

**CITY OF LAKE STEVENS
PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING BOARD
OPEN HOUSE MINUTES**

Senior Center, Eagle Ridge Park
2302 Soper Hill Road, Lake Stevens
Tuesday, February 26, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: 6:04 pm by Chair Jones

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Chris Jones, Co-Chair Leland Adams (arrived late), Will Brandt, Roger Schollenberger, Carl Johnson, Marlene Sweet and Terry Van Wyck

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Planning Director Rebecca Ableman, Senior Planner Russ Wright and Public Works/Planning Coordinator Georgine Rosson

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Daughtry, Councilmember Walsh, Planning Commissioner Matlack, Planning Commissioner Petershagen and Planning Commissioner Barnet. Members of the public.

Excused Absence: Board Member Johnson motioned to excuse Board Member Adams, seconded by Board Member Van Wyck motion passed 6-0-0-1.

Guest Business: *Cole Nickerson Eagle Scout Project Presentation:* Mr. Nickerson presented his proposed Eagle Scout project to the board. He covered the purpose of the project and the project management skills and leadership abilities that would be needed to complete the project. Mr. Nickerson described the project. He is proposing to restore and clean the historic foundation structure of the old Rucker Mill site near North Cove Park, restore and repair adjacent pathways and flower beds, and install a new interpretive sign. Vice-Chair Adams asked about the verbiage on the proposed sign, Mr. Nickerson responded he will be working with the historical society on the verbiage. Mr. Nickerson will be working with the City to determine the necessary sign requirements. There was an informal motion to recommend approval for the project by the Park Board.

Vice-Chair Adams arrived at 6:07 pm

Action Items: *Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2013:* Minutes were not approved at this meeting.

Discussion Items: *Introduction to 2013 Park Plan Update:* Senior Planner Wright presented an overview of the City's current Parks program, and the roles of various city departments. The city also looks for involvement from the community and partners with the school district, Boys and Girls Club and other organizations to provide opportunities the city alone cannot provide at this time. The current park system is broken down by park size and type, such as regional, community or mini-park, and open space. Open space is further divided into undeveloped lands, passive recreation lands, and protected

critical areas. Mr. Wright covered the goals and policies of the park program and identified several accomplishments directly related to the goals of the program. The presentation covered the current inventory of parks and the level of service (LOS), which is 7.5 acres per 1,000 people. Based on 2011 population, the city is not meeting its LOS goals. Based on Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) guidelines, the city will look at more qualitative data moving forward, rather than just strictly focusing on park acreage based on population. The city will also look at how to upgrade its current park facilities by adding new amenities.

Where are we headed for the parks update? The city wants to make sure we are providing the best facilities possible while following the guidelines and methodology set forth by the RCO. By following these guidelines, the city is in a better position to apply for and obtain grants and other funding sources. The update will review the goals and policies, making sure these are still current, LOS will still play an important role, but the quality of the park and access will also play a vital role. The city is in the process of determining the park needs of the growing population and is encouraging public involvement through open houses and surveys.

Public Comment on Parks & Recreation Issues: The meeting was opened up for the public to comment and ask questions.

Questions were asked regarding **Eagle Ridge Park** and the lack of parking. Staff explained there is a master plan for this park that includes increased parking along with picnic areas, a public garden and trails. Staff and public discussed timelines and if immediate parking needs would be temporary or permanent. A member of the audience inquired about the possibility of increasing parking through a partnership with a private company that can provide gravel or some other type of parking material in exchange for advertising space.

Grade Road Meadow was mentioned and the possibility of opening it up for passive activity such as trails.

Several citizens inquired about developing a **skate park**. Possible locations were discussed, where access and security were not an issue. There was also a suggestion that the city consider having separate skate areas for different age groups.

Property acquisitions around the city were mentioned. Specifically, the DNR owned property on 131st is still for sale, the Bayliner show room waterfront lot for increased lake access by the public, and the Norse property.

Biking and walking access around the lake was discussed, specifically ROW acquisition. The group also explored innovative ideas related to traffic management to increase shoreline access.

Planning Commissioner Petershagen suggested that maybe the city could look at allowing **dedication of land** in lieu of park impact fees to help increase the parks inventory. Staff, the board, and public discussed past/current practice of dedication of lands for parks purposes. This discussion led to a brief conversation about **mini-parks** specifically related to users and maintenance.

The last item mentioned was the possibility of establishing a **motorized vehicle/ATV trail**. Staff responded that this type of park is not well suited for a city park because this

type of facility requires several acres and is typically outside city limits due to the large size, noise and dust. However, a **BMX** trail was mentioned as an alternative, which was met with enthusiasm by the audience.

Information Items: None

Board Member Reports: Board Member Van Wyck asked about Locksloy Field and if it was included in the LOS. Staff responded it is not included in the LOS because it is outside city limits, but it will be included in the facilities list.

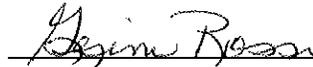
Planning Director's Reports: None

Adjourn: Board Member Van Wyck motioned to adjourn at 7:23 p.m., seconded by Vice-Chair Adams. Motion passed (7-0-0-0).

Proposed Future Agenda Items: None



Chris Jones, Chair



Georgine Rosson, Planning/Public
Works Coordinator