

City of Puyallup
Parks, Recreation and Senior Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Puyallup Council Chambers
Monday, September 9, 2013
5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Jeff Moss, Vice Chair Georga Prossick, Board members Bill Hilton, Debbie Carling, Keith Sherrill, and Phil Schumock

BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT: Mary Butler

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Recreation Administrator Sarah Harris, Activity Center Supervisor Doug McCormick, Administrative Clerk Mary Winter, and Associate Planner Chris Beale

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Indoor Tennis Facility Update

This item was moved to later in the meeting to accommodate Ms. Pasquier's arrival.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Board Action: A motion was made by Mr. Schumock, second by Ms. Prossick, to accept the August 12, 2013 Parks, Recreation and Senior Advisory Board minutes. The motion passed 6-0.

CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUESTS

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update

Associate Planner Chris Beale reported that preparations were underway for the Zone 2 parks open house which is scheduled for September 26th at Aylen Junior High. He reviewed the comments from the first open house, noting the variety of comments received and that most were related to Pioneer Park and the Activity Center, with other comments about Sam Peach Park, the Riverwalk Trail, and the Recreation Center.

Mr. Beale continued by explaining that the community survey is ongoing although responses had slowed; however, it is continuing to be advertised and is intended to be available through December on the city website. So far 59 surveys have been completed and submitted.

Discussion on the Zone 2 parks included the amenities and planned improvements to Decoursey Park; Clarks Creek north and south; Silver Creek/Meeker Creek properties; the Brown property; and the Gould property.

Mr. Beale elaborated that the top priority for Decoursey Park was replacement of the play equipment. Additionally, he explained that a new grant was issued to Washington State

University authorizing the work to continue with the Friends of Decoursey Pond. This will help with the continuing efforts of pond edge restoration and wetland restoration.

Relating to Clarks Creek Parks North and South, Mr. Beale identified the planned improvements as tennis court resurfacing, tennis court lighting replacement and stream edge restoration. Mr. Moss suggested that dog park improvements be included due to the heavy use of the current facility. Mr. Schumock commented on the work being done on the ballfields and Ms. Harris explained the parks maintenance staff was updating the size of the field for the youth (under 13) games. Concern was expressed over the inadequate drainage of the ballfield since the permeable trail was installed.

Mr. Beale explained that the Silver Creek and Meeker Creek properties were purchased by the city within the last ten years and noted Public Works rechanneled the creek property after acquisition. He noted that the current wood chip trail is not well maintained, and there are some minimal planned improvements that include trail connections, ongoing trail maintenance, and stream edge restoration. As these areas were meant for local use only there is no designated parking; however, signage could be improved alerting to its public access. He also noted this area of trails is not well known or defined, and responded to questions about the history of the benches and the small portion of paved trail. Mr. Beale was unsure, but thought those may have been installed when the properties were restored although from an open space perspective, they will help in fulfilling the parks element of the comprehensive plan.

The 17.3 acres of the Brown/Community Garden property has been improved over the last few years by implementing community garden plots, a shed, and some walking paths. Mr. Beale noted some bad erosion in the Silver Creek area which the city is trying to keep from going into Clark's Creek. In response to a question by Mr. Schumock, Mr. Beale confirmed the trail does not safely extend the full span of the property.

Mr. Beale noted that the Deadman's Pond/Gould Property currently has no amenities; however, there is a house maintained by tenants, and the land is a nice, level, open space well suited for amenities. Mr. Moss cautioned that care should be taken when placing amenities there to ensure no detrimental impacts to the pond. Mr. Beale expressed the access to the park needs to be improved and noted it is in the West Hills area which currently has no park amenities. He suggested that planned improvements could include walking/hiking trails; off street parking; and play equipment.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Indoor Tennis Facility Update

Ms. Therese Pasquier reported that she recently met with Ms. Harris and admittedly has not made much progress with the tennis court improvement idea since her last presentation due to the uncertainty with the State Route 167 expansion project. She explained that although the state transportation plan was not approved during the last Legislative session, the governor plans to bring this item forward for additional discussion and possible inclusion in an upcoming Legislative special session.

Ms. Pasquier reported recent progress and discussion regarding the creation of a Parks Foundation and applying for the 501(c)3 non-profit status. She noted recent discussions with Ms. Harris relating to fundraising for an addition to the Recreation Center; however, Ms. Pasquier expressed concern that funding be used for a long-term improvement and not something that may be revisited in a few years due to potential changes triggered by the State Route 167 expansion project. She noted a Foundation would create a standard for sports groups that make requests of the board. She offered to return to provide the board with updates.

Public Comment

Mr. Steven Shores spoke in favor of any installation or repair to sidewalks on 14th Street as they have been hazardous for walkers and bikers for quite some time.

Review Park Hours Ordinance

Ms. Harris asked for clarification on this item prior to going to council for approval. She explained that legal, parks, and police staff met to consolidate park hours for consistency, noting the Police Department's difficulty in enforcing due to so many varying times. She reviewed what was approved in her absence and inquired as to the reasoning behind the decisions. Ms. Prossick thought that any parks with wooded areas should close one half hour after dusk/dark unless there is a recreational ball game scheduled. She noted concern of gang activity, vandalism and neighborhood concerns in the Clarks Creek North and Decoursey Parks.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the difficulty to make consistent hours for all parks and the board indicated its wish to keep these as previously approved.

STAFF REPORTS

Senior Activities Report

Mr. McCormick highlighted a few of the activities held at the Activity Center in August. He featured the annual picnic that was held at the Pioneer Park Pavilion and which provided great entertainment and a picnic style menu served by four councilmembers; a trip to the historic city of Hood River, Oregon; and the card making class. A group of patrons enjoyed a presentation by the chief and assistant chief from Central Pierce Fire & Rescue which included facts about their services throughout the district and the upcoming Proposition 1 ballot item which will be part of the November 5, 2013 election.

Recreation Report

Ms. Harris reported on the success of the community campout at Bradley Lake Park which hosted approximately 500 participants in 120 campsites. Also held in August were the Play-Well TEKnologies program which teaches engineering through the use of Legos; the summer concert series ended with a huge turnout for a singing comedian impressionist and Heart to Heart estimating 2000 to 2500 concert goers; the summer camp program finished with presentations to parents of the summers' accomplishments and a final sleep over at the Memorial Center. She also reported that the fall program registrations were underway for basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, flag football, wrestling, the Haunted Hustle run and the pre-school program.

Parks Report

Ms. Harris reviewed a variety of activities completed by the parks maintenance staff including: play structure inspections and maintenance; skate park maintenance; replacement or repair of a variety of vandalized items; trimmed shrubs and cleaned around the public safety building; retrieval of a ten foot picnic table from Bradley Lake and replacement of the vandalized cable anchor.

Upcoming Events

Ms. Harris briefly touched on some upcoming activities at the Activity Center and the Recreation department including a caregivers' class; Camp Wrinkle Ranch; a Recreation Center booth at the Fair; and the implementation of a new junior high and high school open gym program at the Memorial Center.

BOARD COMMENTS – FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Members Moss, Prossick, Carling, Sherrill, Schumock, and staff members Sarah Harris, Doug McCormick, Chris Beale, and Deon Moyd recessed to tour Bradley Lake Park for a potential siting for a spray park, restroom, parking and a stage location. At Wildwood Park the area for a potential dog park was toured.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:18 p.m.