



PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: 19 March 2012; 6:00 pm

Location: Redmond Public Works, Warehouse Training Room

Commission Members Present: Gary Parks; Cyndie Bell; Jerry Boysen; Andy Hoffman; Richard Lance; Shelly Neal; Gordon Wiseman; Shirlee Evans, Council Liaison

Public Works Staff Present: Bill Duerden, Director of Public Works; Mike Caccavano, Interim Director of Public Works; Curt Petersen, Parks Operations Supervisor; Susan Bailey, Administration

Media/Others Present: Jay Patrick, City Council; Katie Hammer, Executive Director, RAPRD; Bob Gilbert, Trails Representative; Ron Evans, Citizen

CALL TO ORDER

Parks called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Parks introduced Bill Duerden as the new Public Works Director.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Parks called for public comments. Ron Evans read a letter regarding working with trail builders on the Canyon's east side trails and provided a history of the trail building activities. Parks asked if the east side trail was amenable for horses. Evans stated that the trail was for and built by runners and bikers, and that he was under the impression that the City supported the project because they provided signs.

No other public comment was given.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from 21 February 2012

Wiseman made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Second by Neal. The minutes were unanimously approved by vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Annual Council Update Plan- April 24th

Parks noted that Council wants an update from each of the Commissions on an annual basis. Caccavano stated that April 24th is available. Parks stated that a PowerPoint of projects will be reviewed at the next meeting for presentation to the Council.

2. Arbor Day/Earth Day Events in April

Petersen gave an overview of the Arbor Week projects and noted that Earth Day is April 21st. Lance explained that Earth Day will have displays, vendors, live music, food, and that raffle tickets are available. Shirlee Evans reported that a Dry Canyon clean up and a community garden project by the Dog Park will also be taking place. Petersen noted clean up in Disc Golf area and possible graffiti removal.

UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

1. RAPRD-Roles and Relationships (K. Hammer)

Parks introduced Hammer and gave a brief description of the Parks Planner position. Hammer explained the different City and RAPRD geographical boundaries and that RAPRD is a special taxing district at 37 cents per thousand. RAPRD focuses on recreation and the development of services outside of the City limits. Hammer provided an overview of RAPRD facilities including the Cascade Swim Center, the activity center, High Desert

Sports Complex, Tetherow Crossing, Borden Beck, and Majestic Summit Park. Hammer discussed current projects including the new activity center on Canal, restoration of the Tetherow Crossing house, Majestic Park, and the East Side Trail Complex, also called the "Rad Lands," which consists of 25 to 30 miles of multi-use trails. Hammer also noted the development of property on 35th Street.

Hammer explained current partnerships with the City which include park and field reservations, the ice skating rink, and the new activity center. She noted that future partnerships include the new park planner position which will be a shared position with RAPRD and the City to address planning needs of both organizations; projects would include an RAPRD master plan, facilities needs assessment for indoor facilities, City needs assessment for recreational facilities, open space planning and downtown UR District planning, an update to the 1984 Dry Canyon Master Plan, trail implementation strategies and bike/ped planning.

Parks explained that Hammer is in a position to recognize the needs of facilities. Hammer noted collaboration with the Parks Division. Hammer stated that more baseball fields, soccer fields and basketball courts have been requested. Wiseman asked if there were enough fields to accommodate tournaments and Hammer explained that the school fields are an available option. Boysen asked about capacity of indoor facilities. Hammer noted that there is a lack of indoor space. Bell asked about programs available at the activity center. Hammer noted classes including Zumba, art, Taekwondo, free weights, and other exercise equipment. Parks asked about the Swim Center; Hammer noted that the current facility could be expanded to offer lap and recreational swimming at the same time as well as pool therapy and rehab. Hammer explained that had the bond measure passed, expansion would have been possible. The high school also uses the Swim Center for practice.

2. Parks Foundation -Roles and Relationships (R. Lance)

Lance provided a history of the Parks Foundation and noted that it was originally formed by the Parks Commission. He cited that the Foundation had more fund raising potential than the City and that in 2009 it became more active and restarted from its dormant state. Lance explained that it is a joint venture between the City and RAPRD with the purpose of raising funds for programs and facilities. Lance discussed projects such as the Dog Park, RAPRD scholarships and providing seed money for the disc golf course. Lance explained that any project approved by the Foundation that takes place in a City park must have approval from the City. Lance noted that they are working on Earth Day, soliciting memberships and new board members. Lance explained that they are a working board and that they meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Swim Center at 5:30pm. Bell asked about fundraising efforts for Earth Day. S. Evans stated that no goal has been set but that they would like to hear from the community regarding the play structure at Sam Johnson Park and help with funds for that project.

Parks asked Evans for additional information regarding the Parks Planner position and what Council's goals are. Evans explained that Council has had discussions to combine RAPRD and the City Parks Division in efforts to reduce redundancy, provide a better use of tax dollars and create more efficient services. Evans noted that a special taxing district puts funding in a sheltered place and protects funding for parks, citing that both Sisters and Bend use that model. She stated that staff is working on a proposal and that we need the expertise of a park planner to determine the needs of the community. Hammer noted that a cost analysis for parks and facilities needs to be done. Evans and Hammer noted that the Planner position is in the process of being budgeted for.

