

**PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

April 17, 2006 – 6:00 PM – Fire Station, 341 NW Dogwood Avenue

Members Attending: Gary Jackson, Richard Green, Susan Marceau, Gary Parks, Julie Price, Jon Wood

Members Absent: Peter Seitz

Staff Present: Jeff Powers, Parks Manager; Cynthia Hollerbach, PW Admin Assistant; Curt Peterson, Parks/FM Operations Supervisor; Eric Porter, Associate Planner, Community Development Department

Others Present: George Endicott, Redmond City Council; Michael Thille, Gail Wood, Rotary Club; Trish Pinkerton, Redmond Spokesman; James Booth; Tony Hill; Walt & Kathy Ruddiman; Tom Bull; Richard Lance

**DECISION ITEMS**

Minutes: Gary Parks motioned to approve the minutes of March 20, 2006 and Julie Price seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

Recommendation on Performance Stage Proposal Within Sam Johnson Park: Jeff Powers provided the background for this issue and invited comments from the public. Jon Wood thanked the Rotary Club for their contribution; however, he suggested discussing whether this location is where the Commission wants the Performance Arts Center for Parks, in light of several other alternatives such as the original placement of the amphitheater in the Sam Johnson Master Plan or the new Ray Johnson Park. A copy was then distributed of an alternative location for a hypothetically designed amphitheater proposed by Richard Lance. Upon discussion, Julie Price asked how far away the City is from being able to put in an amphitheater. Jeff replied a minimum of 3-5 years.

More discussion ensued about the location of the stage; specifically that an important design element for a performance stage is access, particularly for loading and unloading equipment. Better access is designed into the location of the Rotary's proposal. Julie Price opined that two different things are being considered; 1) an amphitheater and 2) a performance arts stage. Julie recommended that the performance arts stage be located where it was negotiated with the Rotary Club and table the idea of constructing an amphitheater at this time since the cost cannot be budgeted for awhile. Julie suggested moving forward with this project particularly since it has the full support of volunteer labor and donations. Multi-use purpose of the area does not seem to be an issue.

Julie Price motioned that the Parks Commission accept the location as it has been proposed by the Rotary Club. Richard Green seconded; Jon Wood was opposed; the motioned passed.

Eric Porter suggested that a letter from the Parks Commission be submitted to City Council regarding the above recommendation. An application including the design and elevations can be submitted to the Planning Department.

*Recommendation on Potential Sites for Requested Disc Golf Course:* Staff has reviewed City park land for alternative sites to locate a disc golf course and cannot recommend any other location large enough to locate a course. Eric Porter was asked if he sees any conflicts with a disc golf course in the preservation area of the Dry Canyon. Eric said he would create a list of recreational activities that can be done in the preservation, enhancement and OSPR areas and provide this to Jeff. Gary Jackson opined having difficulty with the potential for worn trails and weeds growing in a course area located in the Dry Canyon; John Wood commented, as with the previous issue, that a lot of time and thought was put into the Master Plan for the North Dry Canyon and it should be given due respect. Richard Green mentioned there are other opportunities for a better location becoming available after the 2000 acres are brought into the UGB. Julie Price expressed not being comfortable with locating the course in the North Dry Canyon. George Endicott suggested locating a course under the power lines particularly with the UGB expansion. The consensus with members is the North Dry Canyon is not a suitable location for a disc golf course; other potential locations will be coming available with the UGB expansion.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Review of Dry Canyon Master Planning History and Existing Zone Designations:* Eric Porter, Associate Planner for the Community Development Department, provided an overview to take a conceptual plan for a park through to the development of a park. A conceptual plan is provided by staff, Parks Commission and/or an architect. Upon recommendation from the Parks Commission, the plan will generally go straight to the City Council, thereby passing the Planning Commission at this stage. A formal site plan and design is then drawn up to give specific placement of amenities, landscape, etc. Upon Parks Commission approval and recommendation of the site design, the site plan will go before the Planning Commission. Upon approval, the park can be constructed and developed.

The Canyon Plan was adopted in 1981 as part of the Comprehensive Plan which identifies different areas in the Dry Canyon as either enhancement areas or preservation areas. Enhancement areas allow building within the parameters of OSPR (Open Space and Park Reserve) zoning which allows for quite a lot of park development. Preservation areas are near the canyon rim and include rock outcroppings; these areas are intended to be preserved and not damaged through development.

Gary Jackson inquired about proposing locations of amenities in a park different from a location approved in the Master Plan for that park. Eric responded that a Master Plan is intended to be a guideline to establish parameters. Eric added that if there is opposition by the residents regarding a proposed location, then the Parks Commission should put forth a formal recommendation along with the staffs' recommendation and take the proposal through the public process and before the Planning Commission.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Earth Day/Dry Canyon Litter Pickup – Volunteers are to meet in Sam Johnson Park at 10:00 a.m. for kick-off; lunch, music and Earth Day demonstrations follow litter pick-up in the Dry Canyon from Highland to the North trail-head. Flyers were distributed.

South Canyon Clean-up – Approximately 230 students from Obsidian Middle School have volunteered for litter/weed clean-up this Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

“Lets Pull Together” (Noxious Weed Pull Day) - Planned for June 10<sup>th</sup> and volunteers will concentrate on the Valley View Park area and the Dry Canyon; volunteers meet at Drake Park for food and music after weed pulling.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gary Parks requested an update on the Ray Johnson Park. The contract has been signed with David, Evans and Associates and this topic will appear on the agenda in the next few months.

15 day of May, 2006



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson