

# ***City of Renton***

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



### ***Meeting Minutes***

May 12, 2015

4:30 p.m. – City Hall – 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Council Conference Room

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

##### **In Attendance**

The following members were present:

*Members:* Chair Cynthia Burns, Larry Reymann, Al Dieckman, Mike O'Donin, Troy Wigestrang, Marlene Winter

*Staff:* Terry Higashiyama, Margie Beitner, Leslie Betlach, Kelly Beymer, Peter Renner, Casey Stanley, Kris Stimpson, Greg Stroh, Mindy Bothwell

*Guests:* Alex Tuttle, Councilmember Ruth Pérez

The May 12, 2015, meeting was called to order by Chair, Cynthia Burns, at 4:30 p.m. Roll call was taken; Tim Searing was not present. His absence was excused.

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

Mike O'Donin made a motion, seconded by Al Dieckman to approve the May 12, 2015, agenda. All were in favor, motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Marlene Winter and seconded by Mike O'Donin to approve the April 2015 minutes as written, all were in favor, motion carried. The minutes were approved as submitted.

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

*City Center Plan—Mike O'Donin*

The May 7 City Center Plan meeting was postponed until June 18, 2015.

*Cedar River Stakeholder – Larry Reymann*

Larry provided a brief update. Ron Straka represents Renton in the King County Group. Two biologists in the group have moved on.

*WRPA Conference – Cynthia Burns/Staff*

Cynthia Burns attended the 2015 WRPA Conference in Tacoma, Washington. Cynthia reported that it was a fantastic conference with mention of the many vendor displays and the “Zipline” that was new this year. Cynthia and Casey Stanley also gave highlights regarding the guest speaker, Mike Smith, Founder and Executive Director of The BAY, a non-profit indoor skatepark/youth outreach center. Mr. Smith actively manages the skateboard park and strives to help at-risk youth.

City of Renton won three awards this year. Bonnie Rerecich was awarded the “Distinguished Service” award. Along with that there were two additional awards received, one for Meadow Crest Playground and the other for May Creek Trail.

Terry Higashiyama noted that the 2016 WRPA Conference will be held in Everett next year.

Mike O’Donin said he was disappointed to see that the restrooms at Jones Park had been closed. Facilities staff advised this was due to on-going graffiti and drug paraphernalia found. Greg Stroh indicated they are working with the Police and the use of cameras to help improve on these areas.

**V. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

Terry Higashiyama announced that the three (3) Community Services Awards will be presented at the June 8 City Council Meeting. She invited all Park Commissioners to attend.

**VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

*Nomination for Chair 2015-2016*

Cynthia Burns thanked staff for the dedication and wonderful two years that she has served as the chair. Cynthia then opened the floor for nominations.

Marlene Winter nominated Troy Wigestrang and Mike O’Donin seconded the motion. Troy Wigestrang accepted the nomination for Chair. A vote was taken; all Park Commissioners were in favor of nominating Troy Wigestrang as the 2015-2016 Chair. Troy accepted the position.

*CIP Presentation – Leslie Betlach and Peter Renner*

Leslie presented an overview on the Parks Planning and Natural Resources Major Maintenance and CIP budget. In opening, she explained that the CIP Budget is prepared as a guiding document; adjustments and accommodations are made based on need. Several components are considered when preparing this budget – some examples include safety issues, community need, and accessibility, funding shortfall or timing with grants - coordination with external and internal funding. CIP budgets can be adjusted to accommodate for urgent safety issues or shortfalls in funding.

A PowerPoint presentation was given reviewing all current or on-going projects being managed by the Parks Planning and Natural Resources staff.

*Updates were provided on the following projects:*

- **North Highlands Park Improvements (2015)** – is in various stages of design.
- **Reconstruction of Riverview Park Bridge** – The bid for reconstruction was awarded to Rodarte Construction with work to start in July 2015.
- **Riverview Park Interpretive Signage** will be added – the City coordinated with the Tribe on sign content.
- **Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park/Concrete Tile Rehabilitation** – Work will begin soon; contractor to provide safe access to Coulon restaurants during construction.
- **Coulon Park Tennis Court** project – surfacing to be completed before 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- **Heritage Park (drainage issues)** – Park staff to start next month working on grading and landscape to improve this area.

