

City of Redmond
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION

Grass Lawn Park Pavilion
7031 – 148th Avenue NE
Redmond Washington

Thursday, August 2, 2012
6:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened: at 6:40 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Commissioners:

Tina Sarin, Chair
Tom Sanko, Co-Chair
Colin Worsley
Sheri Sanders
Nicholas Lee
Barney Kinzer
Joel Cherkis

Staff:

Craig Larsen, Director of Parks and Recreation
Katie Anderson, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director
Dave Tuchek, Park Operations Division Manager
Mark Hickok, Recreation Division Manager
Carolyn Hope, Parks Planning & Cultural Svcs. Manager
Jean Rice, Parks Senior Analyst
Sharon Sato, Parks Dept. Coordinator

Youth Advocate

Paul DeWater

Audience – Tom Hinman, Lyn Lambert, Ellen Kaspi, and Aaron Knopf

Absent and Excused: Anton de Leon, Youth Advocate.

I. Call to order/Welcome to Citizen Guests

Ms. Sarin called the August 2012 Commission meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and welcomed guests, commissioners, and staff members.

Chair Sarin, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Mr. Tuchek for the park tour given before the meeting.

II. Approval of May Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Sanders to approve June minutes as transcribed

Second by Commissioner Kinzer

Approved Unanimously: 7-0

III. Items from the Audience

Tom Hinman, Redmond resident

Mr. Hinman reported that he previously met with Cindy Jayne, Commissioners, and City staff to discuss the Group Health site. Mr. Hinman requested that the Parks and Trails Commission join him, as a representative of Sustainable Redmond, to walk the Group Health site and discuss tree preservation on the proposed park site and tree removal to other sites within the city, per the settlement agreement between Sustainable Redmond and Group Health.

Chair Sarin suggested it would be valuable for Commissions to join Mr. Hinman and the owner of the Group Health property for a site walk and property survey visit. Mr. Hinman and Ms. Sarin will set up the meeting and report back to the Commission.

Craig Larsen – Director

Mr. Larsen introduced, Katie Anderson, the new Deputy Parks & Recreation Director, to the Commission. Ms. Anderson previously worked for the City of Lynnwood Parks & Recreation where she was the Deputy Director. Ms. Anderson's background is in recreation.

Ms. Anderson gave a brief summary on her professional background.

IV. New Business

A. New Park Commissioners

Chair Sarin announced that there are now two vacancies on the Commission – Ray Smalling (resigned a few months earlier) and Peter McDonald (recently resigned). She reported that interviews were conducted a week ago and two prospective Commission candidates were identified through interviews, Ellen Kaspi and Aaron Knopf. The candidates will meet with the Mayor and Council next. Both candidates were present at the meeting to observe.

B. Labyrinth Proposal (handout)

Ms. Rice reported that two citizens had contacted the Mayor's office and the Parks Dept. inquiring about building a labyrinth somewhere in the city. One citizen stated that she would be willing to fundraise for the project and use the proceeds to pay for the construction and design of the labyrinth if the city would provide the open space.

Ms. Rice gave some brief background information on labyrinths. She highlighted benefits, possible uses, site requirements and materials encourage community engagement and physical locations of labyrinths in Washington State. Ms. Rice also discussed the landscape maintenance aspects of the labyrinth.

Commissioners responded favorably and suggested that good places might be near the Redmond Central Connector, Downtown Corridor, SE Redmond, area near Ben Rush Elementary School, Redmond East Corridor or along the trail next to City Hall (Green space).

Ms. Rice noted that community meetings will be held for the Downtown Corridor in the early fall and would be a good time to make specific suggestions to the placing a temporary labyrinth in that location.

Commissioners agreed they liked the art as a community draw and physical aspects of a labyrinth.

Staff will further discuss this proposal and report back to the Commission at a future meeting.

C. Field Trip Recap & September Meeting

Chair Sarin asked Commissioners to share their ideas and/or thoughts about the July 26th field trip.

