

City of Puyallup
Parks, Recreation and Senior Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Puyallup Council Chambers
Monday, August 12, 2013
5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Jeff Moss, Vice Chair Georga Prossick, Board members Bill Hilton and Mary Butler

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Keith Sherrill, Phil Schumock, and Debbie Carling

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Pavilion Manager Dick Weber, Administrative Clerk Mary Winter, Associate Planner Chris Beale

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Centennial Park

Mr. Bob Minnich, Puyallup Historical Society at Meeker Mansion, presented a concept of Centennial Park, an area intended to encompass the property around the Meeker Mansion. He explained that the park was once in the city's Comprehensive Plan; however, over the years it was removed. Mr. Minnich gave a brief history on the background of the park and property acquisition surrounding the Ezra Meeker Mansion, a project anticipated to take many years to complete.

Mr. Minnich recalled that a committee was formed and a senior representative in the legislature acquired \$300,000 from the state for property acquisition, and that between the city, the Meeker Mansion and the Centennial committee, \$100,000 was set aside and put into an account. He spoke of missed opportunities to purchase properties as they became available. He requested that Centennial Park be added back into the Parks Comprehensive Plan and noted the need to have dedicated funds in order to move quickly as properties become available. He recalled three downtown revitalization experts who all agreed on the importance of the Meeker Mansion and the need to bring it out from behind the abutting buildings. The Puyallup Historical Society urges the city to prioritize Centennial Park as investment in the future, adjust its thinking toward historic preservation and recognize the importance of Puyallup's heritage.

In response to a question by Mr. Hilton, Mr. Minnich explained that the park was in the 1980s and 1990s Comprehensive Plans; however, when the city revamped that document in the mid-1990s it disappeared. Mr. Moss supported the vision presented; however, he voiced confusion as to why the city would include it in the comprehensive plan when it is a vision belonging to a non-profit organization. Mr. Minnich explained that originally it was supposed to be developed into a city park; however, due to difficulties with property acquisition, the society took the lead to acquire the northwest corner when it became available.

In response to a question, Mr. Minnich pointed out that businesses would not be forced to close; acquisition would only happen as land becomes available for purchase. Mr. Andy Anderson, Puyallup Historical Society Historian, pointed out that the northeast corner lot is currently for

sale, the price was reduced to \$450,000, and the current businesses would be able to remain. Since the society lacks funding, he wasn't sure how to proceed.

Mr. Moss voiced a need for more information, including the historical aspects before taking any action. Mr. Hilton concurred and also wished to see background and historical information on the topic, such as variables, pro and cons and challenges. Mr. Moss acknowledged that the board is currently updating the open space plan and planning for future capital expenditures and that the timing of this presentation was optimal. Mr. Anderson stated the immediate goal was to get the idea back on the table.

Mr. Weber indicated staff would research this item and get more information to the board.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Board Action: A motion was made by Ms. Prossick, second by Mr. Hilton, to accept the June 24, 2013 and the July 8, 2013 Parks, Recreation and Senior Advisory Board minutes amended to include, under Board Comments on page five, "Mr. Hilton pointed out the effective and efficient manner in which the Veterans Park lot was paved noting the use of readily available (low cost) materials and the timely manner in which staff completed the job." The motion passed 4-0.

CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUESTS

Consideration of an ordinance amending Puyallup Municipal Code Chapter 9.20 relating to park hours

Mr. Weber reviewed the proposed changes, noting the topic came up when the city council was approached by a group requesting to use Pioneer Park after normal park hours. Staff met to create a more consistent park hours schedule. He noted there are some exceptions to the general hours of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. between October 1st and March 31st and 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. between April 1st and September 30th. The exceptions include Wildwood Park and Clarks Creek North due to the lighted baseball fields, which would be open until 11:00 p.m.

Ms. Prossick disagreed with having Clarks Creek North Park and Decoursey Park open until 11:00 p.m. She spoke of many incidences of vandalism and thefts in the area and petitioned to keep the hours as they currently are or the same as Riverwalk Trail and Veteran's Park, opening one-half hour before sunrise and closing one-half hour after sunset. Mr. Moss clarified Ms. Prossick's suggestion of keeping the earlier closure time with the exception of ball game nights.

Board Action: A motion was made by Ms. Prossick, second by Ms. Butler, to amend the ordinance keeping Decoursey, Clarks Creek North and Clarks Creek South Parks closing time as one-half hour after dusk with the exception of game nights, and recommend the amended ordinance be forwarded to the city council for consideration. The motion passed 4-0.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update

Associate Planner Chris Beale explained that the compilation of information from the Parks Planning Zone No. One open house was in progress and would be reviewed during the September board meeting. He noted that 38 surveys had been completed and voiced his intent to extend additional communication to promote more participation. Mr. Beale highlighted two topics for the board: the Gould Property (aka Deadman's Pond) and the city's trail network.

Mr. Beale further pointed out that Parks Planning Zone No. Two encompasses Decoursey, Clarks Creek North and South, the Brown Property, Silver and Meeker Creek properties and the Gould property, all located in the southwest portion of the city. Mr. Beale described the Gould property as being 8.7 acres in size with interesting characteristics. The city is considering how to acquire the abutting parcel which includes the rest of the pond. He noted that the pond is listed as a Category 1 (high habitat value) wetland property and is the home of a rare endangered species of western turtle. The area provides good access to other neighborhood trails/parks and city owned parcels. He described the conservation futures program and noted that the city was awarded the property in 2012. The property acquisition included a stewardship agreement in which the city agreed to develop a park master plan primarily for passive recreational trails, wildlife viewing, and/or wetland plant identification. Board discussion ensued relating to the environmental constraints future development, description of a current trail on the property, protection of the pond, trail signage, and the Brown property trails.

Mr. Moss expressed his knowledge of a number of trails in the area and voiced enthusiasm for a potential partnership with the Department of Fisheries to complete an official trail system. Ms. Prossick agreed with Mr. Moss' comments and relayed she had spoken to Ron Moore from the Fisheries who indicated they were agreeable to having trails in the area. Mr. Hilton concurred with Mr. Moss and the idea of professionally developing trails including signage and connecting parks to one another via a trail system.

Mr. Beale continued his update concerning the development of trails, noting the majority of survey respondents agreed with the vision statement but questioned the portion relating to trails. He explained the current comprehensive plan lacks a concise plan on how to develop trails and how they could connect to each other. He suggested that a list of improvements of the city's trails could be a part of the CIP discussions. Mr. Beale asked the board to consider directing staff to further develop a trails plan; to work out policies and goals, and to prioritize city trail connections and possibly regional trails. He referred to a map showing existing and proposed trails and noted the city is obligated to develop and expand the non-motorized transportation portion of the comprehensive plan. He suggested preparing a basic inventory of trails and study the opportunities for connecting the parks.

Board discussion ensued on the variety of numerous and unknown trails around the city. Mr. Moss liked the map but pointed out many trails are not shown on it and felt that once an inventory of trails is compiled, people may be surprised as to how many trails exist in the city. Ms. Prossick suggested a readable map or informational brochure of the city trails to distribute in hotels, for new residents, etc. Mr. Hilton suggested having different sections of the map blown up for better readability and suggested involving community groups to secure funding for future installation of map kiosks at the beginnings of trails. He felt this would be a great idea for the

Wildwood trails as well as others. He added that future interconnection with the Sumner trail system would be a great asset as it heads north onto the interurban trail.

STAFF REPORTS

Recreation Report

Mr. Weber briefly reviewed the following items on the July Recreation Report: The 2013 Summer Concerts in the Park and Noon Tune concerts; the inaugural Sounds and Cinema event at Bradley Lake Park; the wading pool operation; day and specialty camp activities and attendance; status of the new online registration system and the interactive recreation brochure.

Senior Activities Report

Mr. Weber described the items on the July report including: a tour to the city of Toppenish; a local trip to Graham to visit Chase Garden and the Old Goat Farm; a day trip to Centralia on the train; a trip to the Tacoma Musical Playhouse; and a visit by several Japanese students who learned about the senior activities offered, followed by an instructional segment on traditional Japanese arts and crafts.

Parks Report

The July parks report included a variety of items performed at the city's parks including safety inspections of the Riverwalk Trail and play structures; replacement and maintenance at the Skate Park and Rainier Woods Park; application of turf weed control and bug control to hanging baskets; restriped one downtown parking lot; cleaned city hall parking lots; and installed water supply to Veterans' Park.

Upcoming Events

Recreation Center

Registration is currently underway for adult volleyball and basketball leagues; youth indoor soccer and flag football programs are also accepting registrations; the Lego Engineering Camp will be August 19-23; and Concerts in the Park series will continue through the latter part of August.

Puyallup Activity Center

Upcoming Activity Center events include a trip to Hood River; a Needle Nose Duck Tour and a Cornbread & Bluegrass Day. Mr. Hilton thanked staff for the coordination and hard work on the Annual Picnic and thanked all for the donations of food collected for the Puyallup Food Bank.

BOARD COMMENTS – FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Hilton thanked Mr. Beale for his work on the parks and open space plan.

Ms. Prossick noted a lack of maintenance at Decoursey Park and Clarks Creek North and South; due to staffing cuts only two workers are left to do edging. She suggested the possibility of hiring a private contractor to help with the maintenance.

Mr. Moss pointed out the board needs to return to the CIP planning task; noted his attendance at the Bradley Lake Concert on July 20th and his observation that it was underattended. He

suggested moving one of the big draw concerts from Pioneer Park to Bradley Lake Park or at least look at ways to increase attendance at those concerts; he indicated he would like to take a field trip of the parks; and have a future discussion of the property acquired south of Shaw Road elementary for the possible development of ball fields.

After discussion relating to a date to tour Bradley Lake and Wildwood Parks, board consensus was to tour the parks after the business portion of the September 9th meeting. It was also decided to continue the CIP discussions at a second meeting in September.

Board Action: A motion was made by Mr. Hilton, second by Ms. Prossick, to adjourn. The motion passed 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:20 p.m.