City of Redmond PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION

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

Thursday, April 5, 2012 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Convened: at 6:36 p.m. Meeting Adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Commissioners: Staff:

Tina Sarin, Chair Carolyn Hope, Sr. Parks Planner Tom Sanko, Co-Chair Betty Sanders, Sr. Park Planner

Cindy Jayne Dave Tuchek, Park Ops Division Manager

Sheri Sanders

Youth Advocate
Paul DeWater

Mark Hickok, Acting Recreation Division Manager
Lisa Rhodes, Events and Marketing Administrator
Sharon Sato, Parks Planning Division Dept. Coordinator

Absent and Excused: Peter McDonald, Colin Worsley

Absent: Ray Smalling

Audience – Tom Hinman

I. Call to order/Welcome to Citizen Guests

Ms. Sarin called her first official Commission meeting, as Chair, to order at 6:36 p.m. and welcomed guests, Commissioners, and staff members.

II. Approval of January Minutes

No motion passed on March meeting minutes due to lack of quorum.

III. Items from the Audience

<u>Tom Hinman – Redmond resident</u> addressed the Commission regarding an entry in the Redmond Blog. He noted that the article reported on three receiving sites proposed as mitigation for tree removal at Overlake (Juel Park, Perrigo Park, View Point Open Space and Millennium Office Park adjacent to Bear Creek). Mr. Hinman asked the Commission to review the post for accuracy and asked if there had been any community input in reaching those conclusions. He read the blog entry to the Commissioners.

Mr. Hinman stated that he had addressed the Commission in January, at that time noting that the Commission had several opportunities to give input on the configuration of the park and how it relates to other park facilities in that area. He noted that this is a separate issue in itself.

Chair Sarin responded that there had not been any discussion at any of the Commission meetings. Staff will continue to investigate further for a future meeting discussion. As an interim response, staff stated that the sites were selected by the Technical Committee, that no public process had yet occurred, and they had not yet identified any opportunity site s in Overlake.

IV. New Business

A. Commission Talk

Chair Sarin noted that Vice Chair Sanko had suggested that each month Commissioners bring topics of interest to the monthly meeting; contributing to the discussion. Each short presentation will be followed by a round table discussion. Commissioners will be reporting on topics they feel would be of significance or interest. Each month 1-2 Commissioners will give an item or items to the table to present and discuss. Chair Sarin and Vice Chair Sanko reported at this month's meeting. Commissioner Sanders and Youth Advocate DeWater and be giving reports at the upcoming May meeting.

"What is it we like about Parks?" - Chair Sarin

Vice Chair Sanko

- o Enjoy the outdoors
- o Marymoor Park walking distance
- o Idylwood Park on lake, beach, wildlife
- Add to Watershed Preserve muddy, connecting to nature, old growth forest
- o Bring family and friends
- o Grass Lawn Park features and amenities

Paul DeWater

- Perrigo Park different facilities (tennis, beach volleyball, barbeques, after-school place to go, soccer field, baseball field, basketball courts, playground), complete park
- Change in Perrigo more lighting (turf field lit, basketball and tennis courts not lit)

Commissioner Sanders

- o Favorites Farrel McWhirter and Hartman Parks
- FM good place to take children, walking trails, playing swings, animals, picnic in open area and large shelters, variety of things to do
- Hartman walking distance, recreation opportunities, social gathering spots, food vendor, trails, active and passive uses

Commissioner Jayne

- o Trails Bear Creek and Evans Creek Trails
- o Redmond West Trail
- o Bridle Crest Trail
- More trails, more lighting

Chair Sarin

 Perrigo Park, proximity to home, variety of recreational uses (fields, trails, courts)

Chair Sarin reported that some of the reported favored and best amenities for parks are defined as; something for everyone, food vendors, different of activities, feel safe, place to meet people, and hosts a variety of activities.

"In the News" - Vice Chair Sanko

City of Kirkland - BNSF

Vice Chair Sanko reported that the City of Kirkland had bought 5 ¾ mi. of the BNSF Corridor for \$5M. The railway was bought with \$1M Surface Water Utility reserves and \$4M loan from the city utilities. The City will pay the loan back with a proposed voter levy or bonds. Estimates for the improvements for a gravel surfaced trail will be approximately \$3M. Council is considering whether to approval a permanent \$1M (a year) park maintenance levy and 9 year \$10M Capital Levy. Vice Chair Sanko reported that an owner of a typical house would pay approximately \$77 per year, per household. The City of Kirkland has a 50 member Park Funding Exploratory Committee which researches and discusses funding issues.

520 Bridge

Vice Chair Sanko reported that the new 520 Bridge would have a 14' wide bicycle-pedestrian trail with turnout spaced along the bridge span, benches, and a lid to provide park-like amenities. Towers along the bridge will be lit during evening hours.

