



PARKS COMMISSION • MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2013 • 6:00 p.m.

Redmond Public Works • Warehouse Training Room

Parks Commissioners Present: Chair Gary Parks, Vice-Chair Richard Lance, Linda Nolte, Gordon Wiseman (absent: *Nicole McTavish*; 2 vacancies)

City Staff: Curt Petersen, *Manager of Parks, Facilities, and Cemetery*; Cameron Prow, *TYPE-Write II*

Visitors: Katie Hammer, *Redmond Area Park and Recreation District (RAPRD)*; Jack Nelson, *Chair, Redmond Historic Landmarks Commission*

(scribe CP's note: The minutes were created from an audio record and notes taken at the meeting. The three digits after a motion title show the number of Commissioners voting in favor/against/abstaining.)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parks opened the meeting at 6 p.m. with a quorum of Commissioners present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (None)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Parks announced that Commissioner Jerry Boysen has resigned. Mr. Duerden requested Commissioners' assistance in commissioner recruitment.

Mr. Petersen said James Cook, a member of the Dry Canyon Advisory Committee, will probably come on board in January 2014.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 1: Commissioner Lance moved to approve the minutes from October 16, 2013, as presented. Commissioner Parks seconded the motion. During discussion of the motion, Commissioner Lance withdrew his motion and Commissioner Parks withdrew his second.

Motion 2 (3/0/1): Commissioner Nolte moved to approve the minutes from October 16, 2013, subject to deleting Sentence 6 in Paragraph 1 of the Parks Division Update for Sam Johnson Park which read: "This is the only park in the community park system with playground equipment." Commissioner Lance seconded the motion which passed with Commissioners Lance, Nolte, and Parks voting in favor and Wiseman abstaining due to his absence from the October meeting.

UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

1. Parks Division Update

Mr. Petersen summarized (PowerPoint) park responsibilities. Parks staff maintain 353 acres of park lands (120 acres of turf, shrub beds, gateway landscaping). Facility maintenance of 17 City-owned buildings (151,460 square feet) includes heating/cooling systems, fire breaker systems, and all electrical work. They have been changing out partition doors and doing some painting at the senior center. Vandalism is an ongoing concern. **6th Street Reconstruction:** Staff spent a lot of time this spring and summer in locating/repairing irrigation lines, installing sidewalks, planting street trees, and installing flower baskets (total: 150). The Parks Division also works

with RAPRD regarding park use for special events such as birthday parties and weddings. Preparation for winter included removing flowers, winterizing 135 irrigation systems and 12 restrooms, and removing leaves. Responsibility for the cemetery includes grounds maintenance, openings/closings, and installing flags for Memorial Day. He commended the volunteers in 2013 who assisted Park staff with Arbor Week and Earth Day activities, erosion control at Paul Hathaway Overlook Park, painting picnic benches, new installations (kiosk, bark mulch, signage), and cleaning up trash.

Mr. Petersen presented an inventory of parks, cemetery, bioswales, medians, and facilities. He and Mr. Duerden have been discussing capital improvements needed to enhance and complete various park projects.

Mr. Duerden said completion of the Dry Canyon Master Plan will steer a lot of decisions on where the Parks Commission wants to invest in capital improvements; however, other park facilities also need investment. He will be presenting a capital improvement plan for Commissioners' input in January 2014 so he can move forward in the budgeting process for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner concerns included hours of operation for public restrooms and damage from stormwater runoff.

- a. **American Legion Park:** Mr. Duerden discussed (PowerPoint) interim improvements budgeted for the fiscal year 2013-2014. These included improved pedestrian accessways, Dry Canyon signage, community readerboard, pedestal for Art Around the Clock or other artwork, benches, water/drinking fountain, kiosk for information about the Park system, and a diagonal walkway. He said he would relay Commissioners' feedback on the planned improvements to the landscape architect.

Commissioners suggested meandering the walkway, seasonal displays, Welcome to Redmond sign for the City's western entrance, increasing exposure of public art, tie-in to downtown activities, asking Redmond High School students to offer input on park amenities, covered picnic pavilion (seating 100 in 10-12 tables), information displays, avoiding motorist distractions, and safety of park users.

- b. **Sam Johnson Park:** Mr. Duerden reported (PowerPoint) that City Council has approved reallocating \$90,000 to realign and update the path. The City still needs to obtain an easement through Betsy Johnson's property, but the family is supportive. Construction is targeted to start in spring 2014 before the other park improvements begin. He commended the Kiwanis for their leadership in fund-raising.

Mr. Petersen said more information will be available on the toy structure at the next meeting. Cost of the structure came in a little higher than anticipated, so the City is applying for a few more grants.

Vice-Chair Lance said the Dry Canyon master-planning process is proceeding well with lots of discussion about designing a park that serves both the immediate neighborhood and as a gateway to the whole canyon.

