



PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: 28 July 2011; 6:00 pm

Location: Redmond Fire Station, Conference Room

Commission Members Present: Andy Hoffman; Jeff Komer; Richard Lance; Gordon Wiseman; Shirlee Evans, Council Liaison

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

Media/Others Present: Katie Hammer, RAPRD; Trish Pinkerton, Redmond Spokesman

CALL TO ORDER 6:00 pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS *(Items not on the Agenda)*

There were no public comments given at this time.

DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS

North Central Canyon Master Plan

1. Review Public Input

Doty explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the comments received during the public comment period, and to evaluate them to determine if the Commission feels anything needs to be revised on the plan. Doty noted a revision to the plan name that more accurately describes its purpose; "North-Central Dry Canyon Near Term Utilization Master Plan." Doty explained that the plan is for near-term uses and long-term "potential" utilization. Doty stated that changes were made based on comments from the RDC.

Doty summarized the comments, noting that there are people who want to keep the canyon natural, however; the 1984 Master Plan did show park use for the area. Doty cited concern that the community garden area is too big and is redundant with other community garden spaces. He clarified that the area is designed but it would be up to the community to decide if they want to utilize it as a community garden. Doty noted concerns received about the disc golf course including the native vegetation being trampled and closing off existing trails to allow for new trails. Doty explained that this would be necessary to insure safety for a disc golf facility. Doty also stated that general questions about investing in a parking lot when funds could be used for debt service or maintenance was also asked. Another comment that was given noted that the parking at the Skate Park should be used for the Dog Park. Doty explained that a parking lot near the Dog Park would help to control traffic crossing and congestion in the area, and that it would be a wise investment to have that base parking by the Dog Park. Doty asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Lance noted concerns that the neighbors at the canyon rim do not want to look at a parking lot, as well as concerns with safety and visibility issues due to the road grade at the entrance to the proposed parking area. Doty suggested that visibility would not be a problem based on the lay out. Lance indicated that depending on the amount of interest in the disc golf course, he doesn't feel that there would be significant damage to the vegetation. Lance noted the area at the Black Butte storm swale and discussed development of the site

over time with planting trees along the trail and other improvements. Lance is supportive of the plan as proposed without revisions.

Hoffman noted having other uses near the parking lot to increase utilization, and cited agreement with the comments about the community garden area. He suggested referencing it as a botanical garden area. Hoffman does not recommend any major changes.

Evans abstained from commenting as she is a voting Council member.

Wiseman stated that he feels we are moving in a direction that is best for the community and that he is comfortable proceeding with plan as presented. Wiseman expressed concern about notifying people that provided public comments and also inquired if there would there be any value in meeting with the RDC. Doty stated that he will present the plan to the RDC at a future meeting, or plan a future joint meeting.

Komer suggested that we need to focus on the things we can do and what is within our budget.

Doty will prepare a staff report for Council with the history of the canyon master planning process and the limited funding for parks from SDCs. Doty will explain that the goal will be to work with low cost, volunteer or donation based projects, which could last up to 10 years when more funding is available. Lance asked about creating a timeline for developing a picnic area or restrooms. Doty noted a restroom would be long term. Petersen noted the house on the site. Doty suggested an RFP to see if there is interest in moving the house somewhere in Redmond and maintaining its integrity. Doty will bring a proposal to the Commission at a future meeting. Doty noted full consensus of the Commissioners regarding the plan. He explained that if the plan is approved at the August 9th Council meeting he will start working on the parking lot.

Evans discussed the Bicycle Refinement Plan, which needs to be presented to the Parks Commission for a recommendation to Council. Evans explained that the plan addresses the Canyon trail system as noted on the Master Plan. Evans indicated the importance of signage since we have a great system; it's just that nobody knows how it connects.

Doty reported that future agenda items will need to address canyon access. Lance noted the plan for the Canyon between Highland and Black Butte. Doty indicated that he would like to have a plan for that area to present to Council before the end of the year. Doty noted the north end of the Canyon from the Waste Water Treatment Plant to Pershall, which is noted in one of Council's goals for FY2011-12. Doty explained that this area is more practical for ball fields or an athletic complex however; it will be a long term planning effort since we don't own the property.

Doty again summarized the positive and negative public comments and noted that the plan is financially feasible at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled for 16 August 2011; a presentation on the Bicycle Refinement Plan and the use of horses in the Canyon will be on the agenda.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

APPROVED by the Parks Commission and SIGNED by the Chairperson this 16TH day of

AUGUST, 2011.


Chairperson