

City of Redmond
Parks and Trails Commission Regular Meeting

Draft Meeting Minutes

Redmond City Hall
Remote Meeting via MS Teams.
January 7, 2021
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. -Meeting

Parks & Trails Commissioners in Attendance:

Gary Smith, Chair
Gregg Gottgetreu, Vice Chair
Shelly Bowman
Joel Cherkis
James Terwilliger
Stuart Hargreaves
Jennifer (Jen) Brun 6:40pm
Kristina Wayland
Jim Kleppe

Vacancies

(0)

Absent and Excused:

Staff in Attendance:

Jeff Aken, Senior Planner
Loreen Hamilton, Deputy Parks Director
Sharyn Robbins, Administrative Specialist
Val Asaro, Administrative Assistant

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I. Call to order/Welcome

Meeting was called to order by 6:34p.m. with 7 commissioners in attendance and the Chair.

Approval of January 7, 2021 Meeting Agenda

A motion was made to approve January 7, 2021 meeting agenda.
Motion by: Commissioner Terwilliger
Second by: Commissioner Gottgetreu
Motion Carried: 7-0

Approval of December 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2020
Motion Made by: Commissioner Wayland
Second by: Commissioner Hargreaves
Motion Carried: 7-0

II. Items from the Audience

Tom Hinman provided an email that Mr. Aken proceeded to read:

“These comments are provided for your consideration at today's Commission meeting and as inputs to Parks 2021-22 budget proposals. They provide additional details on previous budget comments regarding the Overlake CIP.

I strongly recommend that a modest degree of proactive, integrated review and preliminary scoping of all the Overlake parks, urban pathways and recreation facilities be undertaken as an initial phase to be incorporated in the upcoming PARCC Plan Update. I am not recommending capital investments at the moment, only some emphasis on an early planning process so that investments by others can be properly applied as we weave a fabric within which community building can take place. We should not let such opportunities pass us by due to insufficient guidance to developers.

The attachment provides the justification for this recommendation. Please let me know if I can provide additional information or assistance in this effort.”

Mr. Aken suggested adding this issue to the February agenda. Chair Smith agreed that it should be included on the February agenda and suggested including an overall map of the area in the agenda packet. Mr. Aken will discuss efficiencies and collaborating between city departments for the project with internal staff (Parks and Planning) prior to the February meeting.

III. New Business

1. Eastrail Update 2020, Jeff Aken, Senior Park Planner

Mr. Aken presented a map of the full Eastrail area and showed connection to the Redmond Central Connector. He reviewed how the project is in the process of working with several groups that contributes to joint planning, funding, and communication. Council Member Forsythe is a representative on the RAC that meets quarterly. The group works to understand trail segments, grand funding, and integration across the corridor. The following lists more details of the project.

- Fiber Optics - King County, in collaboration with trail owners and RAC members are working on a draft RFP for future fiber optic connectivity along the trail. The RFP

will be flexible in order to capture a variety of potential partnerships for a future collaboration. Parks and TIS staff have been working with King County on the development of the RFP to ensure it fits future trail and technology priorities. The RFP should be released in early 2021.

- Equity and Inclusion - A small sub-group of Eastrail staff members has been discussing opportunities to work on equity and inclusion and meet approximately twice a month. The group is working out draft goals to shape the scope of this effort.
- Wayfinding and Signage –Background work and scoping has been underway to develop a wayfinding plan that incorporates the new Eastrail Branding and creates a welcoming environment. The potential scope would need to ensure it meets regional wayfinding standards, jurisdictional flexibility and inclusiveness. The Eastrail staff team is also discussing how art may be included in the wayfinding efforts.
- Art Plan – Discussions will be hosted by Redmond regarding the potential for integrated art along the Eastrail and how art can continue along trailheads including, events, pop-up art and other tactics.
- Federal Outreach - Experience the Eastrail outreach event to the Federal Delegation was hosted on August 14th. The Eastrail was highlighted in a short video and four projects along the corridor were called out. These included the Totem Lake Connector, NE 8th Bridge, Wilburton Trestle and the I90 Steel bridge.
- Partner Outreach - A funding commission has been created by Eastrail Partners to work with business and non-profit leaders to make recommendation for connection and construction. A summary of their workplan has been included in the packet.

Commissioner Gottgetreu referred to construction work at the end of RCC3 where contractors are joining the Kirkland Connector. He asked what will be done about the RCC3 being the missing link. Jeff indicated King County plans to pull the rails from the section running east and located north from NE 124th. He added, Kirkland will create a shared use path in that same area. After PSE completes a utility project, they will leave a gravel surface road that will allow access through the area. The City is waiting on secured funding to apply for grants to move forward with the project from 124th to 100th.

Commissioner Hargreaves referred to a past discussion with the developers of Proctor Willows about using the property to bridge the gap between RCC3 and the Cross Kirkland Corridor and asked if there has been more discussions or accommodations on this subject. Mr. Aken replied, yes and he will provide a notice regarding public access on PSE North.

