

## PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: October 21, 2008 at 6:00 PM

Location: Conference Room A, Redmond City Hall

Members Attending: Gary Jackson, Sue Marceau, Richard Lance

Staff Present: Curt Peterson, Parks Operations Supervisor; Chris Doty, Director; Tanya Swisher, Public Works Administration

Others Present: George Endicott, City Councilor; Trish Pinkerton, Redmond Spokesman; Jay, Christina and Drew Dennis, BOR; Eric Burdick

### **DECISION ITEMS**

Minutes: All are in favor to approve the September 16, 2008 Parks Commission meeting minutes as amended.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Bikers of Redmond (BOR): Jay, Christina and Drew Dennis came to present the idea of a BMX park. Drew, a BMX rider, gave the presentation. He discussed the benefits of a BMX park as well as a plan on how that goal will be achieved (see handout). One idea for a fundraiser is selling t-shirts with their logo on it (a picture of the logo was shared). Drew also provided handouts on what a BMX park looks like.

Commissioners Questions:

- Q: What is the difference between a BMX park and what we currently have at the High Desert BMX?  
A: The High Desert BMX is used for ABA racing as opposed to "tricks." The proposed BMX park would include such structures as halfpipes, quarter pipes, bowls, etc. with walls approximately 8-10 ft high. These types of structures are ideal for BMX riders to practice "tricks."
- Q: Would the terrain be constructed of dirt or cement?  
A: Initially, the park would be constructed of dirt. This would raise awareness by helping others visualize what the park would potentially look like if it were cement. Once enough money is raised, concrete structures would be built.
- Q: Would it be bigger than the skate park?  
A: Since bikes are bigger than skateboards, it is desirable for the BMX park to be roughly twice the size of the skate park.
- Q: Have you visited other BMX parks in other cities?  
A: Yes in Portland, Bend and Madras.
- Q: What is your experience with Bend?  
A: The bowls and tabletops are nice, but it isn't quite big enough.

Q: Do you bike all year?

A: Activity slows down in the winter time.

Q: What tensions exist between the skaters and BMXers?

A: If there were a park for bike riders, the tensions may be reduced because the temptation would no longer exist for bikers to be in the skate park. The same restrictions that are exercised at the Skate Park would be exercised at the BMX Park.

Areas of interest include:

- An area south of the tennis courts (may not provide the desired visibility)
- An area adjacent to the trail (approximately west of the tennis courts)
- The southeast corner at Highland/Rimrock Way (not city owned; for sale; may be opportunity for land swap)
- The northwest corner at Antler/19<sup>th</sup>, a section of the Hartman campus (not city owned; would need to discuss with the school district)
- The field south of the skate park\*
- An area near the Umatilla Sports Complex
- An area near Valley View Park
- Quartz Park site
- A lot on the rim on 19<sup>th</sup> Street (city owned, may not be big enough)
- Industrial park was mentioned, but deemed too far for riders to go
- The Dunn/Eggleston area (north of the skate park) may not be prime because it is close to a neighborhood and difficulty of vehicular access

\*Eric Burdick expressed his concerns over the area south of the skate park. He believes that the BMX Park should not be located in this area. One reason is for future planning as he would like to see the skate park expanded. The other reason is he feels that the close proximity of the parks would tempt skaters and BMXers to migrate into each others' park and, therefore, increase the difficulty of enforcement. He supports the efforts of the riders in acquiring a park. He just doesn't think they should be so close together. Although this does not remove the parcel of land from consideration at this point, these concerns will be taken into account. Chris D. mentioned some of the disadvantages of the Skate Park which are visibility and close proximity to a neighborhood.

*Parks Master Plan: Central Canyon Planning:* Richard kicked off the discussion with a map and two parking lot sketches. The orange areas on the map indicate potential locations for parking. The cross-hatched areas indicate undeveloped land. He would like to see as much landscaping, soft paths, benches, art and small structures as possible. He envisions a "city center park" type area where people can engage in leisurely activities (strolling, lounging, etc.) since we are currently lacking in this type of space. The Becky Johnson property that is being donated will have restrictions that lend to this type of area. George asked if this property would be more suited to Richard's proposal.

Parking outside of the canyon is most desirable, but it is understood that land would have to be acquired. The city does own a parcel of land on the rim on 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Chris suggested that some grass areas like that near the skate park can be used as overflow parking without paving a formal parking lot. Keeping things like this in mind as day-to-day use is planned adds to flexibility. Gary suggests that the parking lot next to the tennis courts could be extended at minimal cost. Richard expressed that the emergency access road may be inadvertently utilized if there was too much parking in the canyon. People would use that access to get from one lot to another.

In reviewing the ranking of facilities that citizens would like to see, George shared that Centennial Park will contain a spray park.

Gary would like to see activities spread throughout rather than concentrated in the central canyon.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

American Legion Park: Dedication of the stage and seating went well. Gary Jackson commended Rotary, Kiwanis and the Parks Division crews on all the work that was put into the park.

Pat Higgins provided an update on the bricks in Memorial Plaza. Two-hundred were installed and the Spokesman was notified. The next anticipated installation will take place in the spring.

The contractor replaced 19 Birch trees with a different type of tree.

Third Softball Field: Curt had a powerpoint presentation of images on the progression of work. The final stage showed that the field had been seeded. He also has been working with some volunteers to schedule the installation of the backstops for some time this winter. Another goal is to get the fences up.

Radio Control: Curt wanted to let Commission know that someone called with an interest, but no further information was provided.

Redmond Commission for Art in Public Places: This group will be invited to attend the Parks Commission meetings most likely at the beginning of next year.

The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED by the Parks Commission and SIGNED by the Chairperson this 18<sup>th</sup> day of

November, 2008.

  
Chairperson

