

City of Redmond
Parks and Trails Commission Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Redmond City Hall
Remote Meeting via MS Teams
February 4, 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
Kristina Wayland
Jim Kleppe

Vacancies

(1) Youth Advocate

Absent and Excused:

(0)

Staff in Attendance:

Jeff Aken, Senior Planner
Carrie Hite, Parks and Recreation Director
Eric Dawson, Capital Projects Manager
Val Asaro, Administrative Assistant

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I. Call to order/Welcome

Meeting was called to order by 6:31 p.m. with 7 commissioners in attendance and the Chair.

Approval of February 4, 2021 Meeting Agenda

A motion was made to approve February 4, 2021 meeting agenda with an amendment to move the Senior Community Center update to take place after the Director’s update.

Motion by: Commissioner Gottgetreu
Second by: Commissioner Terwilliger
Motion Carried: 7-0 (Vote Count)

Approval of January 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2021 Meeting.

Motion Made by: Commissioner Bowman
Second by: Commissioner Hargreaves
Motion Carried: 7-0 (Vote Count)

II. Items from the Audience

In an email from Mr. Hinman, he suggests a more specific, integrated timeline of all potential park opportunities would be a welcome addition to the park planning for the Overlake summary. The remainder of Mr. Hinman’s email reads as follows:

“Secondly, I note in an email from Mr. Aken regarding Esterra Park that “since the City does not own the park, we will not be coming in to add future amenities, at this time or in the near future. However, the DA and Master Plan does not preclude us from working with Capstone to add future amenities.”

I interpret this to mean that there is no CIP funding currently contemplated that would allow addition of future amenities to the Esterra Park. Does this mean that the range of amenities identified by the community as contained in the memo dated May 9, 2019 (included in the agenda package and as footnoted below^[1]) are of lesser priority as suggested by “not precluded?” If they are not presently under consideration, at what point might these community priorities be reconsidered? Are only the (somewhat sterile) features approved in the master plan to be constructed?

Thirdly, let me point out the projected 2030 populations of Downtown Redmond and Overlake based on our Comprehensive Plan with usage as documented in earlier Parks & Trails Commission deliberations. It speaks to the need for geographic equity when investing in community-serving facilities for our two Urban Centers.

Downtown (42%) Residents: 11,350 Employees: 10,800 Total: = 14,050

Overlake (58%) Residents: 10,550 Employees: 36,350 Total: = 19,63

Again, my appreciation for your consideration of these matters.”

^[1] *The community priorities for activities and park elements within the park included:*

- Covered areas / picnic shelter
- Gathering places: farmers markets, movies, performances
- Amphitheater space
- Conifer trees / reference to previous site character
- Accessibility into and through park, to the north
- Art

- *Lighting*
- *Consideration of play area for children*
- *Water Features*
- *Sustainable features / low maintenance*
- *Places of refuge, connection to nature*
- *Entry gateways*
- *Public spaces near office / mingle public & private*
- *Bike access*
- *Consideration of solar exposures, don't shade site*
- *Lawn space*

The park features approved master plan included:

- o *Large open green*
- o *Meadow*
- o *Forested area*
- o *Plazas*
- o *Urban pathway*

III. New Business

1. Director's Update, Carrie Hite, Parks and Recreation Director

Ms. Hite provided an update of the approved 2021-2022 budget and recovery plan. She communicated the shortfall in the City's general fund and CIP fund was caused by the pandemic. The impacts on the 2021-2022 Biannual budget shows the differential of 5.7 million. The biggest reduction in the Parks Department was in the Recreation Activity Fund due to not being able to provide programs to generate revenue. The Community Events fund was reduced 50%. Derby Days will not take place this summer however, an installation for Redmond Lights will happen again in December. There will be funding in 2022 to bring back the larger community events. Other significant shortfalls that took place in the general fund consisted of Parks and Facilities administration and some recreation programs. The recovery plan will depend on limited summer camps, sports field, and shelter rentals this summer.

Ms. Hite spoke about upcoming projects that are underway. The Redmond Pool will be opening after inspections are completed. Wave Aquatics has submitted a COVID safety plan and will reach out to the public upon opening. A virtual ribbon cutting for the pool is scheduled to take place in March. Ms. Hite added, Westside Park will be under construction this summer and the City has plans to utilize the Old Redmond Schoolhouse for indoor programs following Governor Inslee's guidelines.

The funds in the CIP Plan are at a maximum. The biggest priorities for the CIP plan are the Redmond Senior Community Center, the ADA Transition Plan, Westside Park construction, and improvements to the Old Redmond School house. Funds have been budgeted to update the PARCC Plan. Ms. Hite suggested the Commission provide new ideas and guidance to the new PARCC Plan process which will begin over the next 6 months.

