



**PARKS COMMITTEE • MEETING MINUTES**

March 4, 2015

Redmond Public Works, Transportation Conference Room  
243 East Antler Avenue, Redmond, Oregon

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**Parks Committee Members Present:** Vice-Chair Gary Parks, James Cook, Rand Hill, Linda Nolte (excused: *Richard Lance, Paul Nolan*; absent: *Rena Meeks*)

**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:** Katie Hammer, *Redmond Area Park and Recreation District (RAPRD)*; Amber Humphreys, **Averil \_\_\_\_\_**, Barbara Detzel, Carolyn Houghton, Celie Bryant, Dick Anderson, Dick Bryant, Fred Effinger, Gary Chilcott, Janelle Schissel, Jim Barkema, Jim Ferguson, John Swires, Marcy Shea-Boren, Marian Anderson, Sharon Effinger, Wanda Barkema

**Media:** None

*(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 Committee members voting in favor/against/abstaining.)*

**CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTIONS**

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Ms. McVay opened the regular meeting at 6 p.m. with a quorum of members (4 of 7) present.

All members and staff introduced themselves. Mr. Hill, a new member, summarized his background and reasons for serving on this committee.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 1** (3/0/1): Mr. Cook moved to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2015, meeting. Ms. Nolte seconded the motion which passed with Mr. Cook, Mr. Hill, and Ms. Nolte voting in favor and Mr. Parks abstaining due to his absence from the January 2015 meeting.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

1. Swearing In of New Committee Member  
Councilor McPherson administered the oath of office to Mr. Hill and thanked him for his service.
2. Elect a Vice-Chair for 2015  
Mr. Parks announced that Richard Lance resigned as Vice-Chair due to his other commitments.

Ms. Nolte nominated Mr. Parks to serve as Vice-Chair for 2015. Mr. Parks agreed to serve. Mr. Cook, Mr. Hill, Ms. Nolte, and Mr. Parks voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Parks for Vice-Chair during the rest of calendar year 2015.

3. Discussion of High School Tennis Court Requirements for Tournament Play  
Ms. McVay summarized the background of this issue and the results of her research. The City's current priority is to accommodate Redmond's high school tennis teams on the eight courts now available. According to Paul Nolan, assistant principal at Redmond High School, dual striping school tennis courts would not disqualify them from being used for tournaments.
4. Discussion of Pickleball Opportunities in Redmond  
Ms. McVay summarized concerns expressed by pickleball enthusiasts at the January 2015 meeting. The City wants to accommodate the growing sport of pickleball in Redmond and long-term goals are to dedicate courts to pickleball. However, current resources prevent doing so at this time, so staff are exploring the idea of mixed use on tennis courts operated by the City.
5. Discussion of Further Information Needed, Public Involvement Process, and Steps Moving Forward in Determining Pickleball Opportunities  
Based on research through the National Parks and Recreation Association, Ms. McVay said everyone is trying to accommodate the rapidly growing sport of pickleball while dealing with limited resources, resulting in the need to share courts. Restriping tennis courts for dual use with pickleball is estimated to cost \$400-\$3,000. Both tennis and pickleball players have said dual striping is confusing. The Parks Committee is still gathering data about the community's interest in these two sports and will not make a decision tonight.

Vice-Chair Parks invited comments from the public.

Community members expressed concern about net adjustments (maintenance, repair), confusion caused by dual striping, scheduling priorities (tennis vs. pickleball, students vs. public), lack of restrooms, windy conditions, user priorities (youth vs. adult vs. families, organized vs. recreational, weekdays vs. weekends), need for indoor pickleball courts, fund-raising, coordinating pickleball and tennis tournaments to avoid conflicts, and the potential for dedicating Valley View courts to pickleball and Sam Johnson courts to tennis.

Ms. McVay reiterated that the City wants to accommodate as many users as possible with its limited resources. She could research grant opportunities if there was a coordinated fund-raising effort. Other municipalities indicate the best approach with limited resources is to dual-stripe courts. If the Parks Committee decides at its May meeting that restriping is the best option, the Parks Department could incorporate that into its full reconstruction of the Sam Johnson tennis courts in June 2015. Every effort would be made to use striping colors that would be nondistracting. She will present dual-striping diagrams at the next meeting. Additional comments, questions, and concerns can be e-mailed to her. She asked committee members to assist as ambassadors to this process.