- Commissioner Sanders - Packet information provided good information to coincide with field trip projects
- Vice Chair Sanko - tour of the interior of the Haida House was impressive
- Commissioner Lee - Amazing and diverse parks, many capital constraints – some projects not being funded - pursue projects with minimal impacts – explore opportunities to proceed and expand with monies available - focus on a diverse mix of recreation types – continue to come up with inexpensive and creative ideas – new ways to fund

September meeting– meeting will be held at the Sr. Center. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. starting with a tour of the facility. The regular meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

D. Commissioner Talk Time – Paul DeWater (Youth Advocate)/Commissioner Lee

Youth Advocate DeWater reported that his topic was derived from the Seattle Times; the article addressed the question, “how will state parks stay afloat without state funding?” He reported that state parks rely heavily on funding to maintain and improve the quality of park sites within Washington State. He added that the parks system is leaning more towards functioning more on like a business rather than a public organization to generate money (vendors in parks, internet access in parks – WiFi).

Commissioners discussed revenue, WiFi (free and pay and ads), vendors in parks, private and public partnerships and community surveys at Marymoor and Redmond parks (Grass Lawn, Downtown Parks). Mr. Tucheck discussed the commercializing of

parks, noting that the City has thus far stayed away from selling advertising at parks and on parks furniture.

Mr. Hickok added that in the 2012-2014 budget an offer (request) was included for providing free WiFi in parks that have fiber optic capabilities.

Commissioners discussed the idea of surveying the public to ask how they feel about concessions and some commercialization of parks.

Ms. Hope reported that the city had engaged in several types and methods of citizen surveying including Survey Monkey, Zoomerang (both free, not statistically valid), phone, mail, focus groups and booths at events. She also noted that surveying could be very expensive for collecting data depending on the chosen method and number of times distributed.

Commissioner Lee (handout) reported that disc golf (“D” Golf, Frisbee Golf) had become a very popular sport. The Commission engaged in discussions regarding revenue, signage, possible locations, opportunities, benefits, and need. He noted there are several places where there is a potential to create a course on the perimeter of a property (5+ acres). Commissioner Lee added that Redmond has a potential to become a destination spot for “D” Golf putting Redmond on the map for disc golf sport.

He also felt it would be good for the Commissioners to get more involved in reaching out to the community by visiting a park of their choice (neighborhood or in close proximity) and engaging in conversation with park users to ask and answer questions. Commissioner identification to the public would include a hat, umbrella, pin, t-shirt or vest.

Commissioner Sanders added that a city park would be a good location, however partnering with schools or other jurisdictions would also provide good opportunities (Ex. Redmond Jr. High campus perimeter).

Ms. Hope noted that it would be advantageous to know how much each park is being used at specific times of the day and different times of the year. Commissioners suggested mobile phone apps would be beneficial in the survey process.

Chair Sarin and Commissioner Kinzer will be reporting at the September 6th Commission meeting.

E. Pedestrian/Bicycle Conflicts on Trails

Due to the frequency of emails regarding the traffic on the Sammamish River Trail, Commissioner Sanko brought forward a recent email from a resident regarding a conflict on the Sammamish River Trail. Commissioner Sanko felt this had become a very frequent and serious issue on the trail, especially the area between the Leary

Street Bridge and the 90th Street Bridge due to the constant foot and bike traffic from the hotel, condos, apartments and commuters. Although not a unique situation it has become a serious occurrence. He added that although there are several different types of signage, it is often times difficult to read (too much print, too small print, confusing directional signs) and most ignore the message. Signage needs to be accommodating to all nationalities; language barriers.

Commissioners discussed ways to accommodate speed on the trail – speed bumps, paint on pavement, flashing lights, or other innovative ways to attract attention.

