



PARKS COMMISSION • MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 2014

Redmond Public Works, Transportation Conference Room

243 East Antler Avenue, Redmond, Oregon

Parks Commissioners Present: Chair Gary Parks, Vice-Chair Richard Lance, James Cook, Linda Nolte, Anthony Ross (absent: *Rena Meeks, Paul Nolan*)

Youth Ex Officio: Luke Purkey

City Staff: Bill Duerden, *Public Works Director*; Curt Petersen, *Manager of Parks, Facilities, and Cemetery*; Annie McVay, *Parks and Administration Division Manager*; Cameron Prow, *TYPE-Write II*

Visitors: Leslie Pugmire Hole, *Western Communications*; Katie Hammer, *Redmond Area Park and Recreation District (RAPRD)*; Ginny McPherson, *Council Liaison*; Ian Caldwell

(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 four of seven Commissioners present, establishing a quorum. Commissioners introduced themselves and summarized their backgrounds. Commissioner Nolte arrived after the minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (None)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (None)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chair Lance requested two amendments of the July 16, 2014, minutes under 2. Discussion of Parks Foundation Disc Golf Course Sponsorship: (1) correct "Brian Lane" to "Ryan Lane" and (2) replace Paragraph 3 with "Commissioners discussed encouraging park users to use paved parking areas and discouraging use of unpaved parking areas through signage."

Ms. Prow requested and received permission from the Parks Commission to correct inadvertent typographical errors in the July 16, 2014, minutes after the meeting.

Motion 1 (4/0/0): Commissioner Lance moved to approve the minutes from July 16, 2014, as amended. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

2. City Updates

Dry Canyon Master Plan: Ms. McVay reported that staff and consultants are redoing the verbiage. Public involvement will start in fall 2014 when the draft plan is presented to the Parks Commission for approval.

Sam Johnson Park: Staff are finalizing costs and elements of the play structure. Groundbreaking is expected to occur in spring 2015 with the structure being completed by Mother's Day in May 2015.

Tennis Courts: Staff's focus on getting a grant from the tennis association caused them to miss the fall construction window. Following research, staff decided not to apply for the grant, which opened a lot of

possibilities. Retrofitting the courts for the increasingly popular sport of pickle ball will take place in spring 2015 during the playground structure construction process.

Homestead Trail: Construction began on September 16. This project is funded by a Recreational Trails grant from the State.

Deschutes Children's Forest: The City of Redmond is the first municipal partner to this local nonprofit which wants to engage youth in parks and forests. The City will be working jointly with Redmond School District on a "naturehood" project. This project might be in the Dry Canyon but has not been identified yet.

Trails Amenities Plan: This is just underway and is being handled by the Community Development Department in conjunction with the Redmond Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. RBPAC has held its first meeting to talk about this. Amenities addressed within this plan will include consistent signage and wayfinding throughout the City, lighting, and drinking fountains.

New Parks Commissioner: Paul Nolan, an assistant high school principal, will attend the next meeting.

Mr. Petersen said this summer has been busy with his staff getting more and more to do. RAPRD made a lot of reservations for activities. Current activities included softball tournaments (Bowlby) and soccer. The restrooms and irrigation systems will be put to bed for the winter by early November.

Commissioner concerns included equestrian representation in the Trails Master Plan, Radlands project status, seasonal closure of the water park (dependent on the weather, but usually the first week of October), hanging baskets still beautiful but less full and lush than in prior years, and using tennis courts for both tennis and pickle ball. Vice-Chair Lance commended Park staff for the good condition of the yard at the Becky Johnson property. Chair Parks reported receiving many compliments on the downtown planters.

1. Maple Avenue Bridge Climbing Proposal

Ms. McVay said Mr. Caldwell approached the City in April 2014 about establishing a climbing route under this bridge. Based on staff research (Engineering, Risk Management), this proposal appears to be viable.

Mr. Caldwell presented his proposal (PowerPoint) to add rock-climbing opportunities under the Maple Avenue Bridge. He summarized his climbing experience, employment (recreation management), Redmond residency (since 2003), community service background (monkey face boulder design team, Dry Canyon Advisory Committee, Deschutes County Search & Rescue, Smith Rock volunteer), photo examples of similar structures (Reno, Nevada; North Carolina; Spain; Switzerland; The Netherlands), cost, funding (climbing community, tax-deductible contributions), labor (volunteers), target climbers (intermediate to expert, not beginners), materials (stainless steel bolts, 8,000-pound epoxy handholds), benefits to Redmond (tourist draw, Smith Rock connection, new travel demographic, potential future events), implementation/management (liability), and his safety focus.

