

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

MONDAY JUNE 28, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members present: Scott Creighton, Kristi DeCamillis, Scott Marotz, Jack Merwin, and Doug Peterson. Committee Members absent: Ken Halverson, Laura Talvitie.

Also present: Recreation and Communication Coordinator Corrie Scott, and City Engineer Layne Otteson.

3. ADOPT AGENDA

Committee Member Marotz motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Committee Member Merwin, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Creighton motioned to accept the May 24, 2021 Parks Advisory Committee minutes as presented. Seconded by Committee Member Marotz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

5. BUSINESS

5A. BROM PARK WETLAND DELINEATION AND DISCUSSION

Otteson reviewed the Brom Park Wetland Delineation Report. He asked the Committee to advise if staff should move forward with the wetland mitigation application and provide general guidance regarding improvement size and amenities.

Creighton asked if staff can send out another survey to the residents near Brom Park asking their preferences in park equipment. Otteson recommended if a survey goes out to narrow down the options to only two and a third space for general comments. Merwin asked how often a survey goes out during the creation of a park. Scott stated that in the past there haven't been any surveys during the creation of a park. Scott recommended that the Committee host an open house or interactive survey at an existing event or at the site of the proposed park as it will likely bring more valuable feedback forward. Peterson stated

that he would be interested in setting up a booth at the farmers market to get more feedback about park options that the community prefers. Marotz stated that in the past staff have also asked the playground equipment vendors for feedback on what they recommend for the space that is available. Marotz stated that there is a need in the community for playground equipment for toddlers, but that those types of parks don't get used as often because parents have to accompany their children at that age. He recommended having two or three options with different age ranges for the community to choose from along with cost estimates included in a future survey.

Layne stated that there is a private playground in Big Lake that has poured in place rubber flooring and is considered ADA compliant. He stated that it is easy to install, but that it can be expensive. Marotz stated that an expensive portion of Sanford Select Acres Park was the irrigation. Peterson asked if there is a water source on Brom Lane. Otteson stated that there is a water source on the South side of Tarrytown. Marotz stated that having a water source nearby will be beneficial for cleaning turf or poured rubber flooring. Martoz stated that if the PAC sets a goal of fitting a park into the City owned parcel off of Brom for \$150,000 that it should be doable and decent quality.

Otteson stated that because of the type of land that is at the City owned parcel on Brom Lane, there should be low costs for irrigation, mowing, fertilizing, or other maintenance compared to other existing parks. Otteson asked for direction regarding a wetland mitigation application. He stated that it is a three to four month process. The Committee agreed that Otteson should go forward with the wetland mitigation application. Peterson asked if Public Works can start mowing the City owned plot on Brom. Otteson stated that he feels it would be a good idea and that the committee needs to ask Norm Michels to have public works mow that area.

Committee Member Marotz motioned to advise staff to go forward with a wetland mitigation application for the City owned parcel on Brom Lane. Seconded by Committee Member Peterson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

5B. PARK DEDICATION FUND UPDATE

Scott reviewed that as per the Parks Advisory Committee's request at the regularly scheduled May meeting, the Financial Director provided an update on Parks Dedication Funds that was included in the meeting packet. Staff is asking the Committee to discuss the current Park budgets and make a recommendation to City Council on which parks project should be prioritized.

Marotz asked if Southside Park listed in the attachment in the packet regarding park improvements is referring to the potential park on Brom Lane. Scott confirmed. Marotz recommended prioritizing Powell Park and then a potential park on Brom Lane. Peterson asked if replacing the equipment at Powell Park would be considered maintenance and if so he recommended using General Fund dollars rather than Park Dedication Fund dollars. Marotz recommended asking the Council to use half General Fund and half Park

Dedication Fund dollars to replace the equipment at Powell Park. Peterson encouraged the Committee Members to visit Brom Park prior to the next meeting.

Marotz stated that the remaining parks listed on the Park Improvement schedule in the meeting packet should be reviewed and prioritized based on what staff recommends. Otteson asked if Michels has a priority for a specific park. Scott stated that Powell Park is in need of replacement within the next year. DeCamillis asked if the equipment at Powell Park needs minor maintenance and replacements or if staff is recommending completely removing existing park equipment and replacing it entirely. Scott stated that Michels is recommending complete removal and replacement of existing park equipment at Powell Park. DeCamillis stated that she is in support of this as the existing equipment is in desperate need of replacement. Scott recommended that Committee Members submit photos of broken park equipment to her email or to Norm Michels' email.