Ms. Hope provided some background regarding the methods the department has used to gather information to address the issue in the past including striping the trail, signage, and education. Ms. Hope stated that signs have been placed along the trail at 90th Street – speed limit, slow down, and stay to the right. A “Share the Trail” brochure has also produced to get the message out to trail users. Cascade Bike Club has also been doing one day events to educate the public on the signs and trail chalking (messages on paved trail).

Chair Sarin suggested going into schools to educate school children on riding and walking safety on trails.

F. **Senior Center Walking Path**

Ms. Hope reported that the Parks Dept. has been given the opportunity to work with the Natural Resources Division of Public Works to construct a pervious walking path at the Sr. Center. The path will be located behind the Center and wrap around the exercise equipment and sports court. Funding will come from Natural Resources.

The Commission will be able to view the proposed location of the path at the next Commission meeting which will be held at the Sr. Center.

V. **Old Business**

A. **Centennial Trail Walk**

Ms. Hope reported that a Centennial Walk was being planned as part of the city’s Centennial year. The trail is 6.5 miles – Sammamish River Trail, PSE Trail, Education Hill (172nd Trail – behind RHS), Hartman Park, Ashford Trail, Avondale Road, Bear Creek Park (behind Safeway), Bear Creek Trail (behind Redmond Town Center), and Sammamish River Trail to City Hall. Ms. Hope reported that the City would be working with the Feet First Organization to promote the event.

A shorter secondary route (3.3 miles) is also being proposed. This organized walk has no confirmed date at this time. Event or activities at the end of the walk are being planned; a possible barbeque.

Commissioner Sanders suggested Friday, October 12 and involving schools.

Commissioners should contact Ms. Hope if they wish to volunteer for the event.

VI. **Project Updates/Commission Updates**

A. **Dudley Carter Park Update**

- Saturday, September 8, 2012
- 1:00 p.m.
- Dedicate park
- Mayor kick-off
- Agenda is 90% set
 - Snoqualmie tribe
 - Dudley Carter's daughter
 - Lyn Lambert working with Joshua Heim, Arts Administrator on a "pop-up" walking guide/booklet (for purchase) at the event.
 - Walking tour – Dudley Carter Park to City Hall Campus – Library

Questions should be directed to Ms. Hope.

B. **Redmond Central Connector**

Ms. Hope reported that WSDOT had approved permits for trail construction so the City may go out to bid in approximately 1-2 weeks. The project will cost approximately \$4M and extends from Bear Creek Trail to Sammamish River Trail. Construction will begin this fall and end the summer of 2013. The project will include integrated art along the trail, which will be complete next year.

The City is currently out to bid on removal of the railroad track from 154th Street Bridge to the north end of Sammamish Valley Park. In the end, the rail corridor will be rough graded with existing gravel, creating a better walking surface.

C. **Downtown Park Update**

- Sunday, August 5, 2012
- 1:00 p.m.
- Teen Performers
- Lawn Games
- Collected 200 surveys to date from park user/visitors
- Handout – map shows area of demolition (orange – demolition 2013)
- Ms. Sanders is working with Lisa Singer – Public Works on the demolition project

D. **Great Day of Play**

- Friday, August 24, 2012
- 3 on 3 tournament – 28 team signed up
- 5K

- Recreation booths to promote recreation programs

E. **Teen Center – Teen Feed Reminder**

Please direct donations to Ms. Sanders for Teen Feed supplies.

VII. **Adjourn**

Motion by Commissioner Lee

Second: Commissioner Cherkis

Motion carried: 7-0

Next Commission Meetings

September 6, 2012

Redmond Sr. Center

8703 160th Avenue NE

6:00 p.m. Building Tour

6:30 p.m. Regular Meeting

October 4, 2012

Joint Meeting of Parks & Trails Commission and Arts Commission

City Hall Building

15670 NE 85th Street

6:30 p.m.

November 1, 2012

City Hall Building

15670 NE 85th Street

Council Conference Room

6:30 p.m.

December 6, 2012

City Hall Building

15670 NE 85th Street

Council Conference Room

6:30 p.m.