



**City of Sammamish
Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting**

November 11, 2009, 6:30-8:30 PM
Sammamish City Hall ~ 801-229th Ave SE

MEETING SUMMARY

Commissioners Present: Hank Klein, Pauline Cantor, Rena Brady, Mary Doerrer, Gail Michelman, Judy Petersen, Larry Crandall, Nora Whittemore, John James

Commissioners Absent: Randy Jackson

Staff Present: Jessi Richardson, Anjali Myer, Guy Michelson – Berger Partnership

Call to Order: 6:38 p.m.

Approval of Summary: Summary from 10-14-09 was approved.

Public Comment: Deferred until after presentation of Master Plan Alternatives.

Park Commission Liaison Reports:

Skate Park - Randy

No update.

Farmers Market – Judy

No update. Next meeting for the 2010 market is December 2.

Friends of Sammamish – Hank

No update.

Backyard Wildlife Habitat Project – Pauline

In an effort to become a Certified Backyard Wildlife Community, the city has registered Beaver Lake Park, Beaver Lake Preserve, Pine Lake Park, Sammamish Commons, Ebright Creek Park and East Sammamish Park as Backyard Wildlife Habitats. Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District, Sammamish Children’s School, Arbor Elementary, Christa McAulliffe Elementary, Discover Elementary and Inglewood Junior High have also been registered. Sammamish hopes to become the 7th city in Washington to become certified as a Backyard Wildlife Community through the National Wildlife Federation. There are currently 34 cities certified nationwide. On November 7, a native plant salvage was conducted with volunteers, city staff and representatives from the Native Plant Society. Pauline thanked Elaine McEnery, Darci Donovan, Kathy Curry, Evan Maxim, Dawn Sanders and Ho Le for their event support.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

No update.

Recreation Center – Gail

No update.

Sammamish Walks – Judy

Another successful walk took place on October 24 at Soaring Eagle led by Randy Jackson. 28 people attended. Additional walks are being planned for the 3rd Saturday of each month beginning in April 2010.

Project Updates:

Beaver Lake Park:

Guy Michaelson (Berger Partnership) presented the preferred Master Plan Alternatives for Beaver Lake Park. Commission discussion and questions included natural vs. artificial turf and their impacts to water run-off; the type of trails (gravel/asphalt) proposed for the park; the need for a playground; the numbers of trees that would be impacted by the playground and other improvements; the types of play equipment to be used; the desire for a seat wall to contain the gravel; size of the berm by the Lodge; and ADA concerns.

Public Comment – Beaver Lake Park Master Plan Preferred Alternative

Wes Halstead (2801 247th Ave SE) Spoke about safety concerns, location of ballfields, location of dog run and (could not hear last comment on recording device).

Janis Seil (2319 West Beaver Lake Drive SE) – Shared her concern about potential removal of trees at Beaver Lake Park for proposed development. She also provided pictures of Beaver Lake Park trees that may be removed.

Rex Seil (2319 West Beaver Lake Drive SE) – Feels the current ball fields are fine as they are and that perhaps ball field upgrades could be made to other park sites.

The Parks Commission will further review this plan and develop a formal recommendation at the December Park Commission meeting. The plan is scheduled to go to council for review on December 15.

Note: Part way through the Park Commission meeting (just after the Beaver Lake Park presentation), the recording device failed. Unfortunately the problem was not detected until after the meeting. The remaining portion of this record was re-created through staff and commission member notes.

Sammamish Landing:

At the request of City Council, an additional master plan alternative was prepared. Guy Michaelson (Berger Partnership) presented the revisions. Commission members discussed the changes including the addition of an expanded main beach area, removal of the overpass, removal of the canopy walk, and the addition of rest areas along the trail. Public comment period followed.

Public Comment – Sammamish Landing Master Plan Preferred Alternative

George Toskey (2430 238th Pl NE) - Spoke about concerns with the property's designation as Urban Conservancy being in balance with its use as a swimming beach. He also questioned the expenditure of City funds for a recreation area that is limited in space with limited parking.

Mike Collins (2841 East Lake Sammamish Parkway NE) – Spoke about safety issues related to crossing the East Lake Sammamish Parkway to access the site.

Kathy Richardson (2033 East Lake Sammamish Parkway NE) – General acknowledgment and thanks to the Parks Commission for being well informed, asking specific, relevant questions, and working well together as a commission. She feels that the updated Sammamish Landing Master Plan is not well suited to the site stating this is one of the largest natural shorelines on the east side of Lake Sammamish and this natural shoreline should not be removed for a large swimming beach. Access to the site, both parking and crossing the parkway, are also highly problematic. The Parks Commission has the support of many citizens to remain committed to using this site as a public resource, but she prefers the original master plan, rather than the updated plan that was reviewed that evening.

Commission members favored the original preferred alternative and also talked about the safety of the piers; the concept of phasing; and the elevation of the trail near the water. They expressed reservation about a plan with a larger beach area and felt hesitant to endorse the plan in its current form.

At the conclusion of public comment, the Commission prepared a summary for presentation to the City Council on November 16 at the Study Session.

Other:

Ordinance Update :

Commissioners discussed the ordinance recently approved by the City Council. Staff clarified that the Council may now appoint up to one non-resident to the Commission. This is a regular voting position. Staff also clarified the process for position assignments as required by the revised ordinance.

Town Center Infrastructure Plan:

Commissioners discussed the Infrastructure Plan as presented at the last meeting. Generally favored the large open green space and look forward to further discussions on the topic.

Individual Commissioner/Chair Meetings

Pauline and Hank held meetings with each commission member over the past several weeks. Pauline discussed some of the common themes including the intense workload anticipated in 2010. Some discussion followed related to the proposed public process for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Additional discussion was deferred to the next Commission meeting.

Retreat

The Commission discussed the possibility of holding a one-day retreat. A date and location will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

Calendar: December 2 – Holiday Lighting Celebration
 December 9 – Park Commission Meeting (Holiday potluck before meeting)
 December 14 – Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

Adjourn: 9:50 p.m.