



PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: 18 January 2011; 6:00 pm

Location: Redmond Engineering Department, Conference Room

Commission Members Present: Gary Parks; Richard Lance; Jeff Komer; Cyndie Bell; Gordon Wiseman, Shirlee Evans, Council Liaison

Public Works Staff Present: Chris Doty, Director; Curt Petersen, Parks Operations Supervisor; Susan Bailey, Administration

Media/Others Present: Andy Hoffman, Guest

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

DECISION ITEMS

Approval of November 30, 2010 Minutes

Bell moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Lance, motion passed.
(Parks-Yes, Lance-Yes, Komer-Yes, Bell-Yes)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commission members introduced themselves to new member, Gordon Wiseman, and gave a brief history of their time on the Commission. Wiseman introduced himself and provided some background about himself and his interest in the Parks Commission.

Parks Update- Vandalism Report

Petersen provided the year-end vandalism report. He noted that the majority of the vandalism is graffiti and that the Dry Canyon at Maple Bridge has been a popular spot. Doty reported that the police did arrest two taggers. Petersen noted that \$2,500 has been recovered in restitution for vandalism. Parks asked about surveillance cameras and Petersen noted that they have not been effective at night when 50-60% of the vandalism occurs. Petersen indicated that several portable restrooms were burned including one at the Skate Park. Petersen reviewed the year-end summary of costs and expenses. Evans inquired about the vandalism to the picnic table at Homestead Park; Petersen will add it to the report at a cost of approximately \$500. Parks noted that the added park facilities over the years have added vandalism opportunities and need to be considered when looking at the statistics. Wiseman inquired about police reporting and Petersen indicated that about 70% of incidents are reported if over \$400-\$500 in damage is done. The group discussed police action and Bell inquired about the costs of police bike patrols. Doty indicated that he will look into additional camera installations as a deterrent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review Master Plan for North Central Dry Canyon

Doty noted that the North Central Canyon area needs to have a designated name. He distributed a map depicting items identified from previous discussions. Doty asked that the Commission consider near-term plans with limited funding and consider long-term options that fit the Master Plan, with a near and long-term alignment.

Doty reviewed the map starting at the south end of the canyon and pointed out several specific features: a round-a-bout to slow traffic and provide safer pedestrian crossing; the potential of moving or relocating the Eggleston house and using it as an interpretive/educational center, and; the need for 35-40 parking spaces that tie into the path and pavilion area. Doty also discussed the "grotto" area and the possibility of a water feature, noting that COI would like to discontinue delivery to that area. Doty noted "parking pods" that would be paved with overflow gravel spaces. Additional items noted by Doty included community gardens and disc golf. Doty stated that the remainder of the enhancement area is not feasible for vehicle traffic. Komer inquired about water for a community garden and Petersen noted service available from on-site structures. Parks asked each Commissioner to provide their comments regarding the map presented by Doty.

Evans indicated the need for additional pedestrian access to the soft path on the west side of the canyon and pointed out the limitations due to the narrowness of the canyon. Evans stated she likes the location of the Dog Park and sees a need for a pavilion/picnic site in that area. Evans inquired about the difficulty in rehabilitation of the Eggleston house. Doty noted that the purchase of property may be necessary to increase pedestrian access on the west side of the canyon.

Komer indicated that he would like to see parking available at the Dog Park and Doty noted complaints about not having existing parking there. Komer stated he would like to see a picnic area, use of the grotto, installation of the round-a-bout and the relocation of the Eggleston house.

Lance stated he was pleased with the short term plan and would like to see restrooms included. Lance noted he is not in favor of parking in the canyon however, parking options will need to be considered for use of the community garden, Dog Park, picnic area and trail use. He suggested having a back up parking plan. Lance noted concern of soft path use being disrupted by disc golf. Lance presented an additional conceptual plan with a museum, vehicle access and potential property acquisition. Doty noted that several of these concepts would be feasible at the 40-acre cave site owned by the BLM. Lance inquired about a process for the removal of the Eggleston house that would include contacting the Historical Society and holding a public meeting. Evans indicated that she would check with the Historical Commission regarding the house.

Parks stated that he was in agreement with the group. He also noted that he would like to see the addition of a restroom.

Bell indicated the need to have something "unique" to create a draw to the area. She suggested an outdoor café similar to the one at Centennial Park, and bike rentals. Bell supported the picnic/pavilion area. She would like to see more enhancement including a botanical garden. Bell provided an article depicting a "destination playground." Evans noted the lack of playground amenities for children. Parks remarked that the Master Plan shows more development at the north end of the canyon where these items could be accommodated.

Wiseman noted accessibility and cost boundaries. Doty stated he will add more detail to the map presented including access and parking. Doty indicated that the next step is to develop an actual layout.

Hoffman suggested tying the community garden area to the Eggleston house and creating an area for vendors to sell products. Doty proposed the possibility of a care taker residence similar to the one on the Sam Johnson properties. Doty reported that he will address the issue of disc golf interfering with the soft path access and invited members to a meeting with a disc golf advocate next week.

Skate Park Evaluation

Doty provided a history of the Skate Park for new members and noted that there were several requests for the use of scooters at the Skate Park. He noted that the comment period has ended and little response was received. He also reported that no injuries have been reported. Parks inquired if the feedback received was representative of the park users. Parks noted that he has visited the Skate Park and it did not appear that the scooter riders were visibly younger and that the scooter riders and skateboarders seemed polite and willing to work together. Komer suggested that the volunteers working at the Skate Park should have priority. Lance inquired if extending the comment period an additional month was feasible since the communication system was not working properly. Lance requested an additional staff report on the process. Doty noted the need to obtain data from Police and Fire regarding any issues at the park and suggested another public meeting to encourage written comments. Evans indicated concern over losing volunteers at the Skate Park and indicated the need for skateboarders to be able to reserve the park for events. She noted that the users appear to be getting along and could engage in a joint fund-raising project for the park. Parks supported the need to expand the public comment period to develop a compromise or resolution. Doty suggested the members observe the usage at the park and move a final decision to the April meeting. Doty stated that signage will need to be posted indicating that the comment period will end mid-March.

City Code Updates

Parks submitted a draft copy of the revised code which addressed the relationship with RAPRD and COPRD. The group will review the draft and provide comments at the next meeting.

Advertising Policy

In the interest of time, this item will be held until the next meeting.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15th, at 6:00 pm at the Fire Hall.

APPROVED by the Parks Commission and SIGNED by the Chairperson this 15th day of February, 2011.



Chairperson