Committee comments included key barriers to fuller support of pickleball (lack of funding), two communities competing for limited resources (cooperative fund-raising), direct/indirect cost analysis of single vs. dual-use approaches (construction, maintenance, net management, staffing), cost of windscreening at Valley View courts, full outreach (public involvement process), making Ridgeview tennis courts available for public use (short-term vs. long-term), building tennis and/or pickleball courts in other parks, and maintaining Redmond as a "1<sup>st</sup> choice" community. Following discussion, committee members agreed to continue this discussion at their next meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **STAFF UPDATES**

1. Arbor Week  
Mr. Petersen said a flyer about Arbor Week activities (first week of April) will go out in the next couple of weeks. Ms. McVay said tree planting is scheduled to be done by Arbor Week.
2. Earth Day  
Ms. McVay announced that on April 18 the Parks Department will host a clean-up event in the Dry Canyon, followed by refreshments for the volunteers. This is the first year the Parks Department will utilize the

Volunteer Connect website. Mr. Duerden reported a guest column in this morning's paper, urging people to help pick up litter along trails.

Committee concerns included the appearance of the Dry Canyon (relatively clean except for junk cars) and utilizing a contest approach ("king" and "queen" of trash) to recruit volunteers.

Mr. Purkey suggested recruiting volunteers from the 4-H community.

3. American Legion, Dry Canyon Gateway

Ms. McVay reported awarding the bid to the contractor that did the Homestead canal trail. Construction will start on March 5 and is scheduled for completion by March 31, 2015. Amenities will include a walkway to connect American Legion to the corner and a plaza with a stone bench. In prior discussions, the committee expressed interest in a readerboard. Due to budget concerns, no readerboard will be installed at this time, but electricity will be made available for the future. The Parks Department has received a lot of feedback from the community that it's long past time to upgrade this park. Mr. Petersen discussed the type of landscaping to be done.

4. Climbing Update

Ms. McVay said a climbing route is being developed for the underside of the Maple Avenue bridge. Staff are still working out details with the insurance company and don't foresee anything that will stall or cancel this project. The local climbing community was successful in raising the needed funds. Target date for the ribbon-cutting celebration is October 9, 2015, in conjunction with the Redmond Chamber of Commerce "Coffee Clatter."

5. General Spring Park Openings and Duties

Mr. Petersen said restrooms and other park facilities will be opened within the next month. Baseball and soccer are starting. The Community Development Department will host the annual Easter egg hunt at Sam Johnson Park on April 4. The ice rink will be dismantled for the season in the next couple of days. Parks staff are preparing to turn on the Centennial Park fountain and working with RAPRD which will manage the kiosk this year.

6. Tree Board

Mr. Duerden announced that Parks staff will be removing four trees on Black Butte Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets next week to resolve a safety issue with the sidewalk. New trees of a different species that is more appropriate to this setting will be planted. He explained how the new trees will be planted to encourage the tree roots to grow down rather than out. Due to the way the trees to be removed have been growing, transplanting them is not feasible.

## **COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS**

None.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES/COMMENTS**

1. Multi-Generational Needs at Sam Johnson Park

Ms. Nolte said, based on comments she has received from seniors, better communication/outreach is needed about amenities/activities that will be available to seniors. Vice-Chair Parks asked what types of activities seniors wanted to see at Sam Johnson Park. Members discussed amenities that seniors would be interested in (chess, checkers, bocce ball).

Ms. McVay said the playground being constructed this spring will be geared to children and be fully ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-accessible. Other amenities will include a basketball court, tables, a shade structure, two ziplines, benches, and restrooms. Mr. Duerden noted that the playground construction was Phase 1. Additional fund-raising will be needed for further development of this park.

2. Overlap with RAPRD and the Radlands

Ms. Nolte asked about multi-agency cooperation and coordination for park operations and activities. Ms. Hammer replied that staff members from the City Parks Department, RAPRD, and Radlands

communicate frequently to avoid duplication of effort. The goal is to appear "seamless" to the community. Agencies forward public questions, concerns, and requests for services/programs they don't provide to the agencies that can best address the issues.

Following discussion, committee members requested annual presentations from RAPRD and the Redmond Parks Foundation.

Vice-Chair Parks reported that the Coffee Clatter held in conjunction with the Sam Johnson Park groundbreaking was a huge success.

**ADJOURN**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 6 p.m.

Tentative agenda: continued discussion of tennis and pickleball opportunities and updates on the Dry Canyon Master Plan and Parks' Master Plan.

With no further business, Vice-Chair Parks adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

APPROVED by the Redmond Parks Committee and SIGNED by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

ATTEST:

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Paul Nolan  
Chair

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Annie McVay  
Parks and Administration Division Manager