

City of Renton

Board of Park Commissioners



Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2008

4:30 p.m.–City Hall – 7th floor Conferencing Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Tim Searing called the October 14, 2008, meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

In Attendance

The following members were present:

Tim Searing, Cynthia Burns, Al Dieckman, Michael O'Donin, Larry Reymann, Tim Searing, Troy Wigestrang (Absent: Ron Regis)

Staff: Terry Higashiyama, Sandy Pilat, Jerry Rerecich, Todd Black, Kris Stimpson, Terry Flatley, Kent Curry

Public: Doug Gregory, Heidi Williams, Tony Bressan, Lyla Smith, Erin Benjamin, Sandy Wizter, Shirley Colman, K. Curry, J. McArthur, Jennifer Yang, Michelle Pulsifer, Scott Budden, Amy Dickau, Carole Spalding

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Terry Higashiyama, Administrator, requested to move the item 7 consent item of Off-Leash Dog Park to the first order of business. Mike O'Donin made a motion seconded by Larry Reymann to approve the amended agenda as suggested by Terry. All were in favor, amended agenda approved.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Al Dieckman made a motion seconded by Mike O'Donin to approve the September minutes as written. All were in favor, motion carried, minutes approved.

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Yang, Youth Board Member applicant, was introduced. Jennifer applied to serve as a youth board member and was invited to attend the meeting to gain further understanding about the board and what they do.

V. CONSENT

Off-Leash Dog Park Task Force

Terry Higashiyama, Administrator, asked the members of the Off-Leash Dog

Park Task Force to stand and introduce themselves. Terry explained that she; along with Kris Stimpson, Recreation Manager; Dana Appel, Parks Lead Maintenance Worker; Kent Curry and Clark Wilcox from the Police Department; along with Park Board Commissioner, Al Dieckman had worked for six months with a group of volunteers to investigate the feasibility of an off-leash dog park in Renton. This was a lot of work in a short amount of time to accomplish; however, Terry commented it was a lot of fun working with such an enthusiastic group. Kris Stimpson introduced two members of the Task Force, Amy and Carol. Amy narrated a powerpoint presentation outlining why pets are important. She explained the closest dog parks in the area now are Grandview (in Sea-Tac) and Marymoor Park. The travel time to these is considerable. It would be such a great asset to dog owners in the community to have somewhere local to take their dogs. The Task Force would like endorsement from the Board to approach Council during the budget process and request start up money of \$50,000. The Task Force would take responsibility to solicit another \$50,000 from sponsors, donations, and local businesses. Another suggestion for additional revenue is to raise the price of pet licenses, which has been constant since the 1970's.

The Task Force stressed they are 'in' this partnership for the long haul. They will recruit volunteers from schools, civic groups, SODA, businesses, and the City Volunteer Coordinator to ensure their success. They suggest the Park Board recommend to Council:

- Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for start up costs be allocated by the City
- A matching \$50,000 will be solicited by the Task Force
- Narco will serve as a two-year test site
- The Task Force has investigated concerns regarding central location, acceptance by community, traffic, and parking
- The Task Force will report back with 6-month reviews

The Task Force members answered questions and concerns about safety issues, access to the river, rules and regulations, and enforcement. Amy explained that dog-owners that patronize off-leash areas are self policing and let fellow dog owners know the rules and regulations of the park. Their goal is to establish and maintain recurring relationships, including the organization SODA for financial support. They have already had people volunteer for work parties to build fences, donate wood chips, etc. The group will also seek out grant opportunities.

Several members of the public spoke supporting the park, offering to volunteer, and listing the numerous benefits of a dog park in our community. The Task Force indicated they will coordinate with SODA for support and guidance, as well as local businesses and dog walkers.

Al Dieckman made a motion to recommend forwarding the report to Council and requesting \$50,000 be allocated to the CIP budget for start up fees for a two-year test site located at Narco for an off-leash dog park. Six-month reports will be made on the park to the Board. Larry Reymann seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried. The recommendation will be forwarded to the Committee of the Whole at their October 27, 2008, meeting at 5:00 p.m.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Trails and Bicycle Master Plan

Jim Seitz, Transportation Planner, was in attendance to update the Board on the status of the Trails and Bicycle Master Plan. Draft plans had been mailed to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. There are plans to take the Plan to Committee of the Whole on November 10 and have an open house November 12th at the Senior Center. We anticipate finalizing in January or February. Terry thanked Jim for partnering with our department on this project.

VII. BOARD COMMUNICATION

Michael O'Donin reviewed an agenda formulated at a meeting with Larry Reymann and Tim Searing to discuss future issues. A workshop on November 4, 2008, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. will be held to prioritize our level of service for parks, facilities and recreation for the City of Renton. The economy is at the forefront, 7% general fund cuts have been made for 2009 as well as cuts for the remainder of this fiscal year (2008). We need to educate ourselves and be proactive and prioritize. Our choices may be "Who are we going to serve and what programs can be provided by others? --programs for our seniors or children--" Topics will include the

environment, trails connection, special events, acquisition, and others. Staff will be in attendance also.

VIII. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Terry reported Kelly and Leslie along with Councilmember Terri Brier were attending the National Recreation Park Association Conference in Baltimore. Peter Renner was attending a facilities conference in Texas. Tim Searing met with Leslie and toured some open space areas and Springbrook Trail with the Mayor and Jay. Terry also indicated that the December meeting would be a social meeting at her home. She will let everyone know of a date.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Larry Reymann made a motion seconded by Michael O'Donin to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, motion carried meeting adjourned.

Signature

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

**November 4, 2008 @ 4:30 P.M.
Senior Activity Center**

211 Burnett Avenue South