

# **City of Renton**

## **Board of Park Commissioners**



### **Meeting Minutes**

February 11, 2014

4:30 p.m. – City Hall – 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conferencing Center

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

##### **In Attendance**

The following members were present:

Members: Al Dieckman, Larry Reymann, Mike O'Donin, Sojin Thompson, Marlene Winter, Cynthia Burns, Tim Searing, Troy Wigstrand

Staff: Terry Higashiyama, Sandy Pilat, Leslie Betlach, Kelly Beymer, Kris Stimpson, Bonnie Rerecich, Peter Renner

Guests: Christopher Koruga, Courtney Moeller

Chair, Cynthia Burns, called the February 11, 2014, meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Roll call was taken; all members were present.

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

Marlene Winter made a motion, seconded by Larry Reymann, to approve the agenda as presented. All were in favor, motion carried, the February 2014 agenda was approved.

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

A motion was made by Mike O'Donin and seconded by Al Dieckman to approve the January 14, 2014, minutes as written, all were in favor, motion carried. The minutes were approved as submitted.

#### **IV. BOARD COMMUNICATION**

*City Center Plan—Mike O'Donin*

Mike reported he had not been to a meeting since our January meeting and had nothing to report at this time.

*Board and Commission Training*

Larry, Marlene, Cynthia, and Al attended the training. Their remarks included it was a fantastic training, the interaction and input from others was valuable and it's nice to always learn something new. Many thanks to Bonnie and staff.

Larry Reymann inquired about some signage on the May Creek Trail denoting it was only for residents. Leslie explained Elizabeth Higgins, Planner, is working with the Home Owners Association on clarifying this problem. Marlene Winter also noted she would like to add to our list of topics to cover "bicycle groups or plans."

**V. SCHOOL REPORT**

*Sojin Thompson*

Sojin reported the Renton High School basketball coach just enjoyed his 400<sup>th</sup> win. Hundreds of community members, parents, and staff attended the Meadow Crest Early Learning Center grand opening ceremony. The Renton Community Foundation granted \$27,000 in cash awards to the District and community organizations through its Circle of Giving.

**VI. PRESENTATION**

*1620 Benson Apartments/Office—Christopher Koruga*

Mr. Koruga was present to share information on the 1620 Benson Apartments and offices. 1620 Benson is a distinctive apartment village scheduled for completion in October 2014. The complex will have large one-and two-bedroom independent apartments with views of Lake Washington. Features include underground parking, community gardens, bocce ball courts, outdoor amphitheater and handicap-accessible units. He shared numerous photos highlighting features incorporated into other buildings they will replicate, including the outdoor theatre with seating for over 100. They are seeking ways to integrate the arts into our community and encourage local artists to participate with wall murals, outdoor sculpture, interior art exhibition, art classes and instruction for seniors. One building will be designated for seniors (that is currently full) and the other will be market rate apartments geared to ages 22-40. The one to two bedroom units will average 1,300-1,800 square feet.

**VII. DISCUSSION ACTION ITEMS**

*Parks Donation Policy*

At last month's meeting Kelly Beymer presented a draft Memorial/Donation policy and asked the Board to review it and return this month with any changes or questions. After reviewing a motion was made and seconded to accept the policy as written and submit to City Council for approval. Motion carried, the policy will be forwarded to Council for their review.

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### *Boathouse Update*

Peter Renner updated the Board on the status of the Boathouse lease. The previous vendor (Cascade Canoe and Kayak Center) had been operating for 11 years in this facility. Council encourages staff to ensure that we are providing the highest possible value to our citizens. For the boathouse we need a balance between rents received and the level of public service. Therefore we published a Request for Proposals toward the end of Cascade's term with submittals due July 12<sup>th</sup>. Two responses were received, one from Cascade Canoe and Kayak Center and one from George Pocock Rowing Foundation (GPRF). After review by several departments we conducted a follow-up interview to gain insight on marketing plans, details of collaboration with our Recreation Division and the School District, volunteer participation and so on. Staff's recommendation to Council was that Pocock Rowing Foundation would take the area residents to a higher level and make best use of this facility while providing a year-round experience for participants.

Peter introduced Courtney Moeller, Facility Manager, for GPRF. Courtney shared her excitement about this new opportunity to offer access to adult and youth rowing programs, canoe, kayak and stand-up paddle board rentals. Rowing serves as a means to foster physical activity, health, leadership and community engagement. Their North Lake Union facility has supported programs with Seattle Parks as well as the public schools. The primary focus will be to connect with the Renton middle and high school students. They are anxious to involve kids in rowing and teaching safety and the fundamentals skills and offer scholarships. They plan to stay connected with parks and recreation. Each of their Club members donates ten hours of community service each year. Courtney agreed to return at the end of the summer to give an update.

### **VIII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Terry Higashiyama announced that Tim Williams would be unable to return to work following a medical leave. During his absence Kris Stimpson has served as Acting Director and done an excellent job and now has been appointed to fill that position. Additionally, Wendy Kirchner who works in the Neighborhood Program accepted a full-time job opportunity with the City of Newcastle. An open house will be held to wish her well. Also we did some shuffling in the Facilities organization to maximize our resources.

We are currently working on a Senior Plan with Berk and Associates and hopefully will have the Plan by June. We want the information to prepare for the 2015-2016 budget.

Kelly noted a revised date for the Employee Recognition Program. It now will be April 2, 2014, at Renton Community Center from 11:30-1:00 p.m.

Cynthia Burns noted she attended the Meadow Crest event and it was wonderful.

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**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Troy Wigestrang and seconded by Larry Reymann to adjourn the February 11, 2014, meeting at 5:50 p.m. All were in favor, motion carried, meeting adjourned.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2014 @ 4:30 P.M.

*City Hall Conferencing Center--7<sup>th</sup> Floor*