



PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: 17 May 2011; 6:00 pm

Location: Redmond Fire Station, Conference Room

Commission Members Present: Cyndie Bell; Andy Hoffman; Jeff Komer; Richard Lance; Shelly Neal; Gordon Wiseman

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

Richard Lance acted as chair and called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

CITIZEN COMMENT

There were no citizen comments given at this time.

DECISION ITEMS

Approval of 19 April 2011 Minutes

Komer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bell, motion unanimously passed by vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parks Update

Petersen gave an overview of the volunteer projects completed on Earth Day including the swale planting, fence removal, toy structure painting and trash pickup. He will monitor how the swale plantings hold up and how much maintenance they require. He discussed the volunteer work at the Dog Park including the gravel added to the entries. Petersen stated he has received both positive and negative feedback on the wood chips at the Dog Park and noted that the chips will be screened and cleaned out. Petersen reported that the dog drinking/fire hydrant fountains are ready to be installed and that another fire hydrant will be added near the entry as a "human" drinking fountain. Petersen discussed upcoming events in the parks including the *Fish Fair* this weekend and the summer schedule for *Music in the Canyon* at American Legion Park.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

North Central Canyon Master Plan

Doty distributed a near-term/long-term Master Plan for review which created six distinct areas labeled "A" through "F." Doty noted "Area E," an enhancement area, which could extend one block past Fir Street. Doty stated that the plan recaps what could be done in the near-term for minimal cost and to increase the usability of the area. Doty noted the plan is for intended use and shows the items that have been previously discussed by the Commission. Doty indicated that the only time sensitive project is the parking lot, which should be completed before this winter.

Doty reviewed "Area A" indicating the parking lot with 35 spaces, including two ADA spaces. Doty clarified that the ADA regulation is (1) ADA space for every 25 spaces. Doty discussed having a simple coffee kiosk with a vendor that could be solicited through an RFP. Doty indicated that a long term use for this area could include a building similar to the one at American Legion. Doty discussed a future round-a-bout, noting that it would have to be shifted to the east to take advantage of the topography. Overall access will need to be addressed if there are going to be amenities that generate a significant amount of traffic. Doty mentioned having temporary portable restrooms, native grasses and buffer trees in the area. He also stated that the existing house would need to be relocated from the site, as it is not viable for redevelopment. Doty suggested long term uses including a permanent restroom area and play ground structures for various age brackets. He noted that the playground area should be visible from the vendor area. Lance asked for questions or concerns in "Area A."

Komer noted a permanent restroom facility in the long-term plan and concerns about the Dog Park water source being paved over. Lance asked about traffic control at Antler and Doty indicated that the current power poles may limit access to one driveway. Bell commented that she would like to consider more of a destination facility that would include a restaurant/café and bike rentals. Doty noted zoning issues but will look into this as an option. Lance noted concerns for enough parking if successful.

Doty discussed "Area B" with near-term plans for an uncovered picnic area, gravel drive, and low cost amenities such as horseshoes or badminton. Bell noted a possible picnic table project through Kiwanis. Doty suggested that the existing rock building would be kept but not necessarily be invested in and could be used for storage or on-site activities. He explained that ground cover would be existing with native grasses and a low cost focus. He also noted that ADA access issues may need to be addressed. Doty suggested that long term use could include a covered picnic area with horseshoe pits, badminton and the grotto feature. Komer discussed filling the grotto area with irrigation overflow for a community garden. Doty also suggested an overflow parking lot of approximately 20 spaces with area groundcover of lawn and associated landscaping. There were no additional comments from the Commission.

Doty provided an overview of "Area C" noting a community garden space and proposed disc golf area. He stated that garden beds would need to be raised and that we would need to get water into site. He noted that the area does get sun exposure for adequate growing opportunities. Doty suggested that the existing garden shed should stay with adjacent path access into the disc golf area.

