



PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: 15 March 2011; 6:00 pm

Location: Redmond Fire Station, Conference Room

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

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

Media/Others Present: Katie Hammer, RAPRD; Trish Pinkerton, Redmond Spokesman; Kelly Avery, Dog Park; Shane Johnson, Eric Helie and Bob Gilbert, Trinity Bikes

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

DECISION ITEMS

Approval of 15 February 2011 Minutes

Parks noted a change to the next meeting date. Lance moved to approved the minutes, seconded by Komer, motion unanimously passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parks Update

Petersen reported that volunteer groups are working on getting the baseball fields ready. Parks Division staff are working on fence repairs and preparing to open the restrooms for the season. Petersen stated that they have been cleaning up from the recent storm damage that affected several trees. Petersen is evaluating an aeration system for Fireman's Pond to help reduce the algae buildup. He noted that algae has been a problem since the Juniper Golf Course moved and is no longer accessing the water from the pond and creating circulation.

Petersen reported on the recent vandalism at Bowlby Park. He also noted the upcoming Earth Day events and the recent volunteer clean-up at the Dog Park. Petersen informed the Commission that he recently went to Salem for a presentation of the grant application for Homestead Trail.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dog Park Presentation (Kelly Ramey)

Ramey gave an overview of the development of the Dog Park citing donor history, design and budget items. Ramey reported that a public meeting was held on January 24, 2011, to discuss the current status of the Dog Park and items that need to be completed. Some of the remaining items include concrete entrances, shade structures over the benches and a water connection to the fire hydrants. The Commission and Ramey discussed groundcover options including bark chips, grass and natural pathways that would provide drainage.

Doty noted that problem areas need to be addressed. Ramey stated that parking adjacent to the Dog Park site has been requested. Doty thanked Ramey and the volunteers for their assistance with the Dog Park. A ribbon cutting with the Chamber will be held on June 10th, 2011.

Dry Canyon Natural Trail Improvements (Shane Johnson)

Evans introduced Shane Johnson and explained that Johnson would like to propose extending a portion of the soft trail in the Dry Canyon as a bicycle trail. Johnson stated he would like permission to have a trail building day on March 26, 2011, to extend the trail ¼ mile utilizing natural surfaces. Johnson displayed a map of the trail area showing that the trail is well established. Johnson explained that he has worked with COTA and BLM on previous trails and that the goal is to create trails that do not need constant maintenance. Parks asked if the new section of bike trail would be visible from the paved trail. Johnson noted that there are only a few small sections that are noticeable from the paved trail.

Johnson described the trail as having beginner options and more challenging routes. He indicated that he would like to have signage in the future that would mark the trail and include trail names. Lance asked if the bike trail crossed over the paved trail in any areas and if there were concerns in areas with less visibility. Johnson stated that the trails intersect at the bridge however it is a highly visible area. Johnson indicated that they would be trimming trees in areas with visibility problems and that no trees would be removed. Johnson discussed options to slow traffic at crossing areas. Petersen cited that the trail plan would have a minimal impact on the canyon and that it would help to improve erosion issues.

Komer made a motion to allow Johnson to make the proposed improvements to Dry Canyon renegade trails north of the Maple Bridge; motion was seconded by Bell; motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Johnson will provide a follow up presentation when the project is complete.

Budget Review

Doty provided an overview of the proposed 2011-2012 budget and reviewed the budget narrative. Doty noted a 12% cut to the General Fund. Doty noted the volunteer work and support from the 10/11 fiscal year in review that helped to complete several projects. Doty reviewed the capital resources that will be available for the 11/12 fiscal year, noting \$235,000 that has been carried over from the prior year. Projects budgeted include Hathaway Park, Sam Johnson toy structure and a North Central Dry Canyon parking lot by the Dog Park. Doty reported that an ODOT grant has been received for the design of the Maple staircase. Doty reported that the parking lot will require that we go through the land use process. Petersen noted that landscaping at Diamond Bar and Fairhaven are also budgeted items that have been carried over. Doty noted that much of the capital fund revenue came from a prior land sale in the Dry Canyon.

The group discussed future projects including traffic flow issues at American Legion Park. Doty reported that staff is working on a signage plan for events and that changes to the traffic flow at Nolan Town Center need to be evaluated. The group agreed that the parking area near the Dog Park needs to be a priority.

Doty reviewed the expense items noting personnel costs and also explained that the Cemetery is now part of the Parks budget. Doty explained that a replacement position has not been funded and will be filled with seasonal employees to meet the workload. Doty reported on the systems maintenance line item and that more systems maintenance is required to replace worn out infrastructure. The Parks Division is not proposing to purchase any new equipment this year. Doty reported on SDC revenue and its decline due to the lack of residential building.

Petersen clarified that the Facilities portion of the budget included all of the City buildings and the cost of a custodial employee. Doty noted that a proposed SDC reduction is in discussion however, it will not affect the Parks portion of SDC revenue.

North Central Canyon Master Plan

A. Disc Golf Review

Doty opened up the subject for discussion following last month's presentation. Doty asked if the group felt that this could be a long term use in the area and if there were any concerns regarding safety or other issues. Komer noted he was in favor of the concept and felt it was a cost-effective use. Lance would like to see additional research on similar courses that are also in close proximity to walking trails. Hoffman noted concerns at specific holes that are aimed directly at the walking trails and would like to see those redesigned. Parks noted that this is a promising use and the details could be worked out. Doty asked if this would be the best use for the site based on the Master Plan and if it could be a near-term project. Lance indicated that he would like to evaluate public comment on the Master Plan before moving ahead.

Evans noted that the area near the proposed parking lot could be used for the disc golf course, the Dog Park, a picnic area and community gardens, and that all of these uses should be included in the approval process. Doty noted that the parking lot would be 30 to 40 spaces and could accommodate all of the proposed uses. Bell asked if there might be plans for turning the Eggleston house into a retail type facility, bike rentals or a café similar to Centennial Park. Doty noted the integrity of the structure would not accommodate a retail use, however the area could be identified for vendor use.

Due to time constraints, the remaining items will be held until the next meeting.

Advertising Policy

City Code Updates

Geological Interpretative Center (Richard Lance)

Parks reminded the group that the decision to allow scooters at the Skate Park will need to be made at the next meeting. Doty will provide the Commission with data from Police and Fire/Med, and copies of the feedback received prior to the meeting. Doty noted that signs have been posted at the Skate Park for feedback and so far seven responses have been received. The Commission agreed that public comment will be accepted at the meeting however, this will not be a formal public hearing.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th, at 6:00 pm at the Redmond Fire Hall.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

APPROVED by the Parks Commission and SIGNED by the Chairperson this 19th day of April, 2011.



Chairperson