



CITY OF REDMOND
Community Development Department

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REDMOND HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION and REDMOND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2013

City Hall Conference Room A, 716 SW Evergreen Avenue, Redmond, Oregon

RHLC Commissioners Present: Chair Jack Nelson, Vice-Chair Phyllis Sturza, Jo Anne Sutherland, Trish Pinkerton

Parks Commissioners Present: Vice-Chair Richard Lance, Linda Nolte, Gordon Wiseman

City Staff: Heather Richards, *Community Development Director*; Bill Duerden, *Public Works Director*; Curt Petersen, *Park Operations Supervisor*; Cameron Prow, *TYPE-Write II*

Visitors: Ginny McPherson, *Council Liaison*; Katie Hammer, *Redmond Area Park and Recreation District (RAPRD)*; Nancy Tomlin

(scribe CP's note: The minutes were created from an audio record and notes taken at the meeting. The three digits after the motion title shows the number of Commissioners voting in favor/against/abstaining.)

CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nelson opened the meeting at 9:33 a.m. Four Landmarks Commissioners and three Parks Commissioners introduced themselves, establishing quorums for their respective bodies.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Old Redmond Schoolhouse

Ms. Richards provided context for discussion by summarizing the background, estimated renovation cost (\$125,000), preservation efforts to date (including the Historic Preservation Month kiosk), and records available to the City regarding the historic purposes of this structure. The building's current location is designated as a Site of Historic Interest. Roger Lee, experienced in renovating and preserving historic buildings in Baker City and Central Oregon, has proposed saving the schoolhouse by converting it to private residential use. Mr. Lee has stated he is not interested in Historic Landmark designation but would be willing to install a plaque on the building about its historic nature. Another party has indicated interest in using the structure as a concession stand in its current location in the Dry Canyon, but has not submitted a formal proposal. Businesses that indicated interest earlier were unwilling to cover the renovation cost.

Landmarks Chair Nelson outlined public and private options to preserve the schoolhouse that have been considered to date. Additional comments by Landmarks Commissioners covered *renovation costs, maintenance expense, need for Dry Canyon public restrooms, economic viability of a concession stand, potential preservation partners, experience of East Coast communities trying to preserve their heritage, and lack of funding options.*

Parks Commission concerns included *potential current and future uses of this building, cost of maintenance and operations, grant-writing/fund-raising, identifying or creating a group to spearhead preservation efforts, developing an educational display about the schoolhouse and associated preservation efforts, increasing public use of the Dry Canyon creating a need for permanent restrooms, and the Dry Canyon planning process.*

Parks staff expressed concern about maintaining this building.

Councilor McPherson said preserving and maintaining the Old Redmond Schoolhouse, while a worthy goal, is not a priority for Council at this time due to the City's economic realities. The schoolhouse's current location is not the original one; however, Council would like this building to stay within the city limits.

Motion 1 (7/0/0): Landmarks Commissioner Sutherland moved that Redmond Historic Landmarks Commission and Redmond Parks Commission send this proposal of the Old Redmond Schoolhouse to City Council with a recommendation that it be allowed to be moved and used as a housing opportunity as long as it remains in Redmond and that the City give this opportunity to Roger Lee who has brought this proposal forward. Parks Commissioner Lance seconded the motion.

Motion 2: Parks Commissioner Nolte moved to amend Motion 1 and recommended securing permission from Roger Lee for the City to do what it is capable of doing to document the transformation for historic research purposes. Landmarks Commissioner Sutherland seconded the motion to amend Motion 1. No vote was taken on Motion 2.

Four Landmarks Commissioners and three Parks Commissioners unanimously passed Motion 1.

LIAISON COMMENTS (None)

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Tomlin thanked Commissioners for the opportunity to learn about the Old Redmond Schoolhouse. She suggested including an espresso bar in the Dry Canyon concession stand and asked why public restrooms were needed when a portable restroom is already there.

Ms. Hammer said RAPRD did not want to own the Old Redmond Schoolhouse or renovate it. However, the schoolhouse should remain within the city limits and be identified as a historic structure.

STAFF COMMENTS (None)

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Parks Vice-Chair Lance thanked the RHLC for the time and effort it has expended to preserve the Old Redmond Schoolhouse. Landmarks Chair Nelson thanked Parks Commissioners for their input on this sensitive issue.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

APPROVED by the Redmond Historic Landmarks Commission and SIGNED by me this 18th day of July, 2013.

ATTEST:

/s/ Jack Nelson
Jack Nelson
Chair, Redmond Historic Landmarks Commission

/s/ Heather Richards
Heather Richards
Community Development Director

Richard Lance, Vice-Chair, Redmond Parks Commission