

CITY OF LAKE STEVENS
CITY COUNCIL – PARKS BOARD JOINT MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Lake Stevens School District Educational Service Center (Admin. Bldg.)
12309 22nd Street N.E. Lake Stevens

CALL TO ORDER: 6:03 p.m. by Mayor John Spencer

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Councilmembers Kim Daughtry, Gary Petershagen, Todd Welch, Rauchel McDaniel, Brett Gailey and Marcus Tageant

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: Councilmember Kurt Hilt

PARKS BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Jones, Tina Decker, Carl Johnson, Roger Schollenberg,

PARKS BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Terry Van Wyck, Marlene Sweet, Susan Green

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: City Administrator Gene Brazel, Community Development Director Russ Wright, Public Works Director Eric Durpos, Police Chief John Dyer, City Clerk Kathy Pugh, Commander Ron Brooks, Senior Planner Josh Machen, IT Manager Troy Stevens

OTHERS:

Director Wright opened the meeting and Tina Decker introduced the Parks Board members in attendance.

2018 Work Program: Director Wright reviewed the 2018 Work Program and identified the tasks including Community Outreach, a work group comprised of representatives from the Arts Commission and the Park Board which will coordinate efforts for park events and arts installation, park naming, establishing unique park and play structure themes, and working with Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association (LSJAA).

Park Board member Chris Jones has met with the presidents of the football, soccer and baseball leagues to evaluate the sports field inventory. Fortunately, the school district works with LSJAA. The sports leagues are approaching the limits of field capacity, and the football fields are inadequate. Additionally, there is a lacrosse league in town now that wants to join LSJAA. He noted the Lake Stevens Community Park is very expensive to use. Mr. Jones said he has approached Snohomish County Parks Director Tom Tiegen about connecting the Community Park to the trail system.

Overview of Current Parks Projects: Director Wright updated that the City is moving forward with the design of Frontier Heights Park, 20th Street Ballfields improvements, development of a Trail Master Plan, and any special tasks that arise.

Turning to process, Director Wright said the Parks Board will be completing some code review, specifically as it relates to the lake, updating impact fees, and review of Rules and Procedures. Also, the Parks Board will be reviewing models from other cities to begin developing a Parks Program for the Lake Stevens community.

Councilmember Gailey said this is a good time to review development of the unused land under the powerline that could be utilized as parks and open space and would like to see a request for proposal to study how this land could be used. Discussion ensued and there were comments that the north end of the property under the powerlines would be well suited to mountain biking.

Boardmember Jones commented the land under the Bonneville Powerlines is an untapped resource that was developed for ballfields.

Boardmember Schollenberg commented that focusing on children and the ballfields they need will bring people into the city for their sporting events, which will bring money into the city.

Boardmember Jones reminded that Lake Stevens used to host the Tournament of Champions, but has lost that event due to lack of amenities in the city. Currently Lake Stevens has the most lit ballfields in the county, but cannot support the event because of the lack of amenities. Little League is trying to bring an event back to the city this year.

Director Wright returned to the proposal to utilize the land under the powerlines. He said the first steps are to complete an inventory, determine who the landowners are and assess values to the properties. The city would need a consultant to help identify a clear path forward.

Responding to Councilmember Tageant's question, Director Wright said the Frontier Heights Park might support two baseball fields, plus other park amenities. The better options for lacrosse, football and soccer are probably along 20th Street SE. What is really needed are practice fields, which is the thought for Frontier Heights.

Discussion ensued as to whether there is additional land adjacent to Lake Stevens Community Park that could also be developed as park land.

In response to Mayor Spencer's question regarding park naming, Director Wright reviewed the policy for park naming. He said park naming for the two parks that Council approved for naming will be advertised in the paper, and suggested using survey monkey on the website for a better response, and then having the Park Board filter the responses.

Mayor Spencer suggested North Cove Park could be renamed North Cove Memorial Park to recognize veterans, active military and other uniformed personnel such as police and fire. This could be a way to reflect city history and recognize those who have given service.

There was discussion about a memorial plaza, and other areas for parks. Director Wright will add an item to the work plan, park land acquisition.

Mayor Spencer said South Lake Stevens Road should have a bicycle lane and walkway improvement, and the city has been working on this for a while. He said there is funding in the state budget to finish a bike/walkway from Davies to East Lake Drive. He said the city is working to complete a trail system, including working with the county to complete a trail to the Centennial Trail.

Overview of Current Parks Projects: Director Wright next reviewed the 2018 capital projects and what their status is including Lundeen, Eagle Ridge, Frontier Heights, Cavelero, North Cove and Nourse Neighborhood Parks, and the 20th Street Ballfields.

Open Discussion:

Boardmember Johnson said the city has made great strides with its parks in the last two years and appreciated all of Council's efforts.

Boardmember Jones thanked the Council, and especially Director Wright, for their efforts with parks.

Boardmember Schollenberg also thanked Director Wright.

Director Wright and Boardmember Decker commended Parks Coordinator Jim Haugen's efforts. Boardmember Decker added that it is fantastic to see how hard everyone is working for the amenities this community deserves, and recognized the volunteers who have worked for the parks.

Mayor Spencer suggested as the city moves forward it will be important that the Parks Board begin partnering with other boards and commissions and organizations to bring activities to the parks.

Adjourn:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



John Spencer, Mayor



Tina Decker Parks Board Chair



Kathy Pugh, City Clerk