3. Parks Update (C. Petersen)

Petersen noted vandalism at Quince Park and tagging of bridges, bathrooms and the tunnel. Petersen explained that the flush restrooms are being opened for the spring. Petersen stated that the Little League marathon to raise money for fields, uniforms, etc., was last week and that games start in April. Petersen discussed the installation of a camera security system and Caccavano explained that Enterprise Zone funds are available for security cameras in the parks.

Petersen explained that this is the 7th year for the City's participation as a Tree City USA and noted that ODOF will be coming every 5 years to present us with a plaque. Evans will present the plaque to Council.

4. Sam Johnson Park Play Structure

Parks asked Hoffman to provide an update on the meeting regarding the replacement of the Sam Johnson Park play structure. Hoffman remarked that the group that met was highly organized and motivated to replace the out of date structure. He explained that they want to make the playground something that attracts people to the area and incorporates all different age levels, people with disabilities, veterans and adults. The unanswered question is the budget. Hoffman indicated that they have a fairly ambitious design and that they will be looking to foundations and Kiwanis.

Caccavano explained that the next steps would be to create a "wish list" and develop design concepts with proposed phasing of the project. Caccavano stated that there is \$90,000 available from the City and that it will take more than a month to prepare an RFP and get design proposals. Caccavano noted it will take a little over a month to prepare an RFP and get design proposals. Bell noted separation for different ages of kids. Gilbert noted a park in Prineville as an example. Lance suggested that there would be planning and space issues, and rerouting the existing paved path through the park.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Schoolhouse RFP Review

Caccavano noted that the RFP has not yet been completed.

2. Runner's Path Request

Bob Gilbert provided a map showing a proposed trail through the center of the Canyon, a connector trail and existing trails on the east and west sides of the Canyon. Gilbert explained that trails could be used exclusively for equestrians and for ped/bike users.

Gilbert noted that he has contacted equestrians and that they do not want to use east side trail. Caccavano stated that the equestrians have expressed using the north end of the east trail. Gilbert cited that the equestrians want to use the west side. Boysen asked Evans about the Mayor and Council decisions. Evans stated that the Council would like to see a bridle path and work out a compromise. Caccavano noted that Council does not want to revisit the issue and if there are trails that are unsuitable it is okay to provide signage indicating that they are unsuitable for horses. Gilbert noted that he would like to leave the west side trail for equestrians and build new trail down the center of the Canyon.

Lance distributed a proposed motion. Gilbert would like to see the west side trail open for all users including equestrians; however, no equestrian use on any new trail. Lance discussed safety issues. Hoffman noted that he is a runner and is not in favor of closing trails to users. Boysen asked about the quality of existing trails for runners. Evans clarified that the west side should be designated a bridle path and that that would allow all users. Parks asked about a trail down the middle of the Canyon being consistent with Council's decision. Parks also noted that the east side would be signed as not recommended for horses. Neal noted a trial use and asked about blind corners and safety. Gilbert explained removing some of the trails at the north end. Lance discussed coming to a compromise.

Boysen asked who would design trail and Gilbert stated that he would be responsible for design of the trail. Wiseman is in favor of Lance's motion, but has concerns that too many signs and trails will be confusing. Bell would like to hear from equestrians and would like to see a looped trail. Hoffman agreed with Bell and suggested that he was not sure if the west side is where horses belong; however, a trail down the center would be good for horses. Bell inquired if multiple trails fit the vision of the Canyon.

Gilbert anticipates trail design could be completed in a few weeks. Parks asked if equestrians have seen the proposed map and motion. Bell suggested that Gilbert work with Jo Trenhaile and do a mutual presentation, including a runner, at the next meeting.

Neal moved, with the recommended changes to Lance's written motion, that [the Redmond Parks Commission create the following system of designated usage for the unpaved trail system in the North Dry

Canyon park as described below. This system will be finalized by approval of the Redmond City Council on or around July, 2012. The system will consist of the following elements:

1. The existing West Side Trail which will be designated for {all users}.
2. A new trail which will be constructed by July, 2012, as a volunteer project, and designated for all permitted uses except for equestrians...this motion includes authorization for the construction of this trail;
3. The existing East Side Trail (from Spruce to Maple) designated for all permitted uses, {and signed that it is not recommended for horses}."}

The motion was seconded by Lance. The motion was passed by a vote of 5-2.

3. Commission Work Plan

Parks reviewed the Commission work plan and calendar for the year; he noted a review of guidance documents. Parks noted that Heather Richards is working on the Bicycle Refinement Plan and that the Commission will have a role in the plan implementation.

4. Trail Signage

Caccavano noted the new trail signage with rules for equestrians and stated that if there were no objections, City staff would move forward with posting the signs. Evans left the meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. City Code Update for Parks
2. Signage and Advertising Policies
3. North Canyon Master Plan Considerations/Canyon Access Plan
4. Strategic Plan Goals and Tasks

COMMISSIONER/STAFF/PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17th, 2012 at the Public Works facility at 243 E. Antler.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

APPROVED by the Parks Commission and SIGNED by the Chairperson this 17th day of

April, 2012.



Chairperson