Committee Member Marotz motioned to recommend that Council supports replacement of existing park equipment at Powell Park using half of the funding from Park Dedication Fund and half of the funding from the Capital Improvement Fund. Seconded by Committee Member Peterson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Committee Member Marotz motioned to recommend that Council supports the creation of a park on the City owned parcel located on Brom Lane in 2022 with a budget of \$150,000 coming from the Park Dedication Fund. Seconded by Committee Member Peterson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Marotz recommended updating the Park Improvement schedule that is listed in the meeting packet. Scott stated that she will put this on an upcoming agenda for discussion. Otteson stated that he hears many questions about maintaining the skate park at Lakeside Park. He stated that he would like to see the Police Department be involved in the conversation when it comes time to replace equipment. Marotz stated that an option would be to move the skate park to a different location to make the land at Lakeside Park better utilized. Creighton recommended updating the hockey rinks located behind City Hall and moving the skate park into that location. Scott stated that the land the hockey rinks are located on is owned by the Mary of the Visitation Church.

Peterson stated that if the skate park is heavily used, but the current location is problematic, that moving the skate park should be considered. Otteson stated that there is some City owned land near the McDonald's that could be considered. DeCamillis stated that she likes the idea of having the skate park in a very well visible area to deter potential vandalism. Scott stated that at the next Park Committee Meeting she will bring a discussion forward on the Park Improvement schedule. She recommended that the Committee review the Parks and Trails Master Plan prior to this conversation.

5C. STAFF UPDATES

Scott reviewed the status of various projects regarding the community's parks, trails, 2021

and programming. Scott stated that Mister Lemonade is setting up on occasional Saturdays and Sundays at Lakeside Park and he reported that everything is going well. She reviewed that Music in the Park will be expanding to a full season in 2022.

Peterson stated that he attended the farmers market and it went well and he mentioned that he likes the Power of Produce and CentraCare tokens. Scott reviewed that the Power of Produce and CentraCare tokens are \$2 tokens for kids to use on fresh fruits and vegetables. CentraCare tokens are handed out by CentraCare at local parades and the Power of Produce Program tokens are handed out to children ages 3-12 every week at the market. She stated that Climb Theatre is facilitating the Power of Produce Program and they are also offering free activities for kids each week that encourages them to try new foods and visit with the vendors.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS

Creighton reported that he is seeing a large group of about 30 people who go to Lakeside Park every afternoon and they are vandalizing picnic tables and the bathrooms. He stated that the other day he saw the group boxing at the park. Scott recommended that Creighton report any concerns to the Police Department as they happen so that they can take action if needed. Creighton stated that Lakeside Park is the 'gem' of the City of Big Lake and he is concerned that the increasing vandalism will move into more intensive violence. He recommended posting signs in the park.

Creighton asked if there are cameras at Lakeside Park. Otteson stated that there are cameras at Lakeside Park that are being monitored by the Police Department. Martoz stated that the cameras that are at the park aren't great quality. Creighton stated that camera technology has advanced and he would like to see the City invest in updated cameras at Lakeside Park and Sanford Select Acres Park. Peterson stated that reporting vandalism and criminal activity is the most effective way to stop damage at local parks. Creighton stated that he also has an issue with the litter at Lakeside Park. Marotz stated that it is important for the City to continue to maintain and clean the parks and that residents are encouraged to report any littering.

Creighton stated that there are now park attendants at Lakeside Park on the weekends and holidays at Lakeside Park. Peterson and Marotz stated that they see a benefit of having park attendants at Lakeside Park during high traffic times. Martoz stated that he would like to see an Adopt a Park Program to help with litter and vandalism. Scott stated that she is planning to create and introduce this program in 2022.

DeCamillis asked if the swimming beach at Lakeside Park was treated. Scott stated that due to unusually high temperatures, swimmers itch has been a bigger issue in 2021 compared to other years. She stated that Norm has the beach scheduled to be treated in late June. She also recommended if there are reports of things like swimmers itch or vandalism, to pass that information on to staff.

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7. **OTHER** – None.

8. **ADJOURN**

Committee Member Marotz motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Merwin, unanimous ayes, meeting adjourned.