Chair Smith asked if there will be a separate crossing at 124th. Mr. Aken clarified the trail will come out and function as a regular cross walk. Chair Smith asked if negotiations for the outcome of RCC3 are finalized. Mr. Aken replied negotiations regarding the easement are not finalized. He added the City and PSE attorneys are working together to ensure the trail and easement meets the need for both parties.

IV. Old Business

1. Redmond Senior and Community Center Update, Loreen Hamilton, Deputy Parks Director

Ms. Hamilton presented information about the community involvement process for the Senior and Community Center construction and explained how updates will be presented monthly. She added, architect's contracts will be presented to Council for approval on January 19, 2021. The initial contract approval will take the project through schematic design. The City will continue to work with EnviroIssues to collaborate between Community, Seniors and City Council on project updates, timeline, and community engagement. Ms. Hamilton communicated the rigorous schedule involved for the project and displayed a timeline that was presented to Council.

Commissioner Kleppe asked if the City was awarded all funds needed for the project from Council. Ms. Hamilton responded, not all funds have been awarded. She added the Council has approved the use of the Senior Center CIP funds to design a building based on the community's wants and needs. The City is working on more ways to obtain funding for the construction such as, working with the state and sorting out bond issues.

Commissioner Kleppe asked about the status of bringing in partners that may help offset funding. Ms. Hamilton agreed partners could help bring increased capital to the building. Mr. Aken added, the request for interested partners closed on December 23rd. Six potential partners submitted letters and will be reviewed next week. The leadership team will discuss the criteria needed to advance the process. Mr. Aken will have more information about the potential partners for the next meeting in February.

Commissioner Gottgetreu commented on the difficulty of designing a facility without knowing the cost parameters. Ms. Hamilton added the Mayor recommended going forward with the design based on community wants and needs, keeping the goal of 40,000 to 42,000 square feet for around \$40 million to \$45 million as a goal.

Commissioner Bowman asked for clarification of the projected dollar amount and how partners are being considered for the project. Ms. Hamilton replied, the \$40 million to \$42 million is the initial structure. Bringing in partners could increase budget size allowing the building to go up and increasing the capital. Mr. Aken added specific questions were asked to potential partners such as, space requirements, willingness to use the same architect, and ability to move financing. He added, consideration of community benefits and financial capabilities will be taken into consideration by the leadership team.

2. Communications Sub-Committee, Commissioner Hargreaves

Commissioner Hargreaves presented the goals and status of the Communications Sub-Committee. He noted the committee will meet again in mid-January. The sub-committee would like to establish a list of corrections and updates for the Redmond.gov Parks and Trails website content. In addition to a more defined landing page, the sub-committee suggested creating individual park and trail pages to be more user friendly with detailed attributes. Additionally, the committee will solicit help from the community or steward groups with information input and create a shared platform to work from.

Commissioner Terwilliger referred to a feature from the current Redmond.gov website. He commented how the “I want to” feature was an intuitive way to navigate finding an activity, park or trail. Commissioner Cherkis suggested listing a “What’s going on” feature that could include a calendar. Commissioner Bowman supports both suggestions and recommends viewing the Bellevue Parks and Trails page as an example for searching facilities and amenities.

Commissioner Hargreaves requested members within the commission to consider taking ownership of a park to create a unique description and history. Mr. Aken will assist in sharing a park inventory spreadsheet that Commissioner Hargreaves created. Chair Smith added a reminder for the commission to select a trail to take ownership on, in addition to a park.

3. Revised 2021 Work Plan, Jeff Aken, Senior Park

Mr. Aken presented the revised version of the 2021 Work Plan that included the addition of dog park scoping and open timeline for field trips. Commissioner Bowman asked if the commission’s participation with giving input on the PARCC plan was included on the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Aken replied, the combination of both the Comprehensive Plan and PARCC plan will align together in the policy language.

Motion: Motion to approve the 2021 Work Plan

Motion made by: Commissioner Terwilliger

Second by: Commissioner Bowman

Motion carried: 8-0

4. Facilities ADA Update/Timeline, Jeff Aken, Senior Park Planner

Mr. Aken reviewed the ADA Facilities Transition Plan. He proposed to move forward bringing the plan to council on January 19, 2021 and presented a final review of the plan. Mr. Aken added that an ADA coordinator will be appointed by the City and a software system will be used to track and implement progress. Short term projects will include MOC, Facilities, Redmond Pool and Senior and Community Center as part of five phases of the project.

Commissioner Wayland asked when the standards were set and why City Hall had so many barriers. Mr. Aken replied, the last standards were set in 1990 and were the required standards for 20 years. More standards were added in 2010. City Hall was built around 2005. There are a few larger barriers at City Hall to resolve however, the majority are smaller issues.

