historical plaque on the Haida House. He inquired about the Haida House structure; the plywood on the windows and the roof. Dave Tucheck, Maintenance Operations Manager, responded that the plywood on the windows is to protect the glass windows from vandalism. Craig Larsen, Parks & Recreation Director, responded that the master plan and the architectural plan have been completed, however due to lack of funds no work will be done on the site in the near future. Mr. Larsen also responded that the state of the structure would be re-evaluated next year and that staff has been looking into securing grants to replace the roof. Carolyn Hope, Sr. Park Planner, noted that a new kiosk has been installed at the site, along the Sammamish River Trail, and that in early 2012 information will be placed in the kiosk giving historical information about Dudley Carter.

Lyn Lambert, Bellevue resident and author, suggested Dudley Carter's grandson-in-law and grandson (helped build the original Haida House on site) might be interested in restoration of the Haida House. Ms. Lambert noted that they had built Haida Houses before and would have a personal interest in restoring the structure. Dudley Carter's granddaughter is also a talented a carver. Ms. Lambert asked to be contacted if city staff were interested in contacting any of the Carter Family members.

IV. New Business

A. Review Application for Potential New Commissioner – Jean Rice

Ms. Rice reviewed the pass process of potential commissioner candidate recruitment. To date we have three applications, none of candidates fulfill the requirements, as the vacancy is slated for a resident that lives outside the city limits but has a Redmond address. Mr. Larsen noted that the vacancy is being adverties on the City's website and other city/citizen resources. Mr. Larsen asked for Commission sugestions; Commissioners asked staff to email qualifications. Commissioners suggested reaching out to schools (PTSA newsletter) on the outskirts of Redmond, Redmond Ridge and Trilogy.

The Commission is also in the process of looking for Youth Advocates for the 2012-2013 school year. Commissioners suggested RYPAC members might be interested. Staff will contact Ken Wong, Teen Programs Manager of the Old Firehouse Teen Center to inquire among RYPAC students.

Suggestions to recruit students included more interesting and challenging aspects of the position, school credit, and perhaps opening up the position to youth up to 21 yrs of age.

Chair Bourguignon reminded the Commission and staff about the last bond campaign run by students, which took place in the summer months, right before a fall ballot. She noted that during that campaign students created posters, handed out flyers, did the web design, and virtually ran the campaign. The campaign turned out to be a very successful measure. She added that it was perfect timing (summer break), interesting, fun, creative, and purposeful meaning; a perfect combination.

Suggestions:

- Commissioner Sanders suggested an agenda item where the Youth Advocate could bring forward a subject or project he/she would like to discuss, or report on.
- Commissioner Jayne suggested a “buddy system” where a youth advocate would pair up with a Commissioner to exchange ideas, learn or answer questions.
- Chair Bourguignon suggested having rotating A/P Government class students attend the monthly meeting to work on a specific topic/project, which would also be beneficial to students. Open mic for students who attend. Topics could be advertised a month in advance so students can choose the topic that interests them.

Staff will continue to pursue avenues of recruitment and report back to the Commission as applications are collected.

B. Capital Investment Strategy – Pete Sullivan

Peter Sullivan, Sr. Planner, Long-Range Planning, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Capital Investment Strategy. Mr. Sullivan is also the liaison to the city's Planning Commission.

Mr. Sullivan gave an overview of the City's Capital Improvement Plan. He addressed the Commission on the progress updates, perspectives and ideas for future updates on the CIP.

