



**City of Sammamish
Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting**
October 6, 2010 - 6:30-8:30 PM
Sammamish City Hall ~ 801-229th Ave SE

MEETING SUMMARY

Commissioners Present: Hank Klein, Judy Petersen, Mary Doerrer, Larry Crandall, Pauline Cantor, Nora Whittemore

Commissioners Absent: John James, Rena Brady

Staff Present: Jessi Richardson, Linda Frkuska, Joanna Puthoff, Janie Jackson

Call to Order: 6:37 p.m.

Approval of Summary: September 8 Meeting Summary was approved.

Public Comment:

Mike Armbruster, 22407 NE 9th Drive, Sammamish – Representing Eastlake Little League and youth football. He suggested charging more for lights to offset the synthetic field use fee. He is concerned about the increased fees for youth programs and how it will impact the leagues which are already experiencing a drop in registrations. The increase in fees from \$5 to \$15 will be passed on to the participants. He would rather pay lower per hour costs and perform field prep with properly trained parent volunteers. He suggested increasing the field prep fees. Increases on synthetic and turf fields will blow their budgets. His own kids play both football and baseball. He currently pays \$160 per child for baseball and \$300-\$320 per child for football plus new equipment each year. He commended Joanna and Sarah for a job well done with scheduling.

Mike Benz, 3808 212th Ave SE, Sammamish – Representing Skyline Youth Lacrosse and Skyline High School Lacrosse. Concurs with Mr. Armbruster. He says their field use will go down if there is a fee increase. He questions how much league time will be available at the Skyline Community fields now that Skyline High School's field time has been extended. Issaquah Youth Lacrosse fees would go up \$40 per player. With only 60-65 players, Skyline Youth Lacrosse would increase to \$80 per year. People who have multiple sports and kids are impacted. He is happy with the fields but not cost increases.

Douglas Bean, 2826 222nd Ave NE, Sammamish – Representing youth soccer. He shares some of the issues of the others. His league requests every available time slot from August through November. He suggests charging a variable fee during peak use times from 5 pm to 7 pm because that is the most desirable timeslot. If fees are increased, they will ask for time more judiciously. He feels that the natural turf fields have been underpriced. Youth soccer fees will go up by \$20/kid that plays in Sammamish, which is a 20% increase. He is a huge fan of multi-use, year-round fields. It would be easier to

accept a fee increase if he knew that additional fields were coming online. His organization is interested in finding fields in Sammamish and would like to partner with the City to develop one.

Lynne Hickman, 2653 231st Ave SE, Sammamish – Representing Sammamish Little League and Spartan Baseball Club. She says there is a decrease in registrations and if fees are increased, they will have to pass the additional cost on to their participants. She wonders if it would be a possibility to phase-in a cost recovery. Increasing fees by 50% this season and within 3 to 5 years to get to full cost recovery. That would help with the struggling numbers in their league. She has three sons who play football and baseball. Little League Fees were around \$100 per participant but they have not voted on fees for the upcoming year. Both leagues operate on a zero profit margin.

Mary Moore, 7804 Renton-Issaquah Road, Issaquah – Representing the Sammamish Heritage Society. She said the \$70,000 allocated for the Freed House relocation project would be used to move the house from its current location, excavate and build a foundation, shore up the sill plate, and construct a new roof and gutters. Once a location for the house is confirmed, The Heritage Society can apply for grants to finish construction. They want to act quickly so the house does not deteriorate further. They have identified the Lower Sammamish Commons Park (on the former site of the brick house) as a preferred location. They have pledged of volunteer hours and donations totaling \$8000 and have been active in the community asking for support for the project. They envision the house as a venue for small weddings or community meetings. There are plans for a daylight basement, which could be used for storage. Aside from weddings and community functions, the house could be used to display local historical artifacts representative of the early history of the Plateau.

Facility Rental Fee & Policy Review

As part of ongoing budget discussions, staff was asked to expedite a review of facility rental fees. The City Council is requesting fees be set closer to full cost recovery.

