

**City of Puyallup
Parks, Recreation and Senior Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 7, 2013
5:00 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Jeff Moss, Vice Chair Georga Prossick, Mary Butler, Debbie Carling, Bill Hilton, Keith Sherrill

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Phil Schumock

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Parks and Recreation Administrator Sarah Harris, Administrative Clerk Mary Winter, Pavilion Manager Dick Weber, Library Director Tim Wadham

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Pioneer Park Recreation Upgrades

Ms. Harris recapped that the board allocated funds in the 2013 Parks CIP to replace the outdated wading pool with a spray park and the play structure in Pioneer Park. A Request for Proposals was advertised and Bruce Dees and Associates have been awarded the contract for this project. She introduced Brian Patnode and Derrick Eberle who provided a brief narrative of the process.

Mr. Patnode outlined the project timeline and sought suggestions and guidance from the board and the public for their visions. He elaborated on the process noting the team was gathering information such as historical, permitting, and other aspects necessary to guide the design process. Conceptual drawings and plans would be developed and brought back for further discussion and consideration before moving into the construction phase. He noted the preliminary areas for the playground and spray park are set and both will have areas specific to younger (2-5) and older (6-12) age groups.

Library Director Tim Wadham addressed the board to share a vision for the play equipment and encouraged approval of equipment with an early literacy theme noting the Pioneer Park playground is the doorway to the library. He described Every Child Ready to Read, a research-based program with a goal for children to be ready to read by the age of five. He specified the five basic skills children need to enable them to reach that goal: talking, singing, reading, writing and playing. He advocated for the new play equipment to include some skill building elements and parent/child interaction features. He noted an example of a playground located in the City of Auburn that has these elements.

Dr. Wadham suggested reviewing the unique play structures offered by the Burgeon Group, noting they have two options that are already designed and appropriate for outdoor use. He also suggested tying the literacy element in with the spray park with such things as letters, numbers, or anything to foster their imagination, tell stories through play, and push their creativity.

Mr. Moss noted that Pioneer Park is a high volume use park and voiced concern over the April to June construction time frame. He listed the many events that occur in the park during that time. He preferred the impacts to the park be as minimal as possible and wanted assurance that the construction would not negatively impact park events. He stressed that there are other occurrences

that go on in the park and requested a design with those in mind. He pointed out the historical significance of Pioneer Park and suggested that historical aspects be worked into the plan and expressed his preference of a natural theme or setting, rather than vibrant colors.

Ms. Butler liked Dr. Wadham's idea of combining educational aspects with playing.

Mr. Hilton supported a lively play area and spray park, and that the Library Board and staff were involved in the process; but was very interested to hear what the public wants.

Mr. Sherrill questioned if the current wading pool location was suitable for a spray park. He did not want it to interfere with other park or pavilion events. He supported integrating literacy into the play structure and concurred with Mr. Moss' comment about the equipment not being gaudy since it is a highly used and visible park.

Ms. Prossick favored a colorful theme for the spray park, however, suggested greenery separating the spray park from the Pavilion, and advocated for the seating to be made of durable long-lasting material. She liked the early-literacy idea for the play structure, but expressed concern over the potential expense of customized equipment. In response, Dr. Wadham felt that previously designed and configured structures would fit within the budget.

Ms. Carling echoed Mr. Moss' preference of the natural aspect of the park, looked forward to the community's input, and expressed concern over the spray park being located too near to the Pioneer Park Pavilion.

Mr. Patnode expressed his awareness of the park activities and ensured that their desire was to customize the project to the needs of the city and its citizens.

Public Comments

Ms. Darice Hermann, Library Advisory Board member, expressed concern over how the improvements would impact the library, but at the same time address the needs of the whole community. She expressed concern with the senior population who may not appreciate the noise emanating from a spray park. She suggested there be some buffering around the spray park to allow people to remain comfortable in visiting the library. She noted there are many ways to encourage imaginations with open play without being gaudy or expensive, and suggested play structures such as a covered wagon, a teepee, a log cabin etc.

Mr. Chris Chisholm liked the idea of having attractive, colorful and artistic play equipment. He felt the location next to the library was ideal and that a pioneer theme would be a good fit. He opined that a spray park in Pioneer Park would be disastrous and suggested locating it at a different location such as Grayland Park, Veteran's Park, or the Recreation Center property which have more space. He shared his experience as a vendor at Meeker Days and the Farmers Market and felt having a spray park would add to the parking and space issues during those events. He also expressed concern over security for children, noting the many teens that hang out at Pioneer Park.

Mr. Greg Cannon stated he lives close to the park and he and his grandchildren love it. He suggested not taking the physical activity aspect of a spray park out of the park; voiced concern

over a sand feature due to sanitation; liked the idea of age separation; and worried about children's safety.

Ms. Joan Hamburg worried that the library parking lot would be taken up by spray park users' displacing library patrons. She also expressed concern over spray park users using the library restroom facilities, making floors wet and raising safety issues.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Approval of the September 9 and September 23, 2013 minutes

Board Action: A motion was made by Ms. Prossick, second by Mr. Sherrill to approve the September 9 and September 23 minutes as presented. The motion passed 6-0.

CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUESTS

Parks CIP Prioritization

Ms. Harris provided an updated Parks CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) list and pointed out that a change had to be made to the 2014 board recommendations. She explained the parks maintenance seasonal staffing has been reinstated for 2014 and she was unaware that those costs should have been allocated out of the Parks CIP. An adjustment was made to allocate approximately \$102,000 for those costs from the sales tax revenue. Ms. Harris reported most of the 2014 projects would still be completed; however, the Rainier Woods restroom would be postponed to 2016.