Key notes:

- 2018 - Redmond Way and Cleveland Street will become two-way streets, sidewalk and utility improvements
- 2024 – Light rail to Overlake – 152nd main street adjacent to the transit hub
- 2030 – 10 acre park in North Redmond, stream and water quality improvements
- Blueprint – to provide improved neighborhood connections, support of infrastructure

- Capital Investment Strategy – 2013-2030 investment needs, includes capital projects and programs from all city functional areas, bridging 6-year CIP with 2030 vision year
- Intent of presentation – update progress, developing Capital Investment Strategy, Park Commission informal perspectives
- Document – Scope of Work
- Introduction for Vision Blueprint – summary of chapters – major results and recommendations – implications for the 2012 Budgeting by Priorities process
- Capital Investment Strategy – purpose, benefits, why, how, role, relations to other plans, scope and key assumptions
- Approved Scope of Work by City Council in Spring 2011
- Finalize by the end of 2011 for use in the processing of the 2013-2014 Budget process and start of the 2013-2018 CIP
- Cross-Departmental Team working on document – Water/Sewer, Stormwater Management, Transportation, Parks, Finance, Police, Fire, Planning
- Funding strategy
- How to start initial conversation with Council on closing the funding gap
- Schedule – Council Staff Report (12/6), Council Study Session/Action (12/13 – combines Study Session with motion to adopt as an advisory document)
- Full vision Blueprint document is available online – www.redmond.gov/boardscommissions/planning_commission

Further discussion took place. Questions should be directed to Pete Sullivan at 425-556-2406 or ppsullivan@redmond.gov.

V. Old Business

A. Pesticide Free Parks – Dave Tucheck, Park Operations Manager

Mr. Tucheck gave a follow-up report in response to the inquiry, from last month's meeting, regarding Pesticide-Free Parks in Redmond.

Mr. Tucheck noted that the City has been involved in pesticide reduction for a number of years. Maintenance crews have expert knowledge in Horticulture and Urban Forestry and continually keep updated in the field of natural alternatives to pesticide, specifically synthetic pesticides (weed and insect control).

The City's program is based on four major components/cultural practices:

1. Staff and staff training – staff working with pesticides or pesticide application are licensed with the WSDA (Washington State Dept. of Agriculture) and participate in recertification training each year.
2. Acceptable pest threshold –tolerate to a certain amount of insects, weeds and rodents. All parks facilities are carefully monitored.

3. Prevention and cultural practices – planting right plants in right places, good soil, good drainage, good plants, keeping plants healthy and vibrant, mulching (retains moisture), hand pulling or cultivating weeds, radiant heater, horticultural vinegar, Round-Up (periodically – less than 5 gallons a year), Burn Out – clove oil, horticultural vinegar and citrus acid.
4. Round-Up – maintenance uses less than 5 gallons per year on entire parks system – 1,500 acres of park land and open space maintained by City. The goal to completely eliminate synthetic pesticides.

Mr. Tuchek answered question pertaining to maintenance, tree disease, windstorm clean-up, pest control, website information - listing “pesticide free” parks and open spaces and registering Redmond as a Wildlife Habitat Community.

VI. Project Updates/Reviews

A. Business Office – Ryan Spencer

Ryan Spencer, Recreation Business Office Administrator, gave a brief overview and PowerPoint presentation regarding Recreation Business Office statistics and procedures. The presentation included seasonal registration comparisons from last year, and current waitlist numbers, refunds, scholarships, and rental, deposits/payments, key improvements, customer satisfaction survey statistics comparisons.

Question and answer discussion followed. Commissioners and staff discussed class and classroom capacity, E-connect registration (resident and non-resident); synched with the digital Recreation Guide on the City’s website, financial reporting, sports roster sign ups, resources, programs and program profiles.

VII. Commissioner Updates/Review

Commissioner Sanders brought forward the topic of passive use of parks and open spaces for teens (other than team sports) that do not participate in organized sports. Ms. Sanders inquired about Par Courses in the City. Mr. Tuchek responded the City did not have any courses. He added that there are currently a few pieces of exercise equipment located behind the Sr. Center and a few more pieces were being added.

Mr. Tuchek noted that the Bike Park and Skatepark were good examples of unorganized sports and places for kids to “hang out”.

Mr. Hickok, Acting Recreation Manager, noted that many teens use the WiFi at the Teen Center and at many of the parks.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion by Sanko to adjourn

Second: Sarin

Motion carried: 7-0

Next Commission Meeting
January 5, 2012
6:30 p.m.
Council Conference Room