Synthetic Field Rental Fees

Full cost recovery for these fields is approximately \$58.00 per hour based on current usage patterns. Staff recommended the youth fee be increased to \$55.00 per hour. Commissioners reviewed field use statistics and patterns. They felt the step increase was too great and recommend the fee be increased to \$45.00 per hour. Modest increases to the adult hourly rental fee and the field lighting fee were also recommended. The Parks Commission felt that full cost-recovery was desirable in the long run. They recommended “phasing in” the fee increases over the next several years. Staff suggested that the synthetic turf rental fees and all other fees be reviewed again in 2012.

Natural Turf Rental Fees

A similar cost-recovery analysis was done for the natural turf fields. Full cost-recovery is approximately \$19.00 per hour based on current usage patterns. They are currently set at \$5.00 per hour for youth. While the staff proposed an increase in the hourly youth fee to \$15.00 per hour, the Commission felt a smaller step increase to \$10.00 per hour was more reasonable for the same reasons cited above. They felt a “phased-in” approach to fee increases would be appropriate in this category as well.

Picnic Shelter Rental Fees:

Upon reviewing usage patterns and conducting a fee comparison, staff recommended a two tiered fee structure for the picnic shelter fees. Pine Lake Park and Ebright Creek Park, being the more popular shelters, would be priced in a higher category. The rest of the picnic shelters would remain at the current rate. The Park Commission supported the staff recommended changes to the picnic shelter rental fee.

Indoor Facility Rental Fees:

The market comparison of the Beaver Lake Lodge and Pavilion rental fees indicate that current rates are comparable with other facilities in the area. The only recommended change to this fee schedule is to increase the weekly rental rate at the Lodge and to increase the Damage Deposit. Council Chambers at City Hall is underutilized so staff recommends a decrease in the weekend rental fee for the Council Chambers. The lower fee may help with marketing this facility to events such as auctions, craft fairs, etc. All other fees for the Council Chambers are proposed to remain the same. The Parks Commission supported these recommendations.

2011-12 P&R Biennial Budget

Commissioners reviewed and discussed the list of current Parks CIP projects to provide final recommendations to the City Council at the upcoming 2011-12 biennial budget meeting. Council has allocated \$70,000 as placeholder for the Freed House relocation project. Although there are no staff recommendations for this project, the City Council has asked the Parks Commission for a specific recommendation on the Freed House. Commissioners engaged in a discussion about the feasibility of the project. Although they appreciated the work of the Heritage Society and the Freed House as an historic property, they were concerned that funding to complete the restoration had not been secured and that the house could remain unfinished if grants were not obtained. They felt there needed to be a greater expression of financial support from the public. Some Commissioners were concerned that the location of the house in the Lower Sammamish Commons site could conflict with the Town Center Green Spine. Two were in favor of approving the allocation of funds to the project and five were opposed.

In conclusion, the only other recommended change was to reduce the amount dedicated to the Community/Aquatic center by 1.75 million and reallocate those funds to land acquisition.

Park Commission Liaison Reports:

Skate Park

No report.

Farmers Market – Judy Petersen

No report.

Friends of Sammamish – Hank Klein

No report.

Backyard Wildlife Habitat Project – Hank Klein, Pauline Cantor

No report.

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

No report.

Sammamish Walks – Judy Petersen

Hank Klein led the last walk through Beaver Lake Preserve. This month's walk takes place at Soaring Eagle Park and will be led by Randy Jackson.

P-Patch – Mary Doerr

No report.

Health and Wellness – Mary Doerr

No report.

Sammamish Trails Project – Judy Petersen, Rena Brady

Volunteer programmer Sunita Dubish has designed a trails website

www.sammamishwalks.org There are 6 trails listed so far, along with photos, blogging capabilities, links and events. Next steps will be to install maps with hyperlinks.

Other:

Pro Plan Brainstorm – Vision for Parks

Commissioners discussed goals and priorities for parks in Sammamish.

Calendar:

Tuesday, October 12th

City Council Study Session

Wednesday, November 3

Regular Parks Commission Meeting (changed to accommodate schedules)

Adjourn: 10:04 p.m.