A brief discussion ensued including: trusting staff to guide the board in what needs to be done; the relevance of hiring a contractor or landscaper during the spring and summer months to do maintenance rather than staff; and the use of volunteers to maintain parks.

Mr. Moss felt uncomfortable that 33 percent of the parks CIP budget is now going toward maintenance. He understood the need for allocating a small projects/replacement fund as approved at the last meeting, but inquired if other sources for the maintenance could be found before taking it out of the CIP. Ms. Harris explained there would not be the money for maintenance in the 2014 general fund, hence, the need to allocate it from the CIP. She pointed out that the indirect cost assessment line item was reduced from last year by nearly \$33,000 to go towards the maintenance costs, and advised this may not always be the scenario when the economy improves and more funds are in the general fund.

Mr. Hilton opined that unless the city maintains all its parks, restroom facilities, play areas, trails, etc. to safe and good working order, the problems would snowball and cost more in the long run.

Mr. Moss shared comments from Mr. Schumock of if the next spray park location was finalized as being at Bradley Lake Park. Mr. Moss suggested discussing the creation of a non-profit organization in the near future to help with the CIP funding, noting that \$500,000 per year was not adequate for the amount of projects on the list.

In response to a question, Ms. Harris told the board that the Parks and Recreation budget and the Parks CIP plan are scheduled to be presented to council on October 29th and pointed out that only the 2014 portion of the CIP will be up for approval.

Mr. Sherrill inquired if there had been any solid numbers defined for the dog park improvements, as he felt the push to get it done and do it properly. Ms. Harris acknowledged that the City Manager and the Public Works Director would soon view the site and determine if staff could accomplish the grading or clearing of the site. She agreed to obtain some estimated costs for the board's information. Mr. Sherrill disliked putting off the parks improvements and suggested finding money for maintenance from other places.

Ms. Harris indicated she would speak to Public Works Director Rob Andreotti about the parks maintenance staffing, what will be accomplished with the seasonal staffing, and what the repercussions would be if maintenance was not funded. She admitted the parks and ground maintenance has not been up to the same level this year as it has been in the past.

Consensus was to accept the staff adjustments to the 2014 budget and recommend them to the city council.

Mr. Hilton reported he talked to Mr. Robert Slaughter informing him of the board's decision to move forward with the Wildwood Park Dog Park and acknowledged Mr. Slaughter was overjoyed with the news and indicated he still wanted to continue to be involved.

STAFF REPORTS

Recreation Report – September 2013

Ms. Harris reviewed a variety of recreation activities and programs including: a new open gym program for junior and senior high students; youth indoor soccer and flag football; adult basketball and volleyball leagues; Toddler Campus, the preschool and pre-kindergarten classes; and the fall recreation classes include ballet, Kidz Love Soccer, and the very popular Playwell TEK-nologies pre-engineering class.

Ms. Harris reported that the City Council approved first reading of the ordinance to change the Parks hours with second reading set for October 15, 2013; that a Request for Proposals has been advertised for the Recreation Center's structural problems with a submittal deadline of October 23rd; the district two park open house was held noting the Deadman's Pond property was the popular topic; and reported the new online registration program is now up and running.

Senior Activities Report – September 2013

Pavilion Manager Dick Weber highlighted the following events and programs that took place through the Activity Center during September. Camp Wrinkle Ranch was held in Raymond, Washington for the 11th year. The activity center participants staffed a booth on September 15th at the Washington State Fair to share information about the center's activities. A second trip offered by the center was to Harrison Hot Springs in British Columbia; and an educational seminar on Living with Neuropath Pain was held informing participants about the degenerative nerve disease.

Upcoming Events

Staff notified the following events upcoming at the **Activity Center**: the monthly Pancake breakfast; annual volunteer fair; holiday craft bazaar; and the Halloween Party; and the following events through the **Recreation Center**: Flag Football Jamboree; Punt, Pass & Kick Competition; Haunted Hustle 5K & 10K; Youth Basketball Registration; and the Cobweb Carnival.

BOARD COMMENTS – FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Carling expressed her anticipation of moving forward with the Pioneer Park splash pad/spray park project.

Ms. Prossick indicated her eagerness for completion of the splash pad project.

Mr. Sherrill requested that information on the dog park preparation costs be on the next agenda.

Mr. Hilton stated that he was looking forward to the start of construction of the Pioneer Park improvements.

Ms. Butler reported that she was recently named AARP volunteer of the month for teaching defensive driving classes. She is one of 300 defensive driving teachers and was honored to receive the award.

Mr. Moss reported on his attendance at the recent parks open house noting it was well attended and good comments were voiced by citizens. He noted there was much interest in the Deadman’s Pond property and protection of it. He also affirmed that people are unaware of all the parks/trails in the city, and suggested a cooperative effort with the Friends of Riverwalk Trail to promote the outdoor recreational opportunities with the creation of a brochure or a website, etc. In response, Mr. Hilton shared that the idea was discussed at a recent Friends of the Riverwalk Trail meeting indicating their interest in collaborating on that project. Mr. Moss acknowledged the negative comments throughout the conversations about the location of the spray park being in the existing wading pool location; however he felt it would work out okay. Lastly, he expressed his appreciation of the work the board had done this year and that all should be proud of the accomplishments made this year.

Ms. Prossick concurred with the brochure idea, noting she recently met some new residents who were lost and felt a map would have been a great resource for them.

Board Action: A motion was made by Ms. Butler, second by Ms. Prossick to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:30 p.m.