



Parks & Recreation Commission  
7:00 P.M.  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**CALL TO ORDER:** Brent Erickson, presided.

Present: Juli Bradley, David Gast, Scott Jonason, Steve Lorenz

Excused: Walt Eby

Absent: Mark Nickerson

Staff Present: Jerry Acheson, Sarah Fox and Kari Murphy

A motion was made by Bradley, seconded by Lorenz, and carried that minutes of the general meetings on April 25, 2007, and May 23, 2007, be approved as written.

**PROPOSED HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM:**

Sarah Fox, Planner with the City of Camas, presented information on the proposed Camas Municipal Code changes pertaining to tree and vegetation preservation. The objective is to establish codes to preserve the tree canopy in the City of Camas where land development, open space/wetlands, and critical or sensitive areas are concerned.

Lorenz asked how the tree canopy in Camas stood up to other community's percentage wise. Fox presented a slide presentation to the group which provided some comparisons with the tree removal codes in place for the cities of Vancouver, Portland, Kirkland, Seattle, and Woodway.

Fox stated she attended tonight's meeting to specifically discuss the proposed Heritage Tree Program with the Parks Commission, and get their input, before revisiting the idea with City Council on Monday, July 2.

The Heritage Tree Program has been presented to City Council, but has not yet been approved. Erickson asked if the City Council has reviewed the Heritage Tree policy. Fox stated that council has received packets of information.

Fox stated that there seemed to be two main sticking points that prevented City Council from moving forward. 1) Requirement for a permit to remove trees, as the City of Camas does not currently have tree removal permits and 2) removal of trees on private lots.

Fox stated there is currently a Tree Committee in place working on these changes to the Camas Municipal Code.

The Tree Committee is very enthusiastic about the idea of a Heritage Tree Program. Erickson, who serves on the Tree Committee, suggested the Parks Commission might be interested in hosting and/or building up this voluntary program.

The idea of the Heritage Tree Program is that anyone can nominate a tree as a significant tree. There has to be a certain amount of criteria for it to be considered a significant tree, and then there would be a public hearing about the tree nominated. If the tree is accepted into the registry, then there would be a note on the plat or title of the land that would basically protect that tree for the rest of its life, and would run with the land. Fox stated that quite a few cities already have Heritage Tree Programs in place.

Fox stated that meetings would be held annually to review any applications received. Acheson asked if the Parks Commission would serve as the Hearings Board. Fox stated that yes, they could be, but this has not been determined.

Erickson stated that the Parks Commission supports the development of a Heritage Tree Program, but changed his mind about the Parks Commission being responsible for administering it, due to the private land issue. Erickson asked if there would be other responsibilities to the Parks Commission besides the annual public hearing. Fox answered that technically, the Parks Commission would also be the keepers of the tree inventory.

Erickson suggested creating a Heritage Tree review committee, a smaller group with different entities participating with their levels of expertise.

Fox stated that she did not think the City Council would support creation of another committee. Erickson pointed out that she just simplified it in her explanation to the group that they would only have to meet once per year. Erickson would support her argument to council that they are only meeting once per year, and use the resources we already have. The discussion ended with the committee declining the heritage tree program.

### **PROJECT UPDATES:**

**Ash Creek Project:** Acheson reported that an inventory of trees has been done. Preliminary drawings have been given to the design review committee. They have been reviewed, approved to move forward, and will be presented at a public meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Grass Valley Fire Station 42.

Gast questioned how the City will deal with the sloped terrain. Acheson replied with cut and fill. Acheson replied with Klickitat Park the issue was removal of dirt, this issue is importing the soil. The city is trying to enter an agreement with nearby development to take the soil they are removing, and place at Ash Creek to reduce cost for the city and will also be less expensive for the developer.

Bradley inquired whether Ash Creek would connect to any of the Cities trail systems on Prune Hill. Acheson replied that yes, it would connect to a major trail system (T5).

Gast reported that citizen input was in support of having more fields.

**Ostenson Canyon Park update:**

Acheson reported that Phase II of the project is underway. The park will have fabulous views, a significant tree canopy, and there will be a trail system up Ostenson Canyon. There is also a proposed bridge to cross the creek.

Gast questioned if the ball fields would be utilized for real ball games or just practices? Acheson stated the fields will be used for real games. This is why they are pushing to get this design finished (or master planned) so when the development begins the park will be visible on the plat as a huge facility, with lights etc.

Lorenz questioned where the money was coming from for these projects. Acheson replied from the general impact fees and non-general fund tax dollars.

**Prune Hill Sports Park Update:** Acheson reported that the design phase is finished, which includes adding regulation Little League field (200Ft), restroom structure, basketball courts and some path work. This will be completed in conjunction with the Camas School District as they will be putting in \$22,000 for a walking path for their Prune Hill Elementary School P.E. program.

Acheson reported that there will be a meeting on Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, @ 7:00pm at City