



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Commissioners Present: Hank Klein, Gail Michelman, Judy Petersen, Mary Doerrer, Randy Jackson, Rena Brady, Steve Pelton, Nora Whittemore, Pauline Cantor, John James

Commissioners Absent: Larry Crandall

Staff Present: Jessi Richardson, Linda Frkuska, Dawn Sanders, Janie Marie

Call to Order: 6:35

Approval of Summary for October 8, 2008: Approved

Public Comment: None

Backyard Wildlife Habitat Project

Elaine McEnery spoke about the requirements for and benefits of citizens becoming involved in the program through the National Wildlife Federation. Ms McEnery is heading up a citizens group regarding this program and will be coordinating her work with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks Commission.

Parks 6 Year CIP

Staff reviewed the list of CIP projects for 2009 and discussed the timeline and potential opportunities for Commission involvement.

Beaver Lake Park Master Plan

Consultant interviews took place January 8. Commissioners Judy Petersen and Pauline Cantor sat on the selection panel. Fourteen applications were received; three were interviewed. Negotiations with the finalist are currently underway. Commission suggestions for public process included: informing the public of different meeting styles so they could choose a format that suited them; an online and/or mailed survey; newsletter insert; have experts provide options and alternatives to help public visualize possibilities; balance neighbor concerns with community needs; assign numbers to individuals as they enter the meeting and break into groups according to numbers; onsite survey of park users; stakeholder group meetings before public meetings (athletic, off-leash, shoreline/environmental, saddle club, trail users, fishing/boating, etc.).

Introduction of Dawn Sanders – Volunteer Coordinator

Park Commission Liaison Reports

Skate Park – Pauline met with Sgt. Baxter and discussed concerns about vandalism and assault at the park. As a result of vandalism, the restrooms are no longer open 24 hours. Some police department concerns include imposing rules that could not be enforced and segregated times for user age groups. Officers are chatting with kids. It was suggested that a meeting to educate parents would be helpful or perhaps a posted statement indicating skatepark ‘culture’; as would a mentoring program. Pauline, Steve and Hank will continue exploring ways to improve the skate park experience and plan to contact other cities for more suggestions.

Farmers Market – Judy attended winter meetings. Currently the chamber is finalizing changes to their policies and procedures to encourage more craft vendors. A ‘friends of the market’ group may be formed and would seek 501 C3 non-profit status. There is no longer an outside market consultant. Two positions have been formed; a marketing intern and assistant marketing manager – both unpaid positions. These positions will support the current manager.

Duthie Hill Park – Steve reported on plans for a national caliber mountain bike course. Although the land is owned by King County, its close proximity would make it very accessible to Sammamish residents. Commissioners discussed the benefit of having a ‘friends of’ group that would have the flexibility to provide support to these types of projects.

2009 Park Commission Work Plan

The work plan for the Park Commission is largely dictated by the City’s Capital Improvement Plan. The Commission agreed to dedicate time at the next meeting to review Commission goals and specific tasks for 2009.

Calendar

Board and Commission Training – Saturday, February 7, 2009 at Pt. Defiance Zoo Education Center

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Items for discussion:

- Goals for 2009
- Bylaws/Governance (Mary, Rena, Gail, Randy)

Adjourned: 9:20 p.m.