

City of Redmond Parks and Trails Commission Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Redmond City Hall
Remote Meeting via MS Teams.
April 1, 2021
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. -Meeting

Parks & Trails Commissioners in Attendance:

Gregg Gottgetreu, Chair
Stuart Hargreaves, Vice Chair
Gary Smith
Shelly Bowman (6:39pm)
James Terwilliger
Jennifer (Jen) Brun
Kristina Wayland
Jim Kleppe

Vacancies

(1) Youth Advocate
(1) Commissioner

Absent and Excused:

Staff in Attendance:

Jeff Aken, Senior Park Planner
Jeff Churchill, Planning Manager
Caroline Chapman, Senior Planner
Lisa Singer, Senior Engineer
Peter Dane, Senior Planner
Dave Tucheck, Park Operations Manager
Austin Horner, Events Program Assistant
Val Asaro, Administrative Assistant



I. Call to order/Welcome

Meeting was called to order by 6:30p.m. with six commissioners in attendance and the Chair.

Approval of April 1, 2021 Meeting Agenda

A motion was made to approve the April 1, 2020 meeting agenda.

Motion by: Commissioner Terwilliger

Second by: Commissioner Kleppe

Motion Carried: 6-0

Approval of March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the March 4, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion Made by: Commissioner Smith

Second by: Commissioner Wayland

Motion Carried: 6-0

II. Items from the Audience

None

III. New Business

1. Redmond 2050, Caroline Chapman, Senior Planner, Jeff Churchill, Long Range Planning Manager

Mr. Churchill presented an overview of the Redmond 2050 Plan. He explained the process of implementing the Growth Management Act and how it filters through regional and countywide planning policies. Mr. Churchill added how Parks and Recreation has a role in the plan with providing recreation programs, capital projects, development of urban centers and functional parks and trails.

The project has two phases. Phase one will be completed in 2023, this includes the Comprehensive Plan, and the Functional and Strategic Plan. He specifically mentioned the plan for the Overlake Neighborhood being updated with a transportation infrastructure plan, and development to urban centers in that area. The Long-Term Planning team will work with the Parks Planning team to update the PARCC Plan by 2023. Mr. Aken added in the Teams comments, March 2023 is the deadline to have a plan adopted with the Recreation Conservation Office for Washington State.

Mr. Churchill described the four themes that will be woven into each element of the project. The themes are identified as:

- Sustainability
- Resiliency
- Equity and Inclusion
- Technology

He explained the Planning Department is currently working with the community to help define the themes and evaluate policy options. Mr. Churchill encouraged the Commission to participate in the discussion board located on the Redmond.gov website.

Ms. Chapman described Preliminary Draft Targets for housing and job growth with increased population over the next 25 years. Growth scenarios are being created and will be evaluated to determine what Redmond will look like in the future. Ms. Chapman explained the three alternatives being proposed and will be part of the Environmental Review Process and open for community discussion in May 2021. Suggested alternatives to begin with are as follows:

- Alternative 1 - No Action: Keeping the current Comprehensive Plan and letting growth happen wherever it chooses to go.
- Alternative 2 - Centers: Concentrated growth in Redmond's urban centers of the Overlake, Downtown, and around light rail station areas.
- Alternative 3 - Centers and corridors: Exploring options for neighborhood centers and growth along major roads outside of the Overlake and downtown areas.

Mr. Churchill explained specific details for the Overlake Plan Update that will take place quarterly in 2021. The project is currently in the second quarter and will include reconvening with stakeholder groups, theme review, transit development, and code amendments to the Overlake development regulations. The third quarter is set to be closer to finalizing the vision for Overlake. He also reviewed the process and timeline of the overall 2050 project.

Discussion took place in respect to job growth, theme priority, assessing growth over time, park and amenities distribution, and examples of what neighborhood centers might look like. Mr. Churchill added, these topics will be important components to consider when discussing the PARCC Plan next month.

2. 40th Street Shared Use Path (Overlake), Peter Dane, Senior Planner Transportation, Lisa Singer Senior Planner Construction

Mr. Dane presented a status update of the preliminary design of the 40th Street Shared Use Path from 156th Ave to 163rd Ave. He referred to the Transportation Master Plan that identifies a series of bicycle modal corridors and the PARCC Plan describing trails through the Overlake area. He explained the project goals and schedule with construction starting 2022. The corridor will be built as a shared use pathway between pedestrian and bicycles.

Mr. Dane reviewed the current sidewalk issues along 40th Street that will be resolved and accommodate wheelchair and bicycle accessibility. The two distinct areas of the project are referred to as the West Segment, from 156th Ave to 159th Ave., and the East segment is from 159th Ave to 163rd Ave.

Commissioner Terwilliger asked if there will be accommodations made to make the downhill grade safer for bicycles, specifically when approaching the 163rd and Bel Red intersections. Mr. Dane explained he will review more details regarding this comment. He added, approaches to intersections are generally designed to reinforce users to slow using channelization changes, a minor chicane, and clear sightlines.

Commissioner Hargreaves asked how this project was funded and what made the project become a priority. Mr. Dane explained the project is part of the Transportation Master Plan and one of the core goals for the City is to improve multi modal transportation. He added high quality access for pedestrians and bicycles to bus transit and the light rail infrastructure also make it a priority. The City has received grant funds from Puget Sound Regional Council and City funds are also being used.

Commissioner Smith asked about connectivity improvements to the bike path by Westlake Sammamish from 61st to 240th. Mr. Dane clarified, this project consists of extending 40th street past 156th and east of 163rd only. He added the bike path area Commissioner Smith is referring to has not been prioritized for funding at this time.

