

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2008 – 6:00 PM – Conference Room A, Redmond City Hall

Members Attending: Gary Parks, Peter Seitz, Richard Lance

Staff Present: Jeff Powers, Parks Division Manager; Curt Peterson, Parks Operations Supervisor; and Tanya Swisher, Public Works Administration

Others Present: George Endicott, City Councilor; Katie Hammer, RAPRD; Trish Pinkerton, Redmond Spokesman; Pat Higgins; Leo and Marilyn Woods

DECISION ITEMS

Minutes: Gary Parks requested that the minutes be amended to show that Gary Parks presented the "Majestic Summit" report, not Gary Jackson. Gary Parks motioned to approve the minutes of April 21, 2007 as amended and Peter Seitz seconded the motion; the minutes were approved as amended.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Introduction of New PW Administrative Assistant:

Tanya Swisher was introduced to the meeting attendees. She will assist Jeff in agenda and minute preparation and other duties as necessary.

Redmond Parks Foundation Status

The Parks Foundation was established approximately 3-5 years ago to provide other avenues of funding park improvements. Currently the foundation is inactive and needs to be reestablished as we enter the new fiscal year with a new and approved Parks Master Plan. This will allow for taking advantage of many opportunities such as grants, donations and fundraisers. In order to resurrect the foundation the:

- bi-laws and articles of incorporation need to be revisited to clarify who will serve on the Foundation
- two vacant seats on the Parks Commission need to be filled (since the individuals who serve on the Parks Commission will also serve on the Parks Foundation), one of which needs to be filled with someone who has financial/accounting experience
- appointment of a few individuals also needs to be made

Opportunities that were mentioned:

- Shirley Evans has explored a grant that would serve the trail extension, but requires 5013c status
- The Garden Club would like to make a donation to Stacks Park
- Fun Run
- National Trails Day

The Commission would like to accomplish this by the end of the summer. This discussion topic will be revisited at the next meeting in July.

American Legion Park Dedication Program

Patrick Higgins provided a handout for the American Legion Park Dedication Program. His presentation included a breakdown of the itinerary for the June 21st event. The initial scope of the ceremony was local, however, it has grown and the Governor has been invited. Thus, the list of invitees will grow to include other officials of the state. Commemorative bricks can be purchased and interested parties can contact Walt Winter with the Legion. The bricks will be placed in the flag plaza and the funds will be

reinvested into the park. Approximately 300 of 800 bricks have been sold to date. An historical account of Ray Johnson will consist of the information that was included on the plaque. Jeff will work with Betty Borgen to draft and obtain approval for a proclamation to be read at the ceremony. The goal of this dedication ceremony is to instill pride and bring awareness of the partnership that the Legion has with the city. The official name of the park will be "American Legion Community Park."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update on Master Plan/Public Facilities Plan Review Process

The City Council approved all of the master plans with the exception of transportation. The parks master plan was highly supported. Many of the individuals involved understand the value of green space as the population density increases. The SDC for parks will be increasing 235% (\$2793 is the final number) and will be phased in over the next 3 years. In the past, SDCs were paid at the time of permit. The stage at which the SDCs will be paid is now under consideration. The Parks Division owes the Transportation Division, therefore, a portion of the new SDCs collected will be used for repayment. Jeff will distribute SDC details to any interested individuals.

Update on Rotary Stage & Kiwanis Terraced Seating Projects within American Legion Park

Jeff met with Sunwest on 5/14/08. There are several grants and donations contributing to this effort. Groundbreaking and excavation will happen during the week of 5/19/08. The stage and terraced seating are being constructed concurrently. The seating will be completed mid-June. John Walter with Kiwanis is coordinating with vocational classes at the highschool to provide educational opportunities such as the tour at Hooker Creek and survey (completed at this time). Parks staff will provide instruction on irrigation and landscaping, turf and range, products and application and technology. It is likely that the park will be slightly untidy for the American Legion Dedication Ceremony; however, the ceremony will take place at the plaza reducing any interference. Forty-nine applications were submitted to State Parks for a grant and a list of the applicants is available to any interested parties. Jeff will be first to present at Eagle Crest on 6/10/08 at 8:40 am for the grant amounting to \$360,000 for phase 2. Phase 2 consists of bathrooms, playground and equipment.

