

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2007 – 6:00 PM – Fire Station, 341 NW Dogwood Avenue

Members Attending: Gary Jackson, Gary Parks, Julie Price, Peter Seitz

Members Absent: Richard Green, Susan Marceau, Jon Wood

Staff Present: Jeff Powers, Parks Division Manager; Rick Torassa, City Arborist; Cynthia Hollerbach, Public Works Administration

Others Present: Trish Pinkerton, Redmond Spokesman

DECISION ITEMS

Minutes: Peter Seitz motioned to approve the minutes of March 19, 2007 and Gary Parks seconded the motion; the minutes were approved as written.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Urban Forestry Program/Tree City USA – Annual Review: Rick Torassa provided an update of the program and activities over the last year. The City is again qualified and will be awarded the Tree City USA designation at the City Council meeting April 24th. The City continues to meet the required qualifications of having a street tree ordinance, Mayor's proclamation, and an annual Arbor Day celebration. The City has approximately 23,000 trees and, as a Tree City USA designee, will need to spend \$2 per capita on maintenance of City trees. Last year the City spent \$120,000 on tree maintenance, including tree wells and grates along the Highland Glacier Couplet.

Staff has been working on the tree inventory and inventoried 328 trees to date. A summer intern is volunteering to work specifically on building the tree inventory database. Thirty new trees total were planted in Diamond Bar Ranch Park, Fireman's Pond, Sam Johnson Park and the Spud Bowl to celebrate Arbor Week. Fifteen yards of bark dust was also spread down at the parks during Arbor Week.

As City Arborist, Rick is now participating in the review all commercial and residential development plans through the Community Development Department. Plans having incomplete landscapes and/or species not allowed are being denied. Staff is concluding it may be productive to get involved in pre-construction meetings where plans are reviewed for all aspects in the City right-of-way.

We are receiving good response from the public regarding the tree permit process. A sufficient number of calls are being taken with questions about removing, planting or the condition of trees. Feedback from new comers to the area is that they have come from cities that are familiar with a tree ordinance.

Parks Division Proposed FY 07/08 Budget: Budget hearings for the Parks and Cemetery funds are April 18th. A new performance measure was created—*park acres provided per 1000 population*. The proximity of parks to residents standard—*park within 1/2 mile of all residents*—is still being used and the City is about 80% there.

No new staff positions are being requested for this fiscal year. Parks maintenance costs were increased by 31% due to the addition of the new American Legion Park, the Hathaway Memorial Overlook Park, the opening of Diamond Bar Ranch Park this spring, and the addition of several new Highland Glacier Couplet landscape medians and street trees. Contractual services increased by \$28,000 in order to maintain efforts on the Dry Canyon Wildfire Prevention and citywide noxious weed control.

Gary Jackson inquired about the \$1.8 million in Transfers; this relates to repayment for the purchase of the Dunn property in the Dry Canyon. Julie Price asked about the section of land on the corner of the American Legion Park; Jeff responded we are working with the owner to actively share road access.

Annual Parks Tour: Jeff announced that the Draft Parks Master Plan will be presented the first part of June as an Open House forum and he suggested touring several park sites being considered in the 20-year plan. Cynthia Hollerbach will contact Commission members on their availability for a Parks Tour in May and confirm the date with members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Park Projects and Events Update: Jeff provided the following announcements:

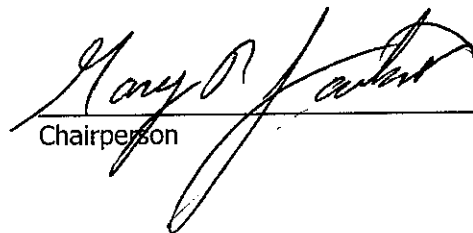
- The Parks staff is doing an outstanding job completing the Finance annex and still getting the parks ready for spring
- Munch and movies is scheduled for Sam Johnson Park again this year
- Concrete rodeo wants to come back to Redmond's Skatepark
- Earth Day celebration will be held in Sam Johnson Park April 28th
- The Noxious Weed Eradication Day for volunteers to help clean the Dry Canyon is June 9th
- May 7th – 11th burn in specific areas of the Dry Canyon is authorized only if conditions are right

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED by the Parks Commission and SIGNED by the Chairperson this 18 day of

June, 2007



Chairperson