Redmond Watershed Preserve Park

Vice Chair Sanko pointed out an article in the Seattle Times regarding the Redmond Watershed Preserve. Headlines read, "The Redmond Watershed Preserve is one of the largest park on the Eastside filled with ponds and wetlands".

Tree Socks at Anderson Park

Vice Chair noted an article in the Redmond Reporter and Redmond Blog regarding the tree socks at Anderson Park. Commissioners agreed that the exhibition was an interesting addition to art in Redmond.

B. Commission Vacancy Interviews

Chair Sarin reported that she, Jean Rice (Dept. Analyst) and Joshua Heim (Arts Administrator) had interview candidates for the two immediate vacant positions on the Commission. Three finalists have been chosen for the final interviews. She added that all applicants were highly qualified and a decision would be made in the coming weeks.

C. RCO Grant Application – Carolyn Hope and Betty Sanders

Ms. Sanders reported that the applications had been submitted for two grants through the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). RCO offers several different grants types specific to certain categories. Ms. Sanders noted that under the Under the Local Parks category grant applications will be submitted to request funding to replace the field turf on Grass Lawn Park's soccer field, as well as refurbishing the track bordering the field.

Under the Trails Category an application will be submitted for the Redmond Central Connector – Phase II. The Parks Dept. will be working with Transportation to match grant funding. Phase II will start east of the Sammamish River Trail Trestle to the PSE Trail (trail connection).

Ms. Hope will be asking for Commission reference letters to accompany the grant application. RCO applications are due on May 1, 2012.

V. Old Business

A. Downtown Park Update – Betty Sanders

Ms. Sanders reported that a master plan for the Downtown Park would likely be completed later this year, depending on budgeting. An internal department team (Recreation, Park Operations), with specifically assigned duties, has been put together to work on the interim development of the park. She asked the Commission for their ideas/input on specific and effective ways to communicate to the public.

Ms. Sanders added that staff would be working with the City's Communications Manager and through the City's website to reach out to the community. Commissioners discussed the website and specific navigational challenges that might be addressed. Ms. Sanders noted that discussion had also taken place in reference to the Downtown Park and Redmond Central Connector and whether they should each have dedicated websites, be part of the City's website, or the Experience Redmond (City's tourism site) website.

Comments:

- Commissioner Sanders would like to see projects on the city's site, making it clear that the project is a city owned and run project. Easier to make the argument that these projects need funding. Dedicated page, under city's umbrella search city's webpage for projects. Facebook profiles.
- Commissioner Jayne not enough information to warrant a dedicated website.

Mr. Hickok reported that there were two ideas for signage for the Downtown Park – temporary signs and long-term signs – staff would like to see signs that will last 3-6 years or until the project is either completed. This will let residents know that park development is still in progress. The sign will note that the site is the FUTURE Downtown Park.

Ms. Sanders pointed out that the park site is bordered by Cleveland Street, Brown Street, and Redmond Way; the final park will be approximately 2 acres in size. Park amenities will include – large grass area, crush rock path separated by potted plants, bistro chairs, plantings along park edge (separation from street), stage area – parking area in parking area, and event area - middle of July performance artists and Arts in the Parks. Other ideas include – food trucks, outdoor chess set and movies.

B. Budget Process Update - Carolyn Hope and Betty Sanders

Ms. Hope reported that staff is working on the Capital Investment Strategy, looking at how funds are divided up per departments and divisions. Department divisions are required to decide what their priories are and what funding is needed to keep projects running at their current level of service (LOS). The current LOS is .9 acres per 1,000; the City's goal is 1 acre per 1,000.

Budgeting by Priorities (Handout)

Ms. Hope explained the Budgeting by Priorities process. Ms. Hope's handout explained what priorities were developed and are being used in the City's biennium budget to date. Mr. Tuchek explained this is a zero based budget and based on the given priorities. Ms. Hope explained that each offer should provide scalability.

Proposed Capital Projects

Ms. Hope explained the Capital Projects process which she explained is slightly different than the Budgeting by Priorities process; this year Capital Projects will be grouped by neighborhoods. She added that this is a two-year funded budget, however a six-year budget is proposed coinciding with the update of the six-year CIP Budget.

Ms. Sanders explained the Proposed Capital Projects sheet; noting that the project cycle began in 2011 and projects out to 2018.

Projects include:

- Downtown Park Interim design, construct 2012, demolition 2013
- Downtown Park Future Master Plan 2013
- Dudley Carter Park stabilize Haida House
- Urban Center Mitigation Sammamish Valley Park (potential tree location site)
- Overlake Park 3 proposed parks in Overlake Village pending funding
- Perrigo Phase II most design completed, parking concern, break project into small phases
- Farrel McWhirter Park restroom replacement priority
- NE Neighborhood Park demo house on-site, interim improvements, access to park
- SE Neighborhood Park pending
- Westside Park future design and construction

Ms. Sanders explained that staff would be looking into some partnership opportunities with the LWSD as part of their School District Park Plan. Ms. Sander noted that having plans in place such as trail development, hardscape, turf replacement and infrastructure/buildings would be beneficial to the department to ensure that adequate steps are taken for each project; which includes funding.

VI. <u>Project/Commission Updates</u>

A. Special Events – Lisa Rhodes, Events and Marketing Administrator (handout)

Ms. Rhodes gave an overview on department, responsibilities and brief statistics of events (Events and Marketing Overview).

- Staffing 3 FT and 1 PT supplemental employee
- Support Departments parks, Police, Fire, Public Works, Natural Resources, Communications
- Volunteers 400+ (2011)
- Funding special fund, sponsorships, (cash and in-kind services), earned income (Beer Garden, Criterium), grants (LTAC)
- Annual Events Derby Days, Redmond Lights, Eggstravganza
- Special Event(s) Centennial (100 Year Birthday Celebration), historical events, openings, recreation/park events (Dudley Carter Opening, Arbor Day), Ananda Mela
- Marketing and Advertising

Ms. Rhodes gave an update on the past five years of Derby Days statistics, attendance and sponsorships and reported that Redmond boasts the largest Children's Parade in the U.S. and the longest running Criterium. Ms. Rhodes added that as long as all the elements (sponsorship, community support, volunteers) continued to support the growing event(s), the city would continue to hold these community events.

Ms. Rhodes reported and Commissioners discussed events – Poker Ride, Dusk Criterium, King County/Marymoor Velodrome event, Hill Climb, increased seating (bleachers) and open space for race viewing, attendance, Great Day of Play (August), food vendors, and sponsorships.

B. Spiritbrook Park Update – Betty Sanders (PP Presentation)

Ms. Sanders reported that the park project is almost to completion with the playground opening the last weekend of March. She added that the drainage system had been completed, as well as wetlands restoration, play areas, shelter, walking paths and a majority of the landscaping is in however, the playfield area is not completely finished; the final soil layer will be laid the second week in April and grass seed planted.

A grand opening ceremony is planned for some time in mid to late June, depending on the school district summer schedule. Staff will coordinate with Ben Rush Elementary School.

C. Parks Operations Update – Dave Tuchek (PP Presentation)

Mr. Tuchek gave a brief update on accomplishments from the last 12-18 months and future challenges of the Park Operations Division.

Accomplishments

- Anderson Park Picnic Shelter partnership with Redmond Rotary and grant funding, 50% log replacement, new roof
- Farrel McWhirter Park small animal barn new siding, new rabbit hutch and chicken coop, expanded pony stalls
- Teen Center new fencing
- Grass Lawn Park renovation of the center restroom new roof, skylights, siding, energy efficient fixture and lighting, ventilation, electronic doors
- Bear Creek Trail (behind Town Center) asphalt trail renewal
- Anderson Park renovation of plaza new wood on seawall and benches, landscaping around cabins
- Dudley Carter Park kiosk new roof, paint, reassembled, moved closer to park
- Senior Center Pickle Ball Court removal of old asphalt, replacement, new surface, new outdoor exercise equipment (4 pieces), landscape improvements in front of building, new benches, new garbage can enclosure, bike rack
- Redmond West Wetlands replaced surface boards on the Boardwalk, installed stairway, rebuilt outdoor classroom by Eagle Scouts

Mr. Tuchek noted that the core responsibilities of the maintenance staff is routine maintenance and small repair/replacement projects (refurbish signs, park furniture, garbage can enclosures), urban forestry, turf renovation (mowing), irrigation maintenance, horticulture program. Events and special projects include: Arbor Day (April 11 – 3:30 p.m. – Farrel McWhirter Park), Green Redmond Partnership, Juel Park (17 new plots, compost bin, and kiosk).

Future Challenges

Mr. Tuchek first noted that the Parks Maintenance base budget is on track for core maintenance projects however, special/unexpected infrastructure maintenance projects are not. Projects such as:

- Farrel McWhirter Park unsafe restroom structure, tire swing structure
- Idylwood Park curb and parking issues
- Grass Lawn parking lot asphalt deterioration, picnic dome beam delamination and deterioration footing deterioration, buckling pathways

Redmond Parks & Trails Commission April 5, 2012 Page 8

- Hartman Park cinder block buildings drainage, batting cage footings uneven, seam issue, basketball court surface deterioration
- Cascade View Park hard surface deterioration

Looking Ahead

- New Downtown Park looking for resources to maintain
- Redmond Central Connector progressing
- Hartman Park design and plans to replace infield on the big baseball field

VII. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Sanders Second: Commissioner Sanko

Motion carried: 4-0

Next Commission Meeting

May 3, 2012 6:30 p.m. Council Conference Room