

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
Wednesday, April 23, 2014 5:30pm, Lacey City Hall

Present:

Commission: Glen Crandal, Paul Royer, Shawn Smith, Lu Carlson & Robert Kowalski

Excused: Gary Hanson

Staff: Lori Flemm, Sue Falash

Public: Robert & Kathy McConnel, Cheryl Tack, Geoff Glass (WTGA), James Reddick (PARC Foundation)

The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm, by Chair Paul Royer.

Additions or deletions to the Agenda

none

Minutes

The March 26, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved and placed on record.

Calendar

Monday, April 28, 2pm: Saint Martin's Senior Engineering student final presentation on Cuoio Park. Lu and Shawn will be there.

Saturday, May 17: Fun Fair Parade judging (time TBA)

Correspondence

- a) Letter of Support for Bridging the Gap grant application sent
Joint grant application (Lacey, Olympia, Thurston County) for "hub" of 2 major trails on Pacific Ave. Passed first cut and on to WASHDOT for final approval.
- b) Draft Commissioner Recruitment Letter

Motion: to approve the Commissioner Recruitment Letter as written.

Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Old Business

- a) Regional Park Board Committee involvement and semi-annual meeting:
James Reddick provided minutes from the recent Regional Park Board meeting. Working on summer meeting (June- August), committees, hosting, participation, etc.
- b) Draft Remote Control Aircraft Policy: table to May meeting

New Business

- a) 2014 RCO Grant Application: Woodland Creek Community Park Trail Connection Project
Lori gave a brief history of the Woodland Creek Community Park Master Plan process, which included 2 public open houses in 2010, to update WCCP Master Plan, which was approved by City Council later that year. Part of the Plan included a reclaimed water infiltration system (AREA). Due to construction delays of the AREA, the grant to fund a trail segment and new bridge as shown in the Master Plan expired, so the City would need to reapply for the grant. The meeting tonight is to hear input from citizens and consider the intent to reapply for grant funds to fund the trail end segment, bridge over the creek and connection segment of trail to restroom. Grant application is due May 1. Cost should be approximately \$100,000.
4 citizens present & commented: Geoff Class, WTGA, Robert & Kathy McConnel (neighbors), Cheryl Tack (off-leash dog walker)
1. Robert McConnel

- Feels that we are cutting up large spaces into little pieces with asphalt ribbons (the trail)
 - The proposed trail should not be near the Wetland in the corner
 - 5-7 people with dogs have gone elsewhere
2. Cheryl Tack
- Has been coming to the park for 13yrs. Doesn't go anymore due to asphalt trail development and blackberry cutting. 'You've ruined my social life'.
 - Never goes to WCCP anymore, instead goes to Priest Point & Burfoot Parks, which are pristine parks
 - I do not see a reason to develop more trails.
3. Kathy McConnel
- Disc golfers are good steward, a few litter
 - Have observed/encountered campers during the day near daycare, sleeping bags
 - Concerned that we are opening up the park & people given a reason to wander near the day care.
 - We can live with it
4. Geoff Glass, WTGA
- This is an important segment of the Bike trails network
 - Underserved: walkers & cyclers need more trail
 - WTGA supports the Master Plan
 - This will segregate bike trail from car traffic
 - Vehicles backing out are a hazard to cyclists
 - More use leads to fewer problems- our beliefs and our experience.
 - Connector to incredible trail network.
 - Letter of support for grant application & will volunteer time to plan native trees and shrubs..

Motion: To submit the RCO Grant application

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

b) RAC Financial Planning

Funds from Thurston County run out this year for the fifteen year commitment; city needs replacement funding in the amount of \$138,000 each year. Options: Raise revenue, cut expenditures, outside revenue sources, etc. Our goal is to have RAC Financial Plan completed by September. RAC Facility Manager Sue Falash reviewed RAC finances, expenditures and needs.

- Baseball/softball tournaments booked every weekend, including 3 in-house tournaments. Some tournaments overflow to Rainier Vista, but games played there do not go into the RAC account.
- Raised fees by 5% in 2014, highest rates of comparable facilities. Cannot continue to raise fees or we will price ourselves out of the competition.
- Sponsorship: banners (\$11,000-\$13,000/yr), trying to attract large sponsorship for fields (Costco, Ostrows, Cabellas, etc)
- Special Events: Fun Run/Walks, Dog Easter Egg Hunt, National Dog Show, Rampage at the RAC, Mushroom Festival, Car Show. Success of National Dog Show will likely attract similar events.

- Will ask Park Board to consider lodging tax application to Olympia, since many RAC user groups overflow to City of Olympia restaurants & hotels.
- Sources of funding: Park & Open Space Funds, \$25,000 left from Message Board funds, could use for new or replacement turf fields (1 time use), need to identify ongoing, long term funding to make up \$138,000 annual deficit.
- Could consider taking over the concession stands (currently contracted out through 2015). Could be a significant source of funding. Shawn suggested partnering with New Market Culinary program to staff the concession stands. Concessionaire pays COL \$18,000/yr for the concession contract.
- Could run more City leagues, but that would push out many long term local leagues who have used and supported the RAC since it opened. Not eager to do so.

Please forward questions, suggestions, ideas to Sue &/or Lori. Lori commended Sue and Sean Finney for the topnotch facility they are running. Glen agreed, Sue is above and beyond the call of duty!

Director's Report

- a) Programs & Special Events
 - 1) Arbor Day: nasty weather but all trees given away
 - 2) Earth Day: nastier weather, 14 volunteers at Wonderwood Park.
 - 3) STEM FAIR: May 3, replacing Alternative Energy Fair
 - 4) Bicycle Rodeo: May 3 at Mt. View Elementary School
 - 5) Fun Fair and Grand parade: May 16 & 17. Park Board members will judge parade entries.
- b) Construction Project Updates
 - 1) Senior Center Warranty: 13 warranty items to be repaired
 - 2) Site furniture Installation: Trash cans being installed prior to May 1.
 - 3) Operable Wall Track Replacement at Lacey Community Center: finished on Friday, April 25. Came in under estimate.
- c) Planning
 - 1) April 18 City Council Retreat: Discussed budget, will prepare 6yr budget forecast
- d) Grants & Budget
 - 1) RCO Trail and Bridge Grant/application: due date is May 1
- e) Miscellaneous
 - 1) Pocket Gopher will be listed as Endangered Species on May 1: may affect next phase of RAC development.

Commissioner's Report

No report. Glen asked for an update on the recent request for a sign language interpreter for a youth sport participant. \$350 for the interpreter. Only 3 accommodation requests in the last 5-8yrs. Researching how other agencies address/accommodate requests, to develop a procedure for our department.

Chair's Report

No report.

Citizen Comments

See New Business comments.

Committee Reports

a) **PARC Foundation, James Reddick:**

Alpine Experience shifting to Olympia Centro. Selling tickets for the National Trails Day raffle, and someone has offered to donate \$1,000 if all raffle tickets are sold! Distributed raffle tickets to Commissioners. Money raised in raffle goes back to the 4 departments (LPRD, OPARD, TCP & Tumwater). BBQ & raffle on June 7 at Olympia Centro from 1 - 3.

The future of Specialized Recreation in our area is a huge concern. Funding is tight for everyone and Specialized Rec is at risk.

Possible dog park opportunity in West Olympia.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 28, 2014, 5:30pm at the Lacey City Hall.