Al Dieckman asked about the trees by The Landing. Leslie noted that the City did receive a \$40,000 grant and Terry Flatley is coordinating work with Public Works and Parks for trees along Park Avenue and also Logan Avenue.

Peter Renner also presented a review of the Facilities Division 2013 – 2014 Accomplishments for the Major Maintenance and CIP budget and highlights from the 2015 Planned Projects.

Peter and Greg Stroh addressed the new cameras being installed throughout the City. The cameras produce a more quality photo and Police are now able to pull up views from other locations. The cameras have already helped to identify suspects and there have been no complaints to date about the privacy issue.

Greg Stroh indicated the Senior Center Roof project has been awarded and work should start very soon.

Terry Higashiyama mentioned that the City received a grant for \$93,000 to help with homeless and the Reach Center.

**VII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

*Events and Activities – Kris Stimpson*

Kris Stimpson introduced Mindy Bothwell, the new intern working with the Recreation Staff. Kris provided several flyers and posters related to upcoming events for the summer months.

The “Little” Free Library Program will be introduced at the Henry Moses Aquatic Center this summer. The staff suggested putting wheels on the cart so that this service could be moved to other locations and used all year round.

The City applied for a grant and received a new van to be used at the Senior Center. Kris Stimpson completed a grant application through the King County Van Pool Program and Dave Upthegrove delivered the van to City Hall on May 12, 2015.

Kris also noted the following upcoming events:

- ❖ May 14 & 15 – Senior Revue (Annual Dance Recital, this Thursday and Friday).
- ❖ May 16, 2015 – Spring Green & Clean at Thomas Teasdale Park.
- ❖ May 25, 2015 – Memorial Day Service scheduled at 1:00 p.m. at the Renton Veterans Memorial Park.
- ❖ June 20 thru Sept. 9 – Henry Moses Aquatic Center is Open.

*Kenyon – Dobson Property Update – Kelly Beymer and Peter Renner*

The property has been released to City ownership and the clean-up process is in progress. The house was built in 1983; the City is trying to preserve the building and develop this property into an interpretive center. Kelly noted that this property connects to a wilderness area and the city hopes to schedule volunteer projects to cleanup Blackberries and noxious weeds.

*Alex Tuttle, City Attorney Introduction – Terry Higashiyama*

Terry introduced Alex Tuttle, Assistant City Attorney and explained his role in working with the Community Services Department. Alex Tuttle cautioned City Staff and Park Commissioners when using personal phones for City business; the City is responsible for retaining business texts for a certain amount of time. This could also apply to personal cell phones used for texting business. Email is the safest way to communicate information relating to city business. Terry Higashiyama added that litigation relating to

this form of communication does not keep up with technology and creates a grey area when it comes to defining the laws.

Cynthia Burns mentioned that the City's website lists emails for city staff. This may be a better way to communicate when you have questions and concerns.

Alex Tuttle will look into using personal email for communication that involves the Parks Commission.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

Terry Higashiyama noted that the Arbor Day/Earth Day Event and the Volunteer Recognition Dinner were well attended and successful events. She thanked the members for attending both events.

Casey Stanley presented a PowerPoint for National Volunteer Month displaying photos and information for the two events listed above. There were 130 people at the 2015 Arbor Day/Earth Day Event who donated a total of 325 hours for this event. A total of 290 City Volunteers attended the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event, and in 2014 over 6,000 people donated 46,013 hours of service throughout City programs.

**IX. INFORMATION**

Terry reminded everyone about the SIFF/May 21 Opening at the IKEA Performing Arts Center and invited all members to attend. She also advised that the next Board of Park Commissioners Meeting on June 9 will be held at the Maplewood Golf Course.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Cynthia Burns and seconded by Larry Reymann to adjourn the May 2015 meeting at 6:05 p.m. All were in favor, motion carried, meeting adjourned.

  
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Signature

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

June 9, 2015 @ 4:30 p.m.

*Maplewood Golf Course – Alder Room*