



City of Sammamish

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING SUMMARY

March 1, 2004 Meeting – 6:30 P.M.
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District Headquarters
Next meeting March 22, 2004

PRESENT:

Manager Jeff Watling, Park Planner Hope Gibson, Cornell Amaya, David Lee, Chris Leyerle, Joyce McCallum, Lynn Rehn, John Rossi, Patrick Schlight, and Tom Schloetter.

Robert Armstead and Paul Brodeur were absent and excused.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman John Rossi called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. The revised minutes from the January 26, 2004 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

a) Trails, Bikeways & Paths Plan (TBP Plan)

Led by Tom's comments, the Commissioners expressed a general concern that many sections of the TBP Plan referenced trails within a narrow transportation-minded framework. The language used in the document, especially Section 5 (Design Standards & Planning Guidelines), spoke of trails and bikeways as a component of roads, and made little distinction between trails and sidewalks. The Commissioners discussed the viability of modeling some of the innovative trail system designs of planned communities in Arizona, Colorado and Oregon, and suggested using alternative surfacing materials such as asphalt and crushed rock. There was a general consensus among Commissioners that although there were many financial and logistical challenges, there are ample opportunities for aesthetic innovation and creativity in designing the City's trail system. Hope suggested that the City's Public Works Director is very open to progressive ideas in jointly developing the City's transportation and trail infrastructure.

Tom also suggested that photos in the TBP Plan of children riding bikes without helmets should be updated to align with current City ordinance.

NEXT STEPS:

Commissioners will continue to study the TBP draft and forward comments to Jeff and Hope. The Commissioners are asked by Jeff to begin formulating prioritizations for projects identified within the TBP draft. Staff will relay the Commission's comments to the consultants to insert wording which is more trail focused rather than engineering focused. Staff will invite members of the Public Works staff to the next Commission meeting.

b) *Public Process Model: Draft*

Pat debriefed the Commission on the City Council's Parks & Recreation Sub-committee meeting, noting his biggest takeaway being the Sub-committee's desire for the Commission to more actively engage with and solicit the opinions of the citizens of Sammamish.

Jeff presented the Commission with the initial draft of the Parks Master Plan Model that will be presented to the Council on March 2, 2004. Although everyone recognized the many challenges of this effort, many Commissioners felt that the process needed to more clearly define schedules, timelines, deliverables and dependencies for each project. In addition, Commissioners urged the inclusion of a detailed and well-planned communications strategy.

Chris and John both commented that there was no reference in the draft of a formal communication opportunity whereby the Commission would learn about Council's vision/direction for planning a park project.

NEXT STEPS:

Jeff will update the Commission as the draft goes through Council review.

c) *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan*

The Council has requested a joint study session with the Commission on Tuesday, March 23, 2004 to review the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROSP). The three topics slated for discussion are:

- Review the project prioritization list submitted by the Commission in 2003
- How to address a deficiency of resources with specific attention to balancing the need between acquisition and development
- Starting the process for a Parks Bond

Jeff notified the Commission that both the PROSP and TBP Plan fall under the category of Comprehensive Plan amendments, which require a 1-year waiting period to be considered for adoption, the goal is to target adoption of both plans in September 2004.

NEXT STEPS:

The Commission will review the study session discussion items at the next Commission meeting on March 22, 2004. Staff and Commissioners will gather information and best practices on Parks Bond process from Seattle, Bellevue and Kirkland.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) *Alternate Commissioners*

Staff will begin the process of adding alternate commissioners.

b) *Parks Related Events on March 4, 2004*

Councilmember Petiti notified the Commission there would be a walking tour of a new trail in Section 36 at 8:30AM on March 4, 2004. At 10:00AM there is a ribbon cutting for the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

a) Eastlake High School Update

Jeff presented findings from Sparling's lighting study, which concludes that with latest generation equipment, light spilling can be minimized to acceptable levels. Jeff also reported that 7 of 11 neighbors have been contacted so far, without any red flags being thrown. The Council will be updated at its next session on the consultant's findings and the concerns of the contacted residents.

b) Pine Lake Park Phase I Construction Update

Hope reported that the project is on schedule, with re-opening anticipated for mid to late May 2004.

c) Summer Outdoor Cinema Series

Jeff reported that the City is planning a series of 5 outdoor movies this summer at Skyline High School. This is in addition to the concert and Shakespeare events planned for Pine Lake Park. The change in venue is due to a desire to alleviate the wear on the newly seeded field at Pine Lake Park. Jeff distributed a list of possible movies to the Commissioners. A few Commissioners suggested that there should be one or two movies specifically geared toward the teen population.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.