Commissioner Terwilliger asked if Wave Aquatics is tied to a specific reopening phase according to Governor Inslee's reopening plan. Ms. Hite explained, Wave Aquatics will have the ability to be open in both Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Mr. Kleppe asked if the Recreation funds will bounce back after programs reopen and if the CIP is part of the general fund. Ms. Hite explained the Recreation Activity fund will replenish once revenue starts coming in. She clarified the CIP fund is a separate fund for Parks programs, derived from impact fees and real estate excise tax. It is money set aside for long range projects/capital improvement.

Commissioner Hargreaves asked about the process of the upcoming PARCC plan and if the opportunity to reprioritize projects will take place. Ms. Hite explained when the plan opens, a consultant will be hired to work with City staff to determine public engagement process based on program and geographical information. She added there will be an opportunity to prioritize projects. Mr. Aken added other factors that will be taken in consideration will be data of population growth, levels of service and averaging of rentals. Projects can be reprioritized based on surveys, community forums, and criteria that are determined for future needs and wants.

2. Senior and Community Center Update, Carrie Hite, Parks and Recreation Director, Jeff Aken, Senior Park Planner, Eric Dawson, Capital Projects Manager

Ms. Hite presented an update on the Redmond Senior Community Center. She began with the priorities of the community's needs. These consist of a larger welcoming space, increased accessibility to serve all ages, environmental sustainability, building community and a common place for recreation fitness, cultural gatherings, and events. Ms. Hite continued to explain the communication process, how it is progressing, and what to expect.

There are six partnership submittals that are being evaluated. The selection process will rely on timing, financing, and alignment of the vision and mission for the Senior Community Center. Ms. Hite presented details of the larger recreation space. Proposed cost recovery consists of, utilizing revenue producing programs in conjunction with complementary services. Communication with the community is underway with social media posts, commission briefings and a project website inbox. The first public meeting will occur at the end of February.

Commissioner Terwilliger referred to the "Overall Space Program" slide from Ms. Hite's presentation and asked how the building flow is configured. Ms. Hite clarified the numbers are not static and the schematic design is in the beginning process stages. She added this includes the incorporation of hallway spaces and elevators that are necessary.

Commissioner Gottgetreu asked if the six letters of interest for partnership can be revealed at this time. Ms. Hite explained at this time, the groups that can be identified as an urban school, a cultural group, nonprofit housing, and some youth services.

Commissioner Cherkis asked if an investing partner will have ownership of the building. Ms. Hite indicated legal negotiations will take place with the developer to include a partnership with private entities on a long-term lease agreement. Mr. Aken gave some examples of a long-term

agreement such as King County Library and City Hall, and the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club with building a new gym.

Commissioner Wayland asked if there was a plan to utilize the current site while waiting for the center to be built. Mr. Dawson answered the fence will come down and citizens will be able to walk across the area. He added there is no recreational use intended at this time.

Commissioner Bowman asked how parking will be accommodated if there was a housing entity in the space. Ms. Hite explained that a parking study will be completed, and planning will have to follow city codes when determining parking.

3. City Council/Commission Joint Meeting, Jeff Aken, Senior Park Planner and All

Mr. Aken presented prepping details for the upcoming joint Council meeting. He added the Council will want to hear about recent accomplishments, commission priorities and items that hold interest in the council. The commission is allowed one hour of time. Mr. Aken suggested having one or two people presenting and keeping the presentation portion short to allow more time for discussion. He shared possible highlights from 2019-20 to prime discussion:

Mr. Aken mentioned the Council's interests leans towards policy/plan implementation and having a social equity lens on parks and trails. He added the biggest priorities for the Council are diversity, inclusion, and sustainability. The Committee discussed the following potential topic ideas to bring to the Joint Council meeting:

- Redmond Central Connector III (RCC III)
- Redmond Senior Community Center – Direction related to cost and square footage.
- PARCC Plan
- Joint meetings with Arts and Culture Commission
- Two sub committees that the commission supports
- Connection trail to Marymoor Park Village
- Tree Canopy
- Diversity and inclusion in the recruitment process to include and larger range of youth
- Trail solutions for Light Rail Station
- Sustainability in planning

The Commission discussed the necessity of bringing the topic of RCC III to Council. Ms. Hite explained negotiations between the City and PSE are very close to a solution for the easement and maintenance road for RCC III. She added Planning is working to bring in grant funds as the project was taken off the list for CIP funds. Ms. Hite added the RCC III would be considered the next project to receive CIP funds when available and it would be appropriate to bring the topic to Council. Mr. Aken added RCC III is a staff priority and reinforcement from the Commission would be powerful.

Mr. Aken recapped main points from the discussion are as follows, participation and success with the sub and joint committees, RCC3 and the importance of trail connections, Parks role in

sustainability, plans for Tree Canopy and diversity to include ADA work being done. Commissioner Bowman suggests not repeating topics that have already been presented.

Commissioner Cherkis suggested asking the Council what they are looking for and how the commission can help with the agenda. As an example, including a letter regarding the Redmond Senior Community Center representing the voice of the commission or as a resident. Commission Terwilliger voiced his concerns of bringing forth the topic of the fiscal policy of the Redmond Senior Community Center. Ms. Hite added that writing a letter and including in the memo or submitting when closer to a council vote would be a good idea.

