

# ***City of Renton***

## ***Board of Park Commissioners***



### ***Meeting Minutes***

February 10, 2009  
4:30 p.m.–City Hall – Fire District #40 (FS#13)

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mike O'Donin called the February 10, 2009, meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

##### **In Attendance**

The following persons were present:

Members: Tim Searing, Cynthia Burns, Michael O'Donin, Ron Regis, Larry Reymann, Al Dieckman

Staff: Terry Higashiyama, Sandy Pilat, Leslie Betlach, Jerry Rerecich, Kelly Beymer, Deborah Needham, Terry Flatley

##### **Absent**

Troy Wigestrang, Member

#### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Cynthia Burns made a motion seconded by Larry Reymann to approve the agenda as presented. All were in favor, motion carried, the February 10, 2009, agenda was approved.

#### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ron Regis made a motion to approve the January 2009 minutes as written. Al Dieckman seconded the motion, all were in favor, minutes approved.

#### **IV. ORAL COMMUNICATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

#### **V. BOARD COMMUNICATION**

Terry Higashiyama requested we return to this item when Tim Searing arrives, he was caught up in traffic, and would be reporting on the Boards and Commission training held the previous Saturday.

**VI. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

NONE

**VII. CONSENT**

NONE

**VIII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

*Emergency Management Program*

Terry Higashiyama, Community Services Administrator, introduced Deborah Needham, Director of Emergency Management for the City. Deborah explained she came from Clark County and had been with the City since May of 2007. She explained her role in citizen outreach and training citizens to do emergency preparedness. Renton is a CERT Community (Community Emergency Response Team). This program prepares citizens to be their own first responders in case of an emergency. By mapping your neighborhood and identifying which neighbors have special needs, certain tools, such as a chainsaw, who requires medication that needs refrigeration; allows each neighborhood to work together to respond to disasters. Renton Technical College is partnering with the City offering classes to help people prepare for disasters. The instructors volunteer their time and most of the classes are free.

Currently the emergency team is looking at amateur ham radio operators that would be willing to communicate and post notices about conditions (road closures, etc.) at a central location (a park, community bulletin board) to notify neighborhoods about conditions outside of their immediate area when other means are not available.

Deborah also briefly discussed the Howard Hansen Dam and that it has a depression in the right abutment that needs attention to avoid flooding. The area that would be in danger if this happened would be our business community (IKEA area). We are coordinating efforts to ensure this is corrected before it becomes a problem.

Terry thanked Deborah for her presentation and time.

*Golf Course Update—Water Rights*

Kelly Beymer, Golf Course Manager, reviewed the water rights validation process with Department of Ecology. A water rights attorney has been secured to finalize this agreement.

## **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

### *Budget Update*

Terry gave an update on the budget and provided a spread sheet outlining possible additional cuts of 4% the Department may experience. She indicated any further cuts would probably require closure of some facilities. She will continue to update the Board each month.

### *Library Update*

Terry reported that two years ago the City recruited a firm to do a Master Plan to determine if our current library should remain independent or become part of King County Library System. It was determined if we were to remain independent we would require a larger facility for expansion. This would not be feasible in our current building so would require an entire new building. The City has now committed to jointly purchase a jail facility and currently it isn't feasible to commit to that large of an expenditure for a new library building. The Council voted six to one to incorporate the library into the KCLS system. This would be a two to three year process and go to the voters for approval.

### *Legislative Update*

Leslie reported she and Todd Black, CIP Coordinator, on January 22, 2009, traveled to Olympia to lobby for the WRPA and met with Representatives Maxwell, Prentice, and Kline. Leslie indicated it is extremely difficult to lobby for dollars for parks when other agencies are looking for basic life services such as providing basic services for children. This Thursday they will attend when the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition requests \$100M for 115 Parks, Trails and Working Farms. The Coalition is asking the legislature to renew the WWRP grant program at \$100 million in the state's capital construction budget. This would fund 115 parks, wildlife areas and working farms. A record total of \$272 million in requests and 370 applications were submitted for WWRP funding this biennium. She indicated it would be an easier task to lobby for funding from the capital side of the budget. Other areas of discussion would include gender equality and trapping.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

### *WRPA Board and Commission Training (Board Communication)*

Tim Searing, Chair, reported on attending the Board and Commission Training held on Saturday, February 7, 2009. Cynthia Burns, Larry Reymann, and Terry also attended. There were 60 participants from across the state. Tim noted he was impressed with the statistics verifying what a big role parks is and means to citizens. Tim indicated they would bring some slides to a future meeting to share with the other members and staff. Cynthia and Larry commented on how

they enjoyed breaking out into work sessions and the opportunity to network.

*Flood Damage Update*

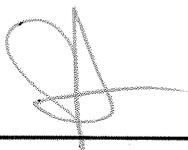
Leslie Betlach, Parks Director, updated those in attendance on the flood and damage and answered questions regarding future dredging and betterment projects.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Upcoming meetings will be held at rotating locations. The tentative schedule is: March at City Hall, April at RCC, and May at City Hall.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mike O'Donin made a motion seconded by Al Dieckman to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, motion carried, the February meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



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*Signature*

NEXT REGULAR MEETING  
March 10, 2009--Tuesday  
@ 4:30 P.M.

Renton City Hall  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conferencing Center