- c. **Pilot Butte/Homestead Trail:** Mr. Duerden said the City intends to apply for a Connect Oregon V grant to fund Phase 2 of the "Homestead Canal Trail" from Maple Avenue to Odem Medo Road. Deadline for submission is November 25, 2013. This is the first time this fund has been opened to bicycle and pedestrian projects. With only \$42 million throughout the state, competition will be fierce.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Update Historic Schoolhouse

Vice-Chair Lance asked Mr. Nelson to update the Commission on what has been happening with the schoolhouse building, especially over the last six weeks.

Mr. Nelson said the Landmarks Commission has been studying what can be done with this building for about three years. Issues still to be resolved are where the building should be located and what function it can serve. Ideas for using the structure in its current location next to the dog park have included public restrooms, refreshment stand, information kiosk about the park system, museum about the geological origin and historical uses of the canyon, and multi-purpose facility. Based on evaluations by an architect and an engineer, restoring the building and correcting structural problems was estimated to cost \$125,000. Roger Lee's proposal to buy the building, move it out of the Dry Canyon, and return it to residential use while preserving its historic character was not approved by Council. An open house will be held at City Hall on December 11, 2013, regarding the potential use of the schoolhouse in the Dry Canyon. He will be reaching out to community groups, such as the Redmond Chamber of Commerce, to request their support. The Landmarks Commission will discuss this issue again at their next meeting, but that Council will ultimately make the decision on which direction to pursue.

Mr. Duerden said that Mr. Lee has experience renovating and preserving historic buildings. His proposal was to move the building closer to its original location near Forest Avenue and 7th Street, restore it, and convert it to a rental unit. Even if labor was donated by Youth Build, materials are estimated to cost \$60,000-\$70,000.

Ms. Hammer stated that RAPRD has not yet formed an opinion about whether this is a viable project for the District to undertake. She will present options and budgetary concerns to the Park District board of directors in December 2013. Since RAPRD has no funds to contribute for capital improvements, the District's involvement would be operational.

Vice-Chair Lance said he and Mr. Nelson will be going to the Redmond Parks Foundation to see if its members are interested in partnering with Council to start fund-raising efforts.

Commissioner discussion covered the value in preserving Redmond's oldest historic building in a strategic part of the Dry Canyon park system, fund-raising potential, last Parks Commission recommendation for this building, recommendations made at the Redmond Historic Landmarks Commission meeting on May 23, 2013, and the need for a clear plan on how operational costs will be covered.

Motion 3: Commissioner Nolte moved that the Redmond Parks Commission go on record saying they believe the Old Redmond Schoolhouse is an asset to the community in its current location. Commissioner Wiseman seconded the motion. Commissioner Nolte subsequently withdrew her motion due to lack of support and Commissioner Wiseman withdrew his second.

Chair Parks stated that the Old Redmond Schoolhouse is important to the Dry Canyon but not financially sustainable at this time, and that the Parks Commission would take no action tonight.

Vice-Chair Lance said he would continue his efforts to find funding and support for this project and will update the Parks Commission at future meetings.

2. Safety in Congested Users Areas

Commissioner Nolte made a PowerPoint presentation on an issue that she stated is happening all over Central Oregon: conflicts between lots of park users in small areas. She has discussed this idea with former Parks Commissioner Tom Holt and other groups. Her purpose in making

this presentation was to build awareness of the concept of safety corridors as an all-win solution to multi-user congestion, and to persuade decision-makers and stakeholders to designate safety corridors in recreational amenities. She discussed behavior management, design, locations, guidelines, education, and how to implement the safety corridor idea. Next steps will include designating the first safety corridor in the Dry Canyon

Commissioner discussion points included how to resolve pedestrian conflicts with bike riders, effective signage, educating users, need for a more coherent study/approach, using this PowerPoint presentation outside the Parks Commission as a potential demonstration, forming a subcommittee to identify potential safety corridors and report back to the entire Commission. Chair Parks thanked Commissioner Nolte for her presentation.

3. Discuss New Chair Positions

Chair Parks announced that three Commissioners' terms will end on December 31, 2013. He and Vice-Chair Lance have both reapplied, but Commissioner Wiseman will not be doing so. He thanked Commissioners Wiseman and Lance for their service to the Parks Commission and the Redmond community.

Commissioner Wiseman said his experience has been very favorable and positive but that he wanted to spend more time with his family including his grandkids. He stated that his departure will give someone else an opportunity to enjoy what he has and he would support the Parks Commission in any way that he can.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS (None)

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (None)

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Duerden assured Commissioners they can meet oftener than every two months if the need arises.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chair Parks adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVED by the Redmond Parks Commission and SIGNED by me this 15th day of January, 2014.

ATTEST:



Gary Parks, Parks Commission Chair