Commissioner concerns included arch width, benches for watchers, staff comfort with proposal's impact on the bridge structure, parking, number of climbers on a route at one time, public safety, need for a use exception to the preservation area (documentation), recreational use liability, installation timeframe, and ++Redmond Parks Foundation's assistance with funding.

Motion 2 (5/0/0): Commissioner Lance moved to approve the climbing project under the Maple Avenue Bridge as described this evening, noting that the Parks Commission recognized the project is in a preservation area but feeling it is consistent with the goal of preservation. Commissioner Nolte seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioners directed Mr. Caldwell to provide regular updates.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion of Maple Avenue Bridge Climbing Proposal (see UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS Item 1 above)

2. Consider Appropriate Sponsorship Signage for the Disc Golf Course

Vice-Chair Lance reported the results of his research into a potential conflict between fund-raising activities and the Dry Canyon advertising policy. He presented photos of sample tee signs and discussed sign size (signs: 6" wide x 10" high; hole sponsor logo size: 4" wide x 2" high) and sign content (hole number, distance, sponsor data). Disc golf club members have raised funds from 15 individuals and businesses, but no signs have been made for either tees or a kiosk. Funds raised were intended to be a one-time donation of \$250 per hole. He will ask Ryan Lane to get bids on how much the signs will cost to make.

Ms. McVay recommended implementing a signage policy before the next recreational project is proposed.

Commissioners discussed current advertising policy (piecemeal vs. overall), difference between "donor recognition" and "advertising," donor recognition precedents (ballfields, mural, dog park), number of donors per tee, sign maintenance, vandalism, and public safety (boundary signs regarding off-site disc flight).

Ms. Hammer pointed out that not every project needs signs to operate as the disc golf course does. She recommended implementing a standard for how often donations will be solicited and assuring that donors will be businesses that the City would support.

Motion 3 (1/3/1): Commissioner Cook moved that the Parks Commission accept the signage proposal for permanent disc golf tee signs similar to the "Redmond Draft Sample" presented, subject to replacing "sponsor" references with the word "donor." Commissioner Ross seconded the motion. Commissioner Parks voted in favor, Commissioners Cook, Nolte, and Ross opposed, and Commissioner Lance abstained. The motion failed.

Following additional discussion, Commissioners directed that Vice-Chair Lance study this issue further in conjunction with the kiosk sign proposal and report at the next meeting.

3. Follow-Up Discussion on Dog Park and Area South of Disc Golf Course

Ms. McVay reported that a lock was installed between the small dog area and large dog area to keep them separate. The City has been waiting for the end of the Dry Canyon master-planning process before planting trees in the Dry Canyon dog park area.

Commissioner concerns about the dog park covered conflicts between dog owners (small vs. large), dog owners' desire for grass in the large-dog area, and planting trees inside the fence at the north end of the large-dog area to encourage users to spread out, reducing wear-and-tear on the surface at the entrance.

Following discussion about the impact of parking vehicles on dirt, Commissioners directed staff to install at least a temporary "No Parking" sign at the informal parking lot south of the disc golf course and tell disc golf course users to park on paved areas.

4. Consider Idea to Document History of Redmond Parks

Chair Parks said this project is now included in the Parks Commission 2014-2015 work plan.

Following discussion about determining how park history information would be used before investing time in this project and the value of preserving oral history, especially for Sam Johnson Park and the Dry Canyon, Commissioners directed staff to ask Community Development Director Heather Richards to discuss the purpose and need for this documentation at their November 2014 meeting.

5. Park Commissioner Proposals and/or Presentations

A. Multi-Generational Community Development: Commissioner Nolte recommended postponing her presentation on this topic to the November meeting. She briefly discussed the value of a multigenerational focus in marketing Redmond to encourage aging in place, thus keeping retired people's incomes from going to another community. She announced a booksigning for *Building Community – Aging in Place* which will be held at Paulina Springs Books.

- B. Youth Projects with Heart of Oregon:** Commissioner Ross said he recently became a mentor with the Heart of Oregon Corps which has offices in Bend, Madras, and Prineville in addition to its Redmond headquarters. The program director is interested in developing more community service projects, such as park cleanup, to help high school dropouts (ages 16-24) get back on their feet, learn job skills, and earn college credits. Heart of Oregon's success rate is 65-75%. Two of the program graduates found employment with Webfoot Painting. He volunteered to help coordinate.

Ms. McVay said the City (Police, Parks) has used Youth Build students in the past. She suggested contacting Heather Richards about volunteer opportunities on the Sam Johnson Park project.

Commissioner discussion covered potential community partners (Best Care), providing youth with trash bags for cleanup projects, and project ideas (park and trail cleanup, retail parking lots).

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS (None)

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (None)

STAFF COMMENTS (None)

PUBLIC COMMENTS (None)

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 6 p.m.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chair Parks adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Gary Parks, Parks Commission Chair