"Let's Pull Together" Noxious Weed Pull Events, June 14, 2008

Jeff informed of this upcoming event at Valley View with lunch at Eagle Crest. He also mentioned that it would be ideal if Dan Sherwin could bring out the Weed Wagon again to provide education. Last year was a success and looking forward to another.

Summer Events

The Chamber of Commerce is not hosting SunFest or Munch 'n Music this season. Thus, other summer family activities need to be considered. Redmond Dog Days Summer Festival was presented to the Commission in order to gauge the level of interest in this event. The event will be held 8/16/08 from 12 pm to 9 pm in Sam Johnson Park. Currently there is a morning event planned, but the rest of that day has been reserved for this event. There will be approximately 20 vendors. The coordinator is working through the permitting process. Some concerns include meeting the 9 pm park closure and noise level.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leo and Marilyn Woods live on the canyon rim just above the proposed dog park. They have expressed concerns on noise level and interests on future plans for that area. Future plans include a dog park, athletic fields and community garden. Jeff explained that there would be another opportunity to review and comment at the end of the planning session for that area of the canyon. The Woods' are pleased with current plans and look forward to their implementation. They also desire a community center that can be utilized more often than the current location. Katie elaborated on the plans for this type of facility and is hoping to go out for bond in November.

The next meeting will not be held due to the annual Parks Commission Tour. The tour will be tentatively set for 6/16/08 at 5 pm. Jeff will work with Katie to reserve the Sam Johnson Pavilion. Tanya will make

arrangements with Tate & Tate Catering. Curt will plan the tour to include sites that are currently under development.

WORK SESSION

Central Dry Canyon Community Park Master Plan

Jeff routed a letter from Emily Herbert expressing concerns on the health of the canyon. Jeff will respond to her concerns of fire breaks because the area has been reseeded and it is taking.

The Eggleston house has to be saved because it is an historical building, however, it was discussed that the house did not necessarily have to remain at its current location. If moved, the city needs to specify a location.

The Dunn house is an attractive nuisance and has several police reports associated with it. Actions regarding this property need to be addressed promptly. Jeff has contacted Habitat for Humanity and they are committed to taking the Dunn property at no cost to the city. There are caves behind the Dunn property that are accessible to youth and need to be made unavailable. Trees need to be thinned. The city's attorney has sent a letter requesting the return of the fence.

It has been recommended that the Bantz house be moved.

Jeff formulated a property structure analysis (available to interested parties) and submitted it to the city manager. Costs for moving a house range from \$18,000 to \$20,000. It was determined that the houses do not have enough value to post them to Craig's list.

There are two options for the layout of the dog park:

Fenced: The Commission is more in favor of this option. The general consensus is that this option would enable improved enforcement of leashing rules. It would decrease interference with other patrons in the area. The legal opinion is not in favor of this option because the liability is greater than the "no fence" option due to fence maintenance.

Not Fenced: The basic set up is to have markers for the boundaries, but no physical fence would exist. The legal opinion is in favor of this option as the liability is lesser than the fenced option. This option would allow the area to be used for other purposes. One issue is the inability to keep unleashed dogs confined to the area. This could lead to the interference of activities of other patrons in the area. The commission would like to review more information on the logistics, success rates and other experiences of this option.

Issues pertaining to the dog park include vehicular access, city code and patron cooperation.

The city code states that all dogs must be leashed within city limits except on personal property. Currently, individuals with dogs are not abiding by this code. If a dog park is set up, the code will need to be changed to allow the unleashing of dogs inside of the specified area. It is believed that providing an unleashed contained area for dogs will encourage dog owners to follow city codes more closely.

Jeff routed rules compiled from other dog parks around the country. There is some confusion about the "no smoking" rule, but agree that this may be addressing litter. "No Collars" rule also needs clarification. It may be necessary to have required collars to prove registration of the animals. Raising awareness of rules once the park is established would be best served through the distribution of flyers, visible signage at the site and website. Heavy use of pictures and simple verbiage is desired. Clearly communicated signage will enable the police department to enforce the rules of the park more effectively.

Jeff will draft a site plan to submit to the Community Development Department. The goal is to establish a central parking area with an approximately 500 ft walk to the 2-3 acre dog area on the west side.

Parking should be as close to Antler as possible. The canyon wall could serve as one of the boundaries, reducing the amount of fencing.

The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED by the Parks Commission and SIGNED by the Chairperson this 23rd day of July, 2008.



Chairperson