

Parks and Recreation
Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes

ALAN MAZONSON (CHAIRPERSON)
PHIL BURTON
DOUG COLGLAZIER
RICK HALEY

March 9, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Colglazier, Rick Haley and Phil Burton.

STAFF PRESENT: Gary Robinson, Jonn Lunsford, Andy Tubbs and Mary Snyder.

The meeting was *called to order* at approximately 6:05 p.m. by Rick Haley (acting chair in Alan's absence).

Minutes: February minutes will be amended to show that signage for Volunteer Park (as mentioned in other business) does not include Commercial Avenue. Minutes approved by all with edits.

Correspondence/Communications:

- Rick Haley reported on the Forest Board meeting of Thursday, March 4, 2004 where an afternoon field trip to the Rock Ridge area preceded the meeting to look at the trailhead on West 12th. It was agreed that Jonn would contact the landowner of the lot where the current trailhead is to see if they would give temporary permission to continue to use that trail while access through the proposed Rock Ridge South development is explored.
- The Orienteering event for Washington Park was addressed at the Forest Board and it's propriety was questioned for any time of the year.
- Doug reported on the Park Foundation meeting of this date in which the following projects were discussed: the Ship Harbor Interpretive Center with Jim Falk addressing questions on the uplands, Gary updated the board on the progress of the new fastpitch field, the Kiwanis Meadows grant from the Paul Allen Foundation was denied but alternative funding is being sought and contributions continue to be received for the foundation.

Public Comments:

- Celeste Johnson, a new resident of the Rock Ridge west area, addressed the need for a park for the west end area and stated that the neighborhood is being petitioned now to see if there is a general consensus of the neighbors. Gary stated that there is a definite need of the entire west end, from the North Pacific Addition to Anacopper Rd./Clearridge area, and is compounded by the fact that there are no schools in the area nor affordable property. Park property owned on west 5th (approx. 110 x 150 lot size) and the property adjacent to the ACFL below Cranberry Lake, Morrison Natural Park, was discussed. Gary also stated that with the development of the Rock Ridge South, there may be an agreement for the developer to provide 2 tennis courts and 1 basketball court in lieu of the piece of property that the city owns in the middle of this site, however land will need to be provided by the City. The role of the board as an advisory capacity was discussed and to go to the planning commission as part of the public process was encouraged.

H Avenue/Rotary Club Park Project:

Gary sought the advice of the Park Board on the procedure of handling public input on the design efforts for H Avenue/Rotary Club park project. The preliminary plans include 1 baseball field, 1 soccer field, a playground with 1/2 basketball court and a trail. Discussion ensued over the development of the Rotary Club project and finding an alternative site for the dog park. Gary updated all on the possible site relocation near 37th St. and A Avenue (previous landfill site). The site may need to be closed and capped with soil under the direction of the Skagit County Health Dept./State Dept. of Ecology. A determination can then be made to see if the site is suitable for such use. It was reiterated that coordination of projects between the Rotary Club and FIDO is essential in the best interests of all parties. A motion was made to create a proactive committee to focus on the components of coordinating simultaneous use of H Avenue with relocation of the dog park. The committee will consist of 1 staff member, 1 park board member, 1 FIDO member, 1 Forest Board member, 1 Rotary member and 1 other citizen. Motion was seconded and approved by all. Gary will email Alan (chairperson) on details of the issue. It was agreed that the committee will meet prior to next month's meeting of April 13, with a public meeting planned for late April.

Department Report:

- Gary stated that the Paul Luvera totem pole located at Washington Park had deteriorated and with the consent of the family, the pole was removed and burned. Gary stated that the staff did a great job. The question arose on the placement and removal of art in the parks and establishing a policy.
- Gary reported that progress at the Volunteer Community Fastpitch Field is moving along.
- Jonn stated that funding for Kiwanis Meadows is being explored.
- Seasonal hiring for park maintenance and Washington Park continues.
- Andy reported that the loop road gates at Washington Park have been modified to allow for handicap/stroller accessibility when in the closed position, with allowances on the side for passage. There was a coin box break-in at the park, however losses were a minimal. New fee structures for Washington Park are being looked at and the board will be involved in that process. The lower restroom should be opened shortly as water problems still plague the park. Work continues on the new restroom. The Sunset Loop Relay Run is March 13. Signage for Washington Park along Oakes Avenue should be replaced next week.
- Jonn advised all on the Heart Lake Management Plan meeting wherein the surface of the lake was discussed at the last meeting. All were unanimous in the decision to allow the Roostertails one time per year use and they will be phased out completely by 2015. There is a member of the Roostertails on the committee and it was agreed that this will be adhered to strictly.

Council/Park Board Subcommittee: Gary reported that he will be meeting with the three council people on the committee individually tomorrow (Brad Adams, Bud Rock & Nick Petrish). Gary would like the committee, consisting of 2 park board members, 2 forest board member, council persons and himself to meet monthly and to come up with a schedule.

Washington Park Group Camp Use: Gary stated that there is not currently a policy in place limiting the number of nights a group may use the area and therefore one group could monopolize the site. Local user flexibility was discussed and Gary asked all to give the issue some thought.

Non-Reserveable Area Use: There has been a request to use the Ben Root Skatepark for an event for a touring skateboard presentation. With increasing use of the parks for organized events, it was discussed the best way to manage such. Gary would like to bring this item back as an agenda item after everyone has had time to think about it.

Kiwanis Waterfront Park Benches: The memorial bench program, being coordinated by Jonn, is doing well. It was suggested that benches be placed in the circular area within the park, allowing lookouts and containing people. The benches are redwood with a metal frame. All were in agreement with this idea.

Other Business:

- The Conservation Easement Month with the Friends of the Forest begins in May. The CEP program is doing well with 605 acres already conserved.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55.

The ***NEXT REGULAR MEETING*** will be held on ***Tuesday, April 13, 2002 – 6:00 PM***, in the Council Chambers at City Hall—6th & Q Avenue, Anacortes WA.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Snyder

APPROVED: April 13, 2004