



PARKS COMMISSION • MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2014 • 6:00 p.m.

Redmond Public Works • Warehouse Training Room

Parks Commissioners Present: Chair Gary Parks, Vice-Chair Richard Lance, James Cook, Nicole MacTavish, Linda Nolte (absent: *Rena Meeks*; 1 vacancy)

City Staff: Curt Petersen, *Manager of Parks, Facilities, and Cemetery*; Bill Duerden, *Public Works Director*; Annie McVay, *Administrative Services Division Manager*; Rick Torassa, *City Arborist*; Cassie Day; Cameron Prow, *TYPE-Write II*

Visitors: Ginny McPherson, *Council Liaison*

(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 6:05 p.m. with five of six Commissioners present, establishing a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (None)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Parks reported making a presentation to City Council on March 25, 2014, regarding Parks Commission achievements over the last year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 1 (3/0/2): Commissioner MacTavish moved to approve the minutes from February 19, 2014. Commissioner Nolte seconded the motion which passed with Commissioners MacTavish, Nolte, and Parks voting in favor and Cook and Lance abstaining due to their absence from the February meeting.

UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

1. Arbor Week/Tree City Board Update

City Arborist Torassa said Redmond became a Tree City USA Community in 2005. He discussed (PowerPoint) the benefits, standards, responsibilities, annual budget, permit process, related construction projects and community events. He presented two information sheets ("Why your city should become a Tree City USA Community" and "Arbor Day Tree Planting Activities April 7-12, 2014") and two brochures ("City of Redmond Public Tree Ordinance – A Homeowner's Guide" and "Pruning Trees within the City of Redmond"). Redmond's tree ordinance regulates trees only on City rights-of-way and property and allows only utility companies to "top" trees. The City planted 52 trees this year, assisted by 7 community groups.

Commissioner concerns included why the trees in Centennial Park had to be replaced, average number of tree permits issued per year, and when Code Enforcement should be notified.

Mr. Petersen announced that Mr. Torassa will retire on June 30, 2014, but has already volunteered for Arbor Day and tree inventory activities in 2015.

2. Parks Update

Earth Day 2014: Mr. Petersen said activities at American Legion Park included Little League opening ceremonies and Diego's Car Show.

Easter Egg Hunt: Mr. Duerden said 10,000 plastic eggs will be hidden for the City's annual hunt in Sam Johnson Park on Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

Homestead Canal Trail: Mr. Duerden reported the City's application for a Connect Oregon grant scored 3rd out of 36 projects statewide. Next steps include evaluation by the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation, prioritization by the three COACTs in Oregon Department of Transportation Region 4, and approval at the state level.

Old Redmond Schoolhouse: Mr. Duerden said Council approved Roger Lee's offer to purchase this building and move it out of the Dry Canyon and is negotiating the terms of the agreement.

Sam Johnson Park: Mr. Duerden announced that the Johnson Family has donated their properties near Sam Johnson Park to the City; the transfer should be accomplished by the end of May 2014. Realignment of the path through the park should be completed by the end of June 2014. He reminded Commissioners that upgrades to this park will happen in phases. The City is applying for additional grants.

Ms. McVay reported that the City is working to raise the remaining funds needed (\$250,000).

Mr. Petersen said that excavation, moving sprinklers, and construction of the foundation for the new playground structure will start in fall 2014. The soil will be allowed to settle over the winter before installing the equipment in spring 2015. The Redmond Kiwanis Foundation is coordinating fund-raising efforts for the improvement project.

Commissioner Nolte urged that amenities and activities for people with disabilities and seniors be included in this park.

Dry Canyon: Commissioner Nolte volunteered to assist Mr. Petersen in determining appropriate locations for signage along the equestrian trail.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. 2014-2015 Priority Work Plan

Commissioners reviewed Council's draft goals for 2014-2015, Redmond Development Plan goals from 2012, Parks Commission Draft Priority Work Plan 2014-15 with the prior year's Mission Statement, and Commissioner Nolte's handout about Vision, Values, Mission, and Strategy. Concerns and comments included:

* 2014-2015 Work Plan: Rename "Survey" action to "Citizen Input and Data" and set as a "medium" priority. Parks Master Plan Update and Dry Canyon Master Plan should both be "high priority." Priority for Tree Board Update and Volunteer Program Update should be "N/A." Add Mission Sentence 1 from Commissioner Nolte's handout which reads: "The Redmond Parks Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council."

* Commissioner Nolte's handout: Reword Sentence 1 under Values/Community and Inclusion to read: "To the degree practical, the park system will serve every segment of our population and every generation." Reword Sentence 2 under Values/Collaboration to read: "Extraordinary diligence will be used to discover needs and wants and expectations of our stakeholders." Reword Sentence 1 under Values/Support and Service to read: "We serve as an advisory group in service to City Council." Reword Strategy to read: "Redmond Parks Commission members think forward and out of the box by asking questions and leading

conversations to help clarify and foster future-focused decisions made about the parks system of the City of Redmond, Oregon.”

- * Park Updates: De-emphasize vandalism problems and highlight successful projects and how responsive Park staff are. Provide mid-year update of Work Plan items.

Commissioners directed staff to incorporate their comments into the draft work plan and present the revised version for continued discussion at their next meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS (None)

STAFF COMMENTS (None)

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Cook announced the Dry Canyon Advisory Committee’s next meeting will be on April 30 (last Wednesday). The master-planning process is going well and is close to the end. He summarized proposed activities/amenities as well as the need for and potential design of signage throughout the canyon. The draft Southwest Area Plan was presented to the Planning Commission in April and has already been amended to include an alternate community park site. Public meetings on this plan will start soon. City Councilors announced at their April 15 meeting they intend to move forward with renovating the old Evergreen Elementary School as the new City Hall. He will be absent from the May Parks Commission meeting.

Mr. Duerden said the City is still studying the feasibility of remodeling Evergreen School. This project will take 18-24 months and have opportunities for public input.

Commissioner MacTavish requested a status report on rehabilitation of the tennis courts. She will miss the June 2014 meeting in order to attend FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) training. Mr. Duerden responded that the tennis courts are scheduled for rehabilitation in fall 2015, subject to budget approval.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chair Parks adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

APPROVED by the Redmond Parks Commission and SIGNED by me this _____ day of _____, 2014.

ATTEST:

Gary Parks, Parks Commission Chair