Commissioner Terwilliger asked has the plan been reviewed from an angle of post COVID hygiene, to include non-touch features. Mr. Aken replied, it has not. The ADA standards from the Dept of Justice are being used.

Commissioner Kleppe asked what percent of the improvements City staff can construct and does it help ease the budget. Mr. Aken replied Parks are assisting within their winter projects and routine maintenance depending on workload. Mr. Tucheck added during winter projects timeline, Parks has a small crew designated to maintain ADA modifications in addition to hiring

contractors for larger projects. Facilities team will also address smaller modifications when possible.

Motion to approve the ADA Facilities Transition Plan

Motion made by: Commissioner Kleppe

Second by: Commissioner Wayland

Motion Carried: 8-0

V. Commission Updates/Discussion

1. Arts & Culture Commission Joint Meeting

Mr. Aken reported a Teams meeting has been set for January 28, 2021 with the Arts and Culture Commission. He shared an items list with Arts and Culture liaison, Chris Webber. The list included items such as Sister Cities, art along trails, Bear Creek Park, Dudley Carter, open space Senior Community Center, and various events in the parks. A broader agenda could be posted publicly.

Commissioner Terwilliger suggested bringing the idea of using whimsical signage on the trails to the Arts and Culture Commission. Commissioner Gottgetreu suggested the Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission share a list of items they would like to discuss prior to the meeting, as well as specifics on how the meeting will be managed.

2. MS Teams Roll Out

Mr. Aken reported that TIS is still working on additional Teams privileges for the commission. Commissioner Terwilliger shared concerns of the logistics of using shared workspaces. Mr. Aken will confirm with TIS the restrictions and features that will be in place.

3. Sound Transit.

Chair Smith revisited the expansion of 520. He referred to a proposal of building a bridge over Bear Creek to walk from Redmond Town Center to Marymoor Park without crossing the street. He noticed the Sound Transit construction work digging a large hole where the potential path could be. Mr. Aken reiterated the large hole is a test shaft. He will confirm how the area will be protected as there is a request for a potential trail connection in the PARCC plan. Commissioner Cherkis suggested including King County in the conversation of the proposal as it would benefit traffic to Marymoor Park. Mr. Aken suggested bringing Sound Transit back for updates in February or March.

4. Conrad Olson

Commissioner Gottgetreu reported the area near Bear Creek on the Conrad Olson Farm is currently flooded. He brought forth the suggestion of the commission getting involved to bring more development in the area. Mr. Aken added the master plan shows an oxbow type overlook and interpretive trails. He added, the commission can agree to advocate bringing it forward to the future PARCC Plan to make it a higher priority. Commissioner Bowman would like to see some form of access in the future. Commissioner Cherkis asked if there is a ballpark estimate and if finding sponsorship would be helpful in supporting a project like this. Mr. Tuchek commented

on how the permitting process of adding features near streams or bodies of water tends to take a considerable amount of time. He added estimates would depend on how extensive the features near the water would be. Mr. Tucheck recommends for the short term, keeping existing pathway cut back and enjoy the area other times of the year when it's easier to access. He offered another option for viewing Bear Creek, Juel Park. It has an easily accessible area behind the water pump house for viewing habitat and fish any time of the year.

5. Edge Skate Park

Commissioner Hargreaves suggested additional signage at the park. Mr. Tucheck would welcome recommendations and suggested contacting him directly.

Motion to extend the meeting to 8:45 pm
Motion made by: Commissioner Terwilliger
Second by: Commissioner Cherkis
Motion Carried: 8-0

VI. Department Communications (Memos)

NONE

VII. Staff Updates- Senior Planner, Jeff Aken

1. Commission Recruitment, Jeff Aken, Senior Park Planner

Mr. Aken reported a press release will go out from the Clerk's Office at the end of the month regarding Commission openings. He will start communicating with schools and RYPAC regarding youth advocate. Mr. Aken will also follow up with commission members that are due to re-up and review the process.

2. Commission /Council Joint Meeting

Mr. Aken reminded the Commission of the Joint Council meeting on February 23, 2021. He recommends developing three top ideas, projects, or policies to advocate for and present to Council. Mr. Aken, Chair Smith, and Commissioner Gottgetreu will meet prior to the meeting to formulate items and propose time on the Council's agenda. Time can be set aside in the February's Commission meeting to discuss items.

3. Sustainability Advisory Committee

Commissioner Bowman asked if there will be opportunity for the Commission to offer input to Sustainability Advisory Committee or how will the committee be handled. Mr. Aken will speak with the liaison for more information on the format of the committee.

4. New Leadership

Mr. Aken will be requesting nominations for new commission leadership in February. New leadership will be voted on in March.

Redmond Parks & Trails Commission
November 5, 2020

VIII. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Kleppe

Second by: Commissioner Bowman

Motion: 8-0

Time: 8:42

Next Regular Meeting

February 4, 2021

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting through Teams and Zoom