4. Commission Leadership, Jeff Aken, Senior Park Planner

Mr. Aken reminded the commission a new chair and vice chair will be elected in March. Nominations need to be submitted before by Feb 25th. New leadership will assume in April.

IV. Old Business

1. Communications Sub-Committee, Commissioner Hargreaves

Commissioner Hargreaves provided an update from the Communications sub-committee meeting. The sub-committee reviewed the list of Parks and Trails attributes, webs site landing page, and feature enhancements. He shared a list of park stewards and described which parks/trails still need stories or background information. The sub-committee also discussed the use of social media and made progress with how to improve the website on the Civic Plus platform. He added, Austin Horner is a great resource for utilizing the web platform and will attend the next sub-committee meeting. The committee meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Commissioner Terwilliger suggested coordinating with someone from Forterra for finding stewards for various parks. Chair Smith will take on Town Center Open Space and offered to assist Commissioner Hargreaves with compiling a list of trails to provide information on.

A motion was made to extend the meeting to 8:45pm

Motion Made by: Commissioner Terwilliger

Second by: Commissioner Kleppe

Motion Carried: 7-0 (Vote Count)

2. Overlake Integration Overview, Jeff Aken, Senior Park Planner

Mr. Aken presented an overview of the Overlake neighborhood. He provided brief information of the Overlake past planning history and timeline updates for upcoming construction in line with the Redmond 2050 Comprehensive Plan. He reviewed elements of the plan and development regulations. The plan is in stage 1. More discussion will take place when the 2050 Comprehensive Plan team attends the April 1, 2021 Parks and Trails Commission meeting. Mr. Aken described the Master Plan for individual parks and explained the project will be built, owned, and maintained by a developer. He explained the City will have easement for the parks and covered the status of the three main parks.

- Esterra Park will be under a development agreement through planning and is planned for the summer of 2022. As part of the agreement, buildings (blocks 2A and 2B) cannot be occupied until the park is completed.
- Planning for Seritage Park is hoping to start in 2021 depending on the pandemic. The planning will include input from the Parks and Trails Commission and the community.
- The third park in the Master Plan is North Village Park. Like Esterra, this park will potentially be built over a stormwater vault. Currently funding is needed for the Regional Stormwater vault and park will include satellite facilities for the Community Center, Police and Fire as identified in the PARCC Plan.

Commissioner Bowman asked if the Sustainability Advisory Panel will be included in the early planning stages of all the proposed parks. Mr. Aken will verify with the planning team.

Chair Smith asked what the classification of the parks will be. Mr. Aken confirmed the parks will be referred to as city parks and will most likely be classified as neighborhood parks. He also suggested a future field trip to visit the sites.

A motion was made to extend the meeting to 9:00pm

Motion Made by: Commissioner Terwilliger

Second by: Commissioner Bowman

Motion Carried: 6-1 (Vote Count)

V. Commission Updates/Discussion

1. Arts & Culture Commission Joint Meeting (follow up)

Commissioner Terwilliger began the discussion noting, the Arts and Culture Commission desired access to many types of venues where artists and art can be expressed. Both Commissions agreed the Arts and Culture Commission should be involved in the early stages of planning of parks and trails. Annual joint meetings are desired in the future.

Commissioner Bowman suggested sharing the presentations of early park planning to the Art and Culture Commission such as the Overlake Integration Overview that was just discussed. Mr. Aken agreed and will forward the presentation to Chris Weber.

2. Northeast Recycling & Transfer Station Survey

Commissioner Gottgetreu wanted to bring the Commission's attention to a survey from King County Waste Management proposing a transfer station to be located near RCC3, in the space that was originally proposed for the Proctor Willows area. He asked what the city's position is on the matter. Mr. Aken encouraged the Commission to take the survey and post their opinion of the proposed project. He added the city would like to move forward with the Proctor Willows development and does not desire the transfer station in that area.

Commissioner Terwilliger asked if King County will be required to maintain a certain quantity of tree canopy. He strongly suggests the commission taking action to prevent this project from

moving forward. Mr. Aken implied King County would consider the project an essential public site and regulations will be different for that type of facility. Commissioner Kleppe asked if the zoning allows for this type of facility. Mr. Aken guesses the County may pursue under a different type of zoning for essential public facilities. After viewing the proposed project schedule, final site selection will be April of 2022. Commissioner Gottgetreu offered to write a position statement on behalf of the committee.

Commissioner Terwilliger moved to empower Gottgetreu to compose a letter draft to be reviewed at the next commissioner's meeting

Motion Made by: Commissioner Terwilliger

Second by: Commissioner Bowman

Motion Carried: 7-0 (Vote Count)

VIII. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Terwilliger

Second by: Commissioner Hargreaves

Motion Carried: 7-0

Time: 9:01pm

Next Regular Meeting

March 4, 2021

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting through Teams and Zoom