

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

October 22, 2007 – 6:00 PM – Fire Station, 341 NW Dogwood Avenue

Members Attending: Susan Marceau, Gary Parks and Julie Price

Members Absent: Gary Jackson, Richard Green, Peter Seitz and Jon Wood

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

Others Present: Katie Hammer, RAPRD; Tena and Bob Grabar, citizens; Trish Pinkerton, Redmond Spokesman

DECISION ITEMS

Minutes: Due to a lack of quorum, the minutes of September 17th will be held for approval at the next meeting.

Convene Tree Board

Citizen Appeal Regarding Care of Black Walnut Tree at 35th and Reindeer: Rick Torassa presented the facts and issues regarding this tree. The tree is approximately 70-80 years old and initially resided by a farm house. Houses have been built throughout this neighborhood since 1940 and the home buildings as well as street development have impacted the root growth causing damage over time. Per evaluation, the tree trunk is 67 inches in diameter, has a triple trunk and value according to the ISA. With 100 being an ideal growing environment, this tree is rated at 70. The tree does display dead wood as well as other effects of stress. Rick collected a core sample to examine for decay and also to evaluate age of the tree.

Tena and Bob Grabar attended the meeting to express concern regarding care of the tree. Tena believes that this tree is an exception to the City code. For a property owner the tree is messy and in need of a decent trim. Walnuts fall to the lawn and need to be picked up before mowing which is bringing forth complaints from the renters; a seven foot clearance is required on the sidewalk. Rick Torassa stated a good trim (approximately \$900-\$1200) will remove dead limbs, mitigate dead sticks falling and will give the tree health. However, the walnut dropping will not be eliminated. Tena Grabar wants the tree to stay, however, she feels the tree is not wholly her responsibility. A major pruning would last about 10 years.

Jeff suggested the City and property owner work together to get the tree pruned. Rick suggested that the dead wood be trimmed when the leaves are on the tree, however, he recommends removing the larger dead limbs to address the safety issue and provide clearance on the sidewalk and alley. Sue Marceau expressed concern about root damage and Gary stated that if the City invests time and money that there should be some assurance the tree will stay for a long time. Jeff Powers will draft a written agreement on care and maintenance and whose responsibility it is if the tree should die.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Tabulation and Review of Park Facility/Athletic Field Reservations: Katie Hammer distributed a tabulation of facility use comparing park reservation 2006 hours to 2007 hours. This information was the basis to discuss the athletic field reservation policy. Inequities for field time are becoming a concern.

The most prevalent issue is that sports group will reserve the field for large amounts of time. Katie is suggesting reserving the field just for games. For example, Little League wants to reserve a block of time, play their games and use the rest of the time for practice. Conflicts over use have arisen when a sports group reserves the field for practice and other groups need a field available for games.

Review of Proposed Revisions to Athletic Field Reservation Policy: Jeff Powers suggested that Katie and he work on drafting an approach to dealing with the issues above. Jeff did point out that Kiwanis Field will no longer be available for reservation since the terrain is rough.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Park Project Update: American Legion parking lot has been paved; fencing will go up; Stonehedge perimeter fence is being installed; technically, public use of park is not allowed until fencing is up, hence the 'no trespassing' signs.

Stack Park dedication was held on Saturday, September 29th; the City will formally accept Stack Park after receiving considerations in the care of the park from the Stack family.

Western Swing statute is in place in the North Y; City received a comment that lighting would be great idea, possibly solar.

Draft 2030 Parks Master Plan Update: The draft plan went before the Planning Commission and the members had only minor questions. The plan is scheduled to be formally reviewed by the Planning Commission in December 2007.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Parks would like to have the dog park issue brought back for discussion and he proposes a softer approach to fenced areas with dogs allowed off-lease during certain hours.