



Park Board Minutes
December 14, 2009

City Hall Council Chambers
The meeting began at 6:00PM

Park Board Members Present

Darren Proctor-Chairperson
Fred Jacobsen-Vice Chairperson
Valerie Zifka
Brian Cebe
Richards Rawlings
Karen Witters

City Representatives Present

Gary Leaf - Community Services Director
Jennie Sage - Community Services Dept.
H.D. Messinger - Community Services Dept.
Dan Swatman - Council member
Laurie Carter - Council member

Citizens Present

Randy McKibbin
Winona Jacobsen
Donn Lewis
Grant Sulham
Dennis Tompkins
Tammy Morris
Leoni Pena

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 9th, 2009 meeting minutes approved

CORRESPONDENCE: None

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Dog Park:

Bonney Lake Citizen Leoni Pena (owner of three dogs) recently moved from Puyallup, where the city has more than one dog park. She shared her desire to help create a dog park in the local area, and would like the Park Board and staff to update her on future dog parks. Dan Swatman commented that the Bonney Lake dog park group and all interested citizens meet once a month to share ideas and options. Dan stated that the group would like to see the dog park as mainly a user driven park; the group will work with vendors to advertise, this advertising could pay for fencing etc. Leoni stated that in Puyallup the City paid for the fencing and the users maintained the park. Fred Jacobsen made a motion to place continuing dog park discussion on the monthly agenda.

Richards (Chas) Rawlings seconded the motion; all remaining members voted and passed this motion.

Bonney Lake Citizen Tammy Morris commented that she (owner of two dogs) usually enjoys several dog parks, mostly King County because of the off leash factor. The Park Board, city staff and citizens discussed their thoughts briefly.

Fred Jacobsen suggested that the citizens attend the Bonney Lake dog park group to discuss this in more detail and then bring information back to the Park Board. The contact information for the Bonney Lake dog park group was given to the citizens after the meeting ended.

WSU Forest:

Dennis Tompkins, Arborist, asked the Park Board if they had any input/involvement regarding the WSU forest agreement/proposal. He stated that there are a lot of dramatic potential plans for the development of parks etc. He would like to know the impact (staffing/financial) that this acreage (for the city) would have on the Parks Department, and would like to see as much of the forest reserved as possible. Darren proctor stated that there has been no presentation to the Park Board regarding the WSU forest. Fred Jacobsen stated that the tree board (Park Board) should be involved in any discussion regarding any public land, and should be developing a community forestry plan for public land. The Park Board and staff had an open discussion.

STAFF REPORTS:

Heritage Tree~Arborist Report:

H.D Messinger, Parks Dept. and City Arborist; was asked to join the Park Board to give a brief Arborist evaluation on the Western RedCedar Trees in the Willowbrook development, as the Park Board would like to see a number of these become Heritage Trees. There are five trees in this grove that H.D. would highly recommend; these trees are healthy, will not require maintenance, and are in a natural protected area. These are accessible and are in our Arbor Pro inventory software. H.D.'s assessment is that these trees are ideal to become Heritage Trees. Brian Cebe made motion to accept the five Willowbrook HOA trees as Heritage Trees; motion seconded, voted on and passed. Valerie Zifka will write a letter to the Mayor requesting that these trees become Heritage Trees.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Bond Issue:

To accommodate guest speakers, this item was moved to an earlier portion of the agenda.

Brian Cebe brought this discussion to the table to help better inform the Park Board and citizens on bond issues. Deputy Mayor Dan Swatman, and Council member Laurie Carter, were invited to join the Park Board to discuss the costs of bonds (depending on the plan), what the Park Board would like to see in the future and where these parks/open space will be located etc. For discussion purposes, Dan had forwarded prior a document entitled *Bonney Lake Voted Parks Bond Estimates*; this showed tax impact on homeowners, the general tax obligation, examples of park and recreation ballot issues etc. Dan also encouraged the Park Board to become familiar with the south CUGA area that could possibly be annexed in to the city; this area alone has 96.84 acres of parks (this area is south of 410 and does not include the WSU forest). Laurie stated that there was mention in the paper about the County possibly looking to sell some of this park land to neighboring cities. Laurie handed out an informational entitled *Lake Tahoe Washington*; and discussed an exercise that the State Conference for Council Members participated in on how to get citizens involved with proposed bonds etc. Laurie stated the need to have a plan in place (create goals), think ahead and be proactive, know what you want to see in these areas, how much money do you need, what are the demographics of the citizens, when do you want this on the ballot etc. (once on the ballot you can only work on a fact base.). Laurie suggested working on the plan about one year prior to going on the ballot to build momentum. The last park bond in 2004 was not passed due to not having the 60% majority needed. The Community Recreation Center proposal in 2004 only had a 45% majority vote (needed 60%); now the latest YMCA survey shows 66% on board. Brian Cebe made a motion to form a sub-committee for park expansion; the motion was seconded, the board voted and motion passed. This volunteer sub-committee will research and bring information to the Park Board table, and work together towards updating the future park plan.

STAFF REPORTS: continued

Community Garden update:

Gary Leaf would like the Community Garden agreement (between City and Food Bank) to leave the cities options open regarding location. If a park bond was approved (develop master plan-moriarty property) the Community Garden may not fit in this plan, but could fit somewhere else.

Ordinance 1232 update:

Gary Leaf stated that this Ordinance was approved by Council December 8th 2009. The changes were mainly done by the Safety Committee on trespassing issues etc. The Finance Department elected not to go forward with an annual pass for non-residents or a senior discount for city residents. First responders would like us not to have banners on the park fences (i.e. Bonney Lake Days).

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson/Vice Chair 2010 appointment:

The Park Board discussed who would like to be the new 2010 Chair and Vice Chairperson. Fred Jacobsen made motion to accept Richards Rawlings as Chairperson and Darren Proctor as Vice Chairperson. Motion was seconded, voted on, and passed.

PROPOSED JANUARY 2010 AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Community Garden Plan Presentation
- B. Proposal for a BMX facility (Moriarty Property)
- C. Sub-Committee for park expansion
- D. Dog Parks
- E. Veteran Memorial Committee
- F. Ellensburg Solar Power Park

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Fred Jacobsen would like to remind everyone that the last public hearing regarding the WSU forest will be held on December 15th, 2009, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Winona Jacobsen announced that Arcadia Publishing contacted the Historical Society to create a photo history book on Bonney Lake (prior to 1970). Please contact Winona if you have any photos.

Darren Proctor thanked the Park Board for supporting him as the Park Board Chairperson.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting ended at 7:26 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11th at 6:00PM.

Jennie Sage
Park Board Secretary