



City of Sammamish

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING SUMMARY

May 19, 2003 Meeting – 6:30 P.M. City Hall
Next meeting June 16th, 2003, City Hall

PRESENT:

Manager Jeff Watling, Park Planner Hope Gibson, Cornell Amaya, Paul Brodeur, David Lee, Chris Leyerle, John Rossi, Patrick Schlight, and Thomas Schloetter.

Robert Armstead, Joyce McCallum and Lynn Rehn were absent and excused.

CALL TO ORDER 6:30 P.M.

In Joyce's absence, Pat volunteered to serve in the role of Chair. Minutes from the March 17, 2003 commission meeting were approved, as they had not been approved at the April meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marianne Wilkins and Mary Doerr presented a litany of concerns about the Ebright Creek Park project: that environmental, traffic and noise issues had not been duly considered; that City Council and Staff were withholding or delaying the dissemination of project documentation and information; that commission meetings and agendas were not widely publicized; that the public process was not properly adhered to. After 30 minutes of discussion, acting Chair Pat Schlight proposed that the topic be deferred until after the conclusion of scheduled commission business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park Planning and Development – no update.

Park Resource – no update.

Recreation Programs and Services – John reported that although significant progress had been made in regard to the interlocal agreements with area school districts, they would not be finalized until after the City Council finishes with higher priority items such as the Comprehensive Plan. John also presented a list of identified programming gaps based on the 2001 Recreation Summit, and will be working with parks staff to identify areas of greatest need, study costs and staffing requirements, venue availability, with the goal of moving toward implementation. Jeff suggested that this item might be ready to move from the committee level to commission discussion.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

a) Sammamish Commons

Jeff reported that the two concepts for the lower Commons area were presented to City Council. The city will be hosting an on-site Open House on June 7th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM to answer questions, provide information and concepts, and collect public feedback. The plan is to have staff, consultants, and commissioners stationed at various locations to interact with the public. Commission members and staff discussed logistics for the Open House, and agreed that the concept drawings presented at the last meeting which shows defined activity areas would be more effective than those showing only text inside bubbles.

The feasibility of either a permanent or seasonal concession facility was discussed, and acknowledged to be a subject for future discussion.

Jeff and Cornell reported that at the City Council meeting, teachers and parents affiliated with The Arbor School expressed concerns about the proposed location of the skate park, fearing its proximity would expose the school to undesirable elements commonly associated with skate parks. Although the staff conveyed the commission's rationale and provided a report comparing good and bad examples of skate park implementation, the Council has re-opened the question of placing the skate park in the lower Commons area. It is the consensus of the commission that placing the skate park in the lower area would increase the likelihood of those negative effects we are trying to avoid.

c) King County Executive response to Commission letter regarding Section 36

Consensus of commission members is that although the tone is very positive, the response poses major problems/roadblocks:

- a. Without transfer of ownership, the city faces the likelihood of county reclamation, thus city investment in the park's development and maintenance would be unjustifiable
- b. The requirement of developing under the county's master plan would severely restrict the ability to optimize for the city's needs
- c. The county's master plan of a single entry from the south is not the most advantageous implementation for the city's needs
- d. The county's master plan calls for separate baseball and soccer fields, while the city favors a multi-purpose design

Jeff noted that he was unsure whether the county's master plan had even been adopted, and promised to inform the commission at its next meeting.

Commission members and staff agreed that given the positive tone, the city should pursue discussions with the county ASAP. A suggestion was made by Paul to invite Bob Burns to a commission meeting, which Pat and Chris feel would be an opportunity to learn about the county's vision for Section 36. Jeff will extend an invitation to Bob Burns.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jeff informed the commission that Joyce has expressed the desire to step down as Chair. Several members suggested a rotation system, with a pre-planned monthly schedule. A discussion ensued regarding the Chairperson's role, and whether the role should be re-defined with the primary responsibility of running commission meetings.

Jeff encouraged commissioners to more pro-actively engage council members and staff, and endorsed a more distributed division of commission tasks such as letter-writing and public appearances, which Joyce currently undertakes.

Paul commented that in the past members filled defined roles such as Secretary, which provided better continuity and structure.

All commissioners agreed with Pat's suggestion that we ask Joyce to provide a list of all tasks, official and unofficial, which she performs in the role of Chairperson. This would allow the commission to decide how best to divide up the work, and insure the continuance of all the tremendous contributions of the current Chair.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

a) Pine Lake Park Phase I Design

Jeff showed the commission 65% completed plans. Costs for Phase I will be higher than anticipated due to the retrofitting of an underground water detention system, which did not exist at time of transfer from King County. The plans are being circulated to various city departments for comments. Phase I development is scheduled to begin September, 2003.

b) Trails, Bikeways and Paths Meetings

Hope reported that the first of 4 quadrant meetings had 12 attendees and elicited mostly positive comments. Three other meetings are scheduled for May 21, 28 and 29.

c) Summer Seasonal Staff

Jeff and Hope report that a Beach Manager and Head Lifeguard have been hired for Pine Lake, and lifeguards are being interviewed from a large pool of qualified candidates. A seasonal Recreation Leader has also been hired to work with Lynn.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

b) Ebright Creek Park

Staff and commission members spent an additional 30 minutes addressing the concerns raised by Mary Doerr and Marianne Wilkins during the Public Comment. Jeff apologized for any miscommunication on the part of the staff, and offered an explanation of procedural process for disclosure and public process. Hope clarified that the B-12 report draws no conclusions nor makes recommendations regarding the specific project, but rather details general environmental scenarios, constraints and possibilities. In addition, Hope explained the process and timeline regarding project documentation. Project studies and analyses will be completed in approximately 2 weeks, and staff will make all documentation available as soon as possible.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.