

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: January 28, 2009 at 6:00 PM

Location: Conference Room A, Redmond City Hall

Members Attending: Gary Jackson, Peter Seitz, Richard Lance, Gary Parks, Jeff Komer, Dennis Erisman

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

Others Present: Shirlee Evans, Councilor; Katie Hammer, RAPRD; Trish Pinkerton, Redmond Spokesman; Todd ~~Carlson~~, BBT Architects; Eileen Obermiller, Brian Nigg *Turner*

DECISION ITEMS

Minutes: Gary Parks made a motion to approve the November 18, 2008 Parks Commission meeting minutes, Peter Seitz seconded the motion. All are in favor and the minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Introductions of new members:

Jeff Komer is originally from Portland and has resided in Central Oregon for 8 years, 5 of which have been in Redmond. He attended Oregon State University and is an avid user of the Central Dry Canyon.

Dennis Erisman is originally from Alaska and has resided in Redmond for 10 years. Dennis is heavily involved with youth sports and works with Curt often on the amenities. He previously served on the Deschutes County Planning Commission for 3-4 years.

C. Doty introduced other frequent attendees to the new commissioners. Katie Hammer is the director of RAPRD (Redmond Area Parks and Recreation District). Trish Pinkerton is a reporter from the Spokesman. Shirlee Evans is a new city councilor and she is serving as the council liaison.

A handout was provided that contained a description of who the commission is and what they do according to the city code. The commission serves as an advisory board to the city council on all issues regarding parks. Some duties have changed through the course of time. One such example is that we no longer advise the COPRD/Park Board. The commission also serves as the Tree Board for the city. It is a requirement for Tree City USA status. C. Doty, the Director of Public Works is fulfilling the role of the Parks Division Manager at this time. There is no estimate on when the position will be filled. There are various projects that need to be addressed and brought to completion. G. Jackson noticed that the vision statement was not included in the packet. It will be located and distributed prior to the next meeting.

Centennial Park: C. Doty gave a short background synopsis. The park is an urban renewal funded park. It will be located across from current city hall. According to the construction schedule, it will be completed July 6, 2010. Plan to put it out for bid during the spring. The commission is not closely involved with it.

^{Turner}
Todd ~~Carson~~, the architect, was introduced and gave the following presentation on Centennial Park:

The design of Centennial Park and City Hall is one project. The design includes making improvements along Evergreen, installing an interactive water feature, constructing a small park building that will contain a public restroom and coffee retail area and building plenty of seating. The goal is to make it an active place for events to be held. It will be oriented to welcome visitors. Other features include a fireplace, trellis, open green lawn and trees. The trees are not as dense as it appears in the rendering. They are actually 30 ft on center. The spacing will accommodate various layouts of vendor booths for festivals. Vendors will also have an option to set up along the streets. Street closures for events have been planned for and amenities such as water, power and grease traps will be installed. Parking is still provided on 7th Street and Evergreen on the park side, but not the city hall side. A handout was provided on the final selection of trees. Walker Macy of Portland is the landscape designer. Hackberry trees were chosen for their resilience to the high desert climate and ability to retain most of its leaves. The street trees chosen are Black Oak. The grove will contain Quaking Aspens. Root systems and utilities were considered during the planning process. The streetscape is included with the park and will be developed concurrently.

A handout was given on the operation of a spray deck. It is classified as a swimming pool and must be treated as such, even requiring UV disinfection. C. Doty and C. Petersen toured similar parks in Portland to gather information on maintenance requirements and associated costs. One option of a more accessible funding source is to have a fee for water rate payers. The spray park will have lights and computerized spray jet synchronization. Fifty jets (30x15 feet) are placed in trenches to keep as much debris as possible out of them. J. Komer inquired about freezing conditions. C. Peterson replied that the operation would run approximately from March to November during daylight hours. (RAPRD operates their spray park from May to September because there are no heating elements, due to its small size.) The vault, which contains the machinery to run the spray deck, is large in size. Wide steps will serve as seating for people to sit and watch activity. G. Jackson suggested that security cameras may be needed to deter/monitor vandalism. The design elements of the park are low enough that there are no hidden areas. T. ~~Turner~~ is interested in all input. If there are comments to be considered, please pass along through C. Doty and/or C. Petersen.

Parks foundation: The Parks Commission is also the Parks Foundation. The Foundation was established in 2003. Although it is not clear without the documentation, it is speculated that the Foundation was set up with a vision of fundraisers and the ability to accept donations. There are no advantages to having a foundation with certain types of grants. There are some administrative costs involved and taxes need to be filed each year.

The Foundation is up for renewal and the topic needs to be revisited since it has been inactive for a while. It was set up as a mechanism to receive donations, but does not provide any benefits over the city's ability to accept donations, per the city attorney. T-Mobile was able to contribute to Sam Johnson through the city. C. Doty would like for the commission to consider non-renewal of the Foundation. D. Erisman and S. Evans believe that there are some benefits in continuing the Foundation, including perception and tax deferred status. R. Lance would like for the Commission to take some time to think through this decision. The Commissioners would like more information before moving forward with the consideration. They would like to explore what is missing in terms of benefits. Who seeks out and donates to a foundation? What are their perceptions of donating to a foundation? If, renewed what would be the focus of the Foundation? A copy of the bylaws and other information on the Parks Foundation will be provided to the Commission. C. Doty will discuss with the city attorney.

Canyon planning: C. Doty distributed 4 drawings. Highland to Black Butte has some small areas that need to be re-planned. North of Antler/Black Butte to Fir and Greenwood does not have to be open space and vehicular access is needed. The current plan for this area is approximately 12 years old. Access, parking and circulation sketch by Engineering should be reviewed and decisions made. R. Lance drawings also need to be reviewed.

Focusing tasks: How much access and where should it be placed? Seventeenth Street out to Antler is an option as well as Deschutes next to the church. Existing access includes Evergreen out to 15th and Canyon out to Black Butte next to Spud Bowl. Remember that the fire access road is not locked into its current location and there remains the possibility of moving it. J. Komer stated that one of the best features of the canyon is that there is limited vehicular access.

There are no codes for the amount of parking required for the fields. There is a shared agreement with the Higbee office.

The numbered map was provided as a tool to assist in discussions. Shaded areas represent city owned property and letters indicate what city does not own and lined areas are what the city plans to acquire.

An update on the Johnson property donation is that the family would like to postpone until value has been regained.

ANNOUNCEMENTS


Bmx park update: The school board meeting that the BOR will make its presentation at was rescheduled for February 11, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at Vern Patrick Elementary School (3001 SW Obsidian). An historical summary was provided for the benefit of the new commissioners.

The city was approached by group of BMXers who are interested in developing a park similar to that of the skate park. BMXers are currently not allowed in the skate park and the skate park is not designed for BMX bikes. The skaters developed a collective effort to raise the funds to have their park built. The city's contribution was the land, fencing and minor landscaping. Our own system has been reviewed for a similar contribution for the prospective BMX park, but none satisfy all of the desired attributes. The property at Hugh Hartmann on the corner of Antler and 19th Street, which belongs to the school, is the most desirable location. Some examples of the aforementioned attributes are not too close to neighborhood, high visibility and large area. The previous city manager had discussed the possibility of an agreement with the school for this type of park. It would still be a public city park, but placed on school property.

Parks Commission Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be held Tuesday, February 17th. G. Jackson confirmed that the meetings are held on a recurring basis—every 3rd Tuesday of the month.

The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED by the Parks Commission and SIGNED by the Chairperson this 17 day of February, 2009.


Chairperson