

**City of Sammamish  
Parks And Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Summary  
November 24, 2003 Meeting  
Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District Headquarters**

**1. Call To Order**

The meeting commenced at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Cornell Amaya, Paul Brodeur, Chris Leyerle, John Rossi, David Lee, Patrick Schlight, Tom Schloetter, Jeff Watling, Manager, and Hope Gibson, Park Planner

Not Present: Lynn Rehn, Joyce McCallum, Robert Armstead.

Minutes: The minutes from the October 27, 2003 meeting were approved.

**2. Public Comment**

Mary Doerrer commented that all Parks Commissioners must sign a form agreeing to not endorse candidates running for the City Council. Ms. Doerrer stated that Commissioners who endorsed City Council candidates should resign from the Parks Commission.

**3. Ongoing Business**

a. Ebright Creek.

During the Ebright Creek appeal process, two items were uncovered that did not conform with the City's code. The park plan had trails in the wetlands buffer. The City's code does not allow trails in the buffer. Also, the code requires structures to be setback 50 feet from residential property lines. The design for the restroom, picnic shelter and play area had the structures within 50 feet of property lines. The City Council decided to "pause" the project to consider whether either the park plan or the City's code should be modified. The codes for many other cities would allow the park elements as designed for Ebright Creek.

Discussion ensued as to how the errors had occurred in the City's review of the project and how to prevent recurrences in future projects. The existing code requirements may also impact the park projects at Pine Lake Park and Sammamish Commons if the code is not changed. The Parks Commission requested that that staff research how other jurisdictions deal with wetland buffers and setbacks for parks.

b. Sammamish Commons

Jeff informed the Commission that the Sammamish Commons design had been revised to preserve the two existing houses on the lower site. Additionally, the code requirement of a 50 foot setback greatly impacts the children's play area, necessitating its relocation to a different area. Another change under consideration is to build a temporary, instead of a permanent, parking lot in case the City is able to acquire adjacent land for a Phase 2 expansion of the park.

Considerable discussion ensued concerning the retention of the existing houses. The interest in keeping the houses is for use as staff space or community meeting space. Commissioners in attendance expressed disagreement with keeping the houses. The houses were not a part of the park vision developed through the public process. Commissioners who attended the Commons open house did not hear any public comments expressing an interest in maintaining the houses. Commissioners expressed that retention of the houses would detract from the park design and would be contrary to the vision developed for the park. Any additional comments on retaining the houses should be sent to John who will schedule a meeting with the City Manager to express the concerns of the Parks Commission.

There will be a retaining wall at the Commons skate park. The Parks staff is exploring using that wall as a revolving art wall available for use by City youth and high school students. The Parks Commission was positive on the idea and encouraged the staff to pursue the idea.

c. Lake Washington School District – Eastlake High School

The Parks staff has had discussions with the Lake Washington School District about developing a 3 acre practice field at Eastlake High School for use as a community sports field. The two jurisdictions are exploring developing the field into a multi-use field for baseball, soccer and lacrosse with synthetic turf and striping to allow multiple uses. Lighting the field is possible. The field would be available to the high school until approximately 5:00 p.m. on weeknights. After 5:00 p.m. and on weekends the field would be open for community use. The City would schedule users for those times. Initial cost estimate is \$2.5 million to develop the field with lighting. There would be much greater field usage if the field is lit. This project has several efficiencies in that there is no land acquisition required and no parking lot or restrooms to build.

There is a draft development agreement between the City and LWSD. Initial discussions with the school district have been positive. Commission members supported this proposal as a way to add field capacity to the City in a relatively quick manner. Chris proposed a motion in support of the proposal. The following motion was unanimously approved:

*The Parks Commission recommends that the City proceed with a feasibility analysis, develop the necessary interlocal agreement, and*

*appropriate the necessary funds to develop a multiple-use sports field at Eastlake High School to be programmed for the benefit of the community.*

d. Section 36

The Commission requested that Jeff invite King County representatives to a future Commission meeting to discuss Section 36.

Jeff informed the Commission that a consultant, Tim Hatley, had been hired to help the City pursue the transfer of Section 36 with King County.

#### **4. New Business**

a. 2004 priorities. Jeff asked for input for establishing the City's parks and recreation priorities for 2004. The following priorities were identified by individual Commissioners:

- Pursue a parks bond and levy to provide funds for land acquisition and parks staff.
- Conduct another community survey of parks and recreation interests and needs.
- Improve communication with the community about parks and recreation needs and issues.
- Conduct a census of parks users, including demographics data, to get a better understanding of the community's needs for services and facilities.
- Improve outreach to the community on parks and recreation issues. A good example of positive outreach was the Sammamish Commons open house. An open house at the Evans Creek site was suggested. Increased attendance at Parks Commission meetings should be encouraged.
- Better integration of road plans with trail plans to include non-motorized and pedestrian trails in the planning for road projects.
- Seek other types of development mitigation instead of pocket parks. A better mitigation might be trail access in developments.
- Better integration and coordination between the Community Development and the Parks Departments.
- Continue exploring and developing interlocal agreements with school districts to increase the availability of school facilities for community use.
- Conduct a review of the parks projects priorities list and update to incorporate changed circumstances since the priority list was developed.

#### **5. Manager's Report**

a. Pine Lake Park Phase I construction. Jeff provided an update on the Pine Lake Park improvements. The construction contract is expected to be awarded during December with construction completion by Spring 2004. The Phase I improvements will include a sewer extension to the park and the abandoning of the restroom septic system.

b. IAC Sports Field Maintenance Grant. The City is applying for two \$25K grants for maintenance of the East Sammamish Park soccer field and the baseball infield. The sports fields at ESP are plagued with poor drainage and the grants would help address the problems.

c. Appreciation Dinner-December 3. Jeff again invited all Commissioners to attend the Appreciation Dinner hosted by the City on December 3, 2003.

d. December Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. The next scheduled PRC meeting is December 22nd. Due to the holidays, the Commission agreed to cancel that meeting. In lieu of the December meeting, Commissioners can meet one-on-one with Jeff to discuss parks issues.

e. The Commission discussed the responsibility of Commissioners to refrain from using their Commission title in any public forums. Paul suggested, and the Commissioners agreed, that the City should draft language for all Commissioners to sign that would affirm each Commissioner's understanding of their rights and responsibilities as members of the Commission. Some Commissioners have signed such a document, others have not, depending on when the individual was appointed to the Commission.

**6. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

**Next meeting January 26, 2004**

**Please submit agenda items to Jeff one week prior to the next meeting to be included on the agenda.**