

OUTLINE MINUTES
Joint Work Session:
City Council / Parks Commission

Date: June 1, 2009 Time: 6:00 PM Location: Community Rooms A/B Scribe: Terri Reed

Members Present:

Mayor: Chuck Hunter

City Council: Steve Ekberg, Derek Young, Paul Conan, Ken Malich, Paul Kadzik

Parks Commission: Michael Perrow, Jacquie Goodwill, Emily Cross.

Staff Present:

City Staff: Rob Karlinsey, Mike Davis, Marco Malich, Terri Reed

Call to Order at 6:00 p.m.

WORKSESSION

Jacquie Goodwill explained that the Parks Commission had four key discussion areas that they have been active in and wished to discuss with City Council:

1. Park security and maintenance
2. Downtown projects and fitting within the fiscal budget realities
3. Long term planning and PROS Plan update
4. Ongoing park issues

Topic / Agenda Item	Main Points Discussed	Recommendation/Action Follow-up (if needed)
Graffiti and Parks Security	Jacquie Goodwill explained that in the summer months there is increased activity in the parks and expressed the Parks Commission's desire to have more police presence; Grandview Forest Park and the Skate Park in particular. Jacquie asked Council if they had concerns about park security or suggestions for the parks. Councilman Ekberg said that he wasn't really aware of concerns of safety in the parks but thinks the more people in the park the better off it is, and the more randomly that Public Works staff and Police can go through and be seen the better. Michael Perrow mentioned the Cushman Trail graffiti that is on-going.	Increase presence in City parks.

	<p>Councilman Young asked how the response has been to the park smoking ban and if there had been an impact seen at the parks. Jacquie Goodwill responded that the parks were much cleaner as a result of the ban and it seems to be self-policing.</p> <p>Michael Perrow talked about the graffiti on the ferry landing bottom from the beach up and put forward the idea of putting a mural there.</p> <p>Police Chief Davis went over the statistics of graffiti incidents in parks, which was relatively low. He said that their department would like to implement some bicycles being out in the community. He thinks that this may be valuable on the Cushman Trail. Mayor Hunter asked if police cadets could assist with the trail.</p> <p>Councilman Young thought that some cameras in parks might help or some cameras could be put at the entrances and exits. Chief Davis explained that the current video system can go wireless and be put around the Civic Center and Grandview Forest Park. Chief Davis thinks that some security signage would be helpful.</p> <p>Councilman Ekberg thinks that the Foothills Trail volunteer group would be a good idea for our trail. The Parks Commission will look into making contact with this group.</p>	<p>The Parks Commission will work on this idea with the Arts Commission. Chief Davis will look into what training would be required.</p> <p>Public Works/Police will look into signage options.</p> <p>Staff will forward trail patrol contact information to Parks Commission for follow-up.</p>
City Planter Boxes/Baskets	<p>Steve Lynn, 9014 Peacock Hill Avenue, Gig Harbor Historic Waterfront Association (GHHWA) President, spoke to the group about their involvement in the flower watering and maintenance program that has begun. They are currently providing watering of the flowers using the City watering truck and volunteers. The Chamber of Commerce and Water to Wine have both donated \$500 to purchase more flower baskets to place around the City. Mr. Lynn said that currently the program is seasonal and they are working to increase the programming of the planter boxes. Art Benedict has been designated as their coordinator and they are working out some of the program details. The Parks Commission and Council passed along their appreciation for this group of volunteers.</p>	
Wilkinson Farm Projects	<p>Healthy Communities of Pierce County has taken over the planting of the garden for this year and nets have been installed. The barn inventory is in progress using a volunteer group, and the YMCA has been at the park doing some youth community service projects.</p>	

	Councilman Ekberg stated that he would like to see the barn opened up after the inventory project is complete.	
Jerisich Proposal	David Fisher, 7766 Beardsley Avenue, and Carola Stark, (GHHWA), distributed before and after views for their Jerisich Dock improvement proposal. Councilman Kadzik explained that GHHWA felt that this would be a great project where they could effectively make a difference. Councilman Ekberg hoped that Rotary and Kiwanis would have an interest in helping with the development. The GHHWA would like to do some fundraising efforts that would help implements the changes. The group is meeting next with the Design Review Board for their input at the design phase.	
PROS Plan	The revised PROS Plan update scope was distributed for review. The next step is a public open house/visioning workshop on June 24 th to get input on the plan. The feedback from that meeting can then be discussed at the July 1 st Parks Commission meeting. Councilman Malich asked about the ability to get feedback through email or on our website. Michael Perrow explained that information can be emailed to Kristin Moerler.	6/24/09 - Public Workshop 7/1/09 – Parks Commission Meeting
2010 Parks Budget/Grant Opportunities	Jacquie Goodwill asked for feedback on Council's priorities in Parks. Councilman Young said that they want feedback from the Commission and expressed appreciation for the work that they have done. Councilman Ekberg expressed his interest in a boardwalk/trail system through Wilkinson Farm Park and would appreciate any grant or volunteer opportunities for that.	
Crescent Creek Properties	Some uses for the newly acquired properties adjacent to Crescent Creek Park were discussed. It was explained that there wasn't a specific plan when the properties were purchased, other than to take advantage of available property. Councilman Kadzik thought that the Miller/Rohwer property could be used as a dog park. Michael Perrow mentioned that PenMet Parks is working towards providing a dog park in the area. Jacquie Goodwill asked about the replacement of the play structure at the park. Councilman Ekberg thought this would be good project for community groups. John McMillan, 9816 Jacobson Lane, asked if Council had plans for the Miller/Rohwer property. Councilman Kadzik said he was personally in favor of the property being used for a dog park. Jacquie Goodwill explained that five to ten acres is the desired size for a successful dog park to keep the dogs farther apart and have line of sight. Councilman Malich thought that even a small dog park would be acceptable. Jacquie Goodwill mentioned the work that had been done at the Sand Volleyball Courts and Marco Malich went over the items on the organizing group's wish list that are moving	

	forward with Public Works approval. Councilman Young mentioned that there are a lot of demands for different park uses, including pickle ball courts, so they all need to be taken into consideration.	
Parks Appreciation Day	Jacque Goodwill mentioned the great support received on Parks Appreciation Day. Michael Perrow praised the volunteers and the LDS Church for their efforts and the success of the work day.	
Recycling in Parks	The need for recycling in City parks was discussed. Councilman Ekberg said that it would send a good statement. Councilman Kadzik thought that Lauren Lund could make a public announcement at concerts/movies and encourage people to recycle. Marco Malich stated that it is difficult to keep the trash out but that having clear bins is helpful. Jacque Goodwill thought we could start with Skansie Park. Councilman Kadzik hoped that the Jerisich Park project could incorporate this into their plans.	
Commission Positions	The Parks Commission believes that keeping the membership at five people is working well for now and wants to keep it filled with members with diverse interests.	
Austin Estuary Park	Councilman Malich asked about the planting of native trees at the estuary park. He would like the Shore Pine trees removed. It was explained that these are actually native plants. Mayor Hunter said that the bird habitat makes it difficult to remove the invasive plants.	
Motion: Move to adjourn. Kadzik / Cross		ADJOURN @ 7:25 PM