Commissioner Kleppe asked about the cycle track that was mentioned in the presentation. Mr. Dane explained the term refers to a dedicated bicycle facility that has physical protection from vehicles and is also called a protected bicycle lane. The location is 28th street and extends to the cycle track that Microsoft is building. The lane will be back behind the curb with a separate sidewalk for pedestrians.

Commissioner Wayland asked about the eastern portion of the project and what will be happening to the trees in that area. Mr. Dane explained the proposal requires removal of the street trees and new trees will be placed in the continuous landscape buffer. Chair Gottgetreu asked if the new root system will be in place when replanting the trees. Mr. Tuchek explained, depending on the landscape, regular topsoil is likely preferred. Mr. Dane clarified the concept is continuous and will give additional growing space for the trees. Ms. Singer added, structure of the soils will be considered when evaluations are made in the next phase.

3. Park Operations Quarterly Update, Dave Tuchek, Park Operations Manager

Mr. Tuchek described the challenges with keeping parks open during COVID-19 in 2020. During that time Park Operations crews were required to close amenities and participated in educating the community about restrictions that were in place. Safety precautions were accommodated as the year progressed. The budget reduction reduced staff significantly. The prime focus consisted of core priorities such as safety, personal protection protocol, and asset protection. As amenities reopen, challenges from budget reductions will continue in 2021 such as, a 55% employee reduction, landscape contracts being eliminated, turf irrigation reduction, and the Green Redmond Partnership program budget reduction of \$50,000.

Main projects that were completed in 2020:

- Resurfaced tennis courts at Grass Lawn
- Replaced sports lighting to LED lighting at Grass Lawn
- Energy efficiency upgrades at Farrel-McWhirter Park

Upcoming projects for 2021:

- Smith Woods pond and stream rehabilitation
- ADA parking lot and pathway improvements at various parks
- Westside Park renovation
- Swim dock replacement at Idylwood Park

4. Redmond Pool, Dave Tucheck, Park Operation Manager

Mr. Tucheck explained the remaining items left to finish the extensive pool renovation that took place over the last two years. This consisted of a fire inspection, building inspection, and an inspection from the Department of Health. There will be a virtual ribbon cutting in May, the date is yet to be determined.

IV. Old Business

1. Redmond Senior and Community Center Update, Director, Eric Dawson Senior Engineer, Jeff Aken Senior Planner

Mr. Aken presented an update for the Senior and Community Center project. Workshops and project meetings have taken place with Parks staff and other departments. Community involvement and a Council study session took place in March. He reviewed feedback for the project priorities from seniors and community members.

Mr. Aken covered an update of the partnership process and acknowledged affordable housing will be the recommendation when meeting with Council and Human Services on April 6th, 2021. He explained the vicinity where the affordable housing may be placed on the schematic. He presented a timeline of the project milestones showing the Architect Agreement and Owner's Rep Agreement being approved. Mr. Aken's presentation showed a proposed layout of the upper and lower levels of the space. Additional meetings with Council will take place on April 20th and June 22nd.

Commissioner Kleppe asked if the City has connected with Hopelink for coordinating strategies of any kind for this project. Mr. Aken explained there has been no contact with Hopelink on this project. He added, the City has been working with A Regional Coalition for Affordable Housing (ARCH).

Commissioner Terwilliger commented on the importance of pickleball courts. Mr. Aken added there are indoor pickleball courts being included in the current design of the project.

Commissioner Wayland asked if there was feedback about what will be done with the outdoor equipment. Both Mr. Aken and Mr. Dawson recall hearing mixed feedback on the equipment being used on a regular basis. Mr. Tucheck added, he has seen the equipment get used and understands planning is looking to relocate the fitness area in the landscaping. Ms. Bowman commented how she has seen this type of equipment not being used for what it is intended for.

2. Communications Sub-Committee, Commissioner Stuart Hargreaves, Austin Horner, Events Program Assistant

Commissioner Hargreaves gave a brief update of the Communication Sub-Committee. Mr. Horner presented a demonstration of the landing page for Parks and Trails on the City website. He explained updated navigation features and showed an example of an updated page for Redmond West Wetlands. Discussion took place regarding different features and information that is desired within the web page.

V. Commission Updates/Discussion

1. MS Teams Features, Commissioner Hargreaves

Commissioner Hargreaves asked how the Commission uses teams and if there are any question on navigating through the program. He presented some navigation examples and asked for feedback. Commissioner Terwilliger questioned the OPMA guidelines for the Teams application. Mr. Aken has started a dialogue with the City Clerk to find out more guidelines on using the Teams application and will follow up.

Motion to extend the meeting **to 8:45**

Motion made by Commissioner Bowman

Second by Commissioner Smith

Motion Carried: 6-1

2. Future Agenda Items, All

Suggestions for future agenda items are as follows:

- PARCC Plan work plan list
- PARCC Plan sub-committee
- Letter for RCCIII to Council: Commissioner Terwilliger will assist.
- Sub-committee for urban gardening

VI. Department Communications (Memos)

(NONE)

VII. Staff Updates- Jeff Aken, Senior Planner

1. Commission Recruitment

Mr. Aken explained some techniques used to generate more interest in the position. Currently, there are only two applicants for the open position. He added there was one interest in the youth advocate.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Hargreaves

Second by: Commissioner Bowman

Motion Carried: 7-0

Time: 8:38pm

Next Regular Meeting

May 6, 2021

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting through Teams and Zoom