

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
Thursday, May 11, 5:30pm, Lacey Community Center

Present:

Commission: Lu Carlson, Ken Balsley, Angela Jefferson, Sheelah McCoughan

Excused: Alexandra Rivera

Staff: Jen Burbidge, Jenny Wilson, Justin Beard, Christy Osborn

Public: Ron Marcoe

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m., by Chair Ken Balsley.

Lu Carlson arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Additions or deletions to the Agenda

The order of agenda items 7 & 8 were switched since there was a member of the public in attendance for the Comprehensive Plan update.

Motion: To switch the order of agenda items 7 & 8

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved

Announcements & Introductions

None

Minutes

Chair Ken Balsley wants to wait until next meeting to approve the March and April minutes since the board did not have a chance to review them yet.

Correspondence

None

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

None

Director's Report

a) Programs & Special Events. Jen reported that the following events had taken place and were a huge success

- 1) April 15 – Arbor Day at Huntamer
- 2) April 22 – Earth Day at Wonderwood
- 3) April 22 – City of Olympia gifted us a tree
- 4) Lacey Spring Fun Fair May 6-7
- 5) Fleetwood Marker dedication @ LCC May 9

And that the following events are coming up:

- 6) STEM Fair May 20
- 7) Thurston County Through the Decades May 21

- b) Planning. Jen reported on the Parks & Recreation Comp Plan update with a presentation which listed the team that is updating the plan, the City's mission, the Parks & Recreation Department's vision, the Strategic Goals for the plan, and the following timeline for the project:

JUNE 2017

Planning Commission workshop (June 6)
Planning Commission - public hearing (June 20)

JULY 2017

General Government Committee (July 10)
City Council Worksession (Aug 17)

Final draft

AUGUST 2017

City Council

Jen ran the group through an exercise in prioritizing the action items which fall under each Strategic Goal and Objective. Jen will take Parks & Recreation staff through the same exercise at Tuesday's staff meeting, and then insert the results into the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

Ken expressed the importance of making sure there are enough sports fields in Lacey for the community to use.

New Business

- a. Long Lake Park Beach Rules update

Jen Burbidge and Jenny Wilson presented the memo which proposed to update the beach rules for increased safety and increased customer experience. A grid was included in the packets which reflects what change is proposed and what the rule used to be for easy comparison. Also included in the packets was the updated rules list for printing of signage.

Park Board went through the changes and discussed whether these were a good idea or not. Ultimately they decided to rely on staff expertise in these areas, but there was discussion regarding allowing dogs into the park closer to the swim beach and the advantages and disadvantages of that. It was pointed out that dogs are allowed, on leash, in every other of one of our parks, and that people bring dogs to that area after the lifeguards leave anyway.

There was discussion about the implementation of a swim test in order for those under age 18 to swim in the deep end, and the installation of a shallow water float line to designate the different areas. Kids will have to be patient in waiting to take the swim test, but it's a good addition for safety reasons. Park board would like to hear back from staff after the summer season as to how this worked, and whether there were less rescues as a result.

Motion: To approve updated beach park rules.

The motion was seconded and approved by vote.

Commissioner's Report

Ken expressed concerns with US HealthVest potentially occupying one of the buildings in Woodland Square due to proximity to Huntamer Park and kids and families who use that park. Lu expressed he does not have concerns due to the facility being a locked facility and therefore no threat to park users. The other park board members were interested in finding out more information, and how it might affect park users. Christy Osborn mentioned there is a hearing coming up regarding this topic, and those interested in finding out more information should attend.

Chair's Report

No report.

Citizen/Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

None

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, June 7 at 5:30 p.m. at Lacey City Hall