Hoffman raised concerns with filling 210 beds in the community garden and suggested that small community gardens be made in neighborhood parks to create a test opportunity before committing to the larger space in the North Central Canyon. Hoffman suggested identifying 5 parks in city neighborhoods to see if people really use them. He noted the benefit of people being able to walk over to the garden from their neighborhoods instead of driving to the canyon. Neal noted having more of a flower garden that could be used for weddings or events. Doty noted use of the garden area as a "heritage" site for possibly growing potatoes. Bell noted the development of a botanical garden and flowering trees. Lance suggested a demonstration garden and would like to identify the area as passive garden use.

Doty reviewed the near-term options for "Area D," citing the existing Dog Park and additional improvements for walking paths, more trees and shade structures. Doty suggested that long-term plans could include lawn and a landscaped buffer area between the park and walking path. Komer noted plans to sift and spread bark chips in the Dog Park. Doty discussed the disc golf concept in "Area E" explaining the draft course was based on recommendations from Ryan Lane of Disc Ventures. Doty noted safety criteria and that they should keep a 50' buffer around holes and tee boxes. Hoffman suggested moving hole #8 away from the direction of the paved trail.

Doty stated that the plan will need to be conceptually approved and then presented to neighbors before they can proceed with the parking lot. Lance recapitulated the conversation with Ryan Lane from Disc Ventures including the potential conflicts with the paved path. Lance referenced that it is common to have a disc golf course with paths, as long as there are considerations during design.

Komer suggested approval of the North Central Dry Canyon Master Plan as presented. Lance noted volunteer efforts and fundraising to assist with the development of these projects. Lance stated he would like to discuss the process before proceeding. Doty noted that the plan would need to be adopted by the City Council following a public hearing. Doty will clarify if there is a process through CDD before going to Council. Lance would like to finalize the plan after getting public input. Doty reminded the Commission that the South Canyon plan still needs public review and Council's approval. Doty stated that he would take the endorsement from the Parks Commission to Council. He indicated that the parking lot would need to get underway by September.

Lance suggested that the Commission would need to be prepared to approve the plan at the next meeting and then hold a public meeting. Doty will prepare a proposed time frame. Bell stated she would like to keep a high level of aesthetics and design to preserve the impression of the community and overall livability of Redmond. Bell also suggested there should be ways to tie the area to downtown. Lance suggested signage to link community areas. Lance noted considerations to accommodate traffic yet attract visitors. Lance asked the Commissioner's to come to the next meeting prepared to vote and asked Doty to provide additional planning requirements.

Doty noted that areas "A" and "B" are ready to implement both near and long term uses and that there should be an investment in aesthetics. Doty explained that areas "C," "D," "E," and "F" could change over time in the long term, with Lance noting that these areas don't have significant infrastructure. Bell suggested adding trees along the path at the east end of the Dog Park with benches and similar passive uses.

Geological Interpretative Center (Richard Lance)

Lance proposed a conceptual plan for a geological interpretive center in the North Central Canyon. Lance said he is often asked by visitors about the geology of the area and would like to create an interpretive center utilizing high-tech methods showing geological features, for example, how Smith Rock was formed. Lance noted it would be an expensive project but would be a major attraction to the area. Lance also suggested having smaller displays throughout the Dry Canyon. He explained that the project would consist of a sizeable building and that other possible locations could be Oasis Park or the BLM Caves property. Lance indicated that traffic is an obstacle and that the project would need a transportation plan with a shuttle bus and off-site parking if it was located in the North Canyon.

Lance indicated that significant funding would be needed for this project. Wiseman asked if the facility would be just about the canyon or other areas. Lance stated the geology of the entire area would be part of the story. Doty suggested that the BLM Caves property would have an interesting story along with good access. Wiseman indicated that he didn't feel this type of building facility would be appropriate in the canyon. Hoffman suggested Smith Rock as a key geological feature and that the project may be better suited near Smith Rock. Bell suggested interpretive signage along the canyon trail about plants, etc., or the formation of the canyon. Doty noted interpretative information is needed on the Maple Bridge.

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

Advertising Policy

City Code Updates

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21st, at 6:00 pm at the Redmond Fire Station. This date will need to be verified as some Commission members may have a conflict.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

APPROVED by the Parks Commission and SIGNED by the Chairperson this 21 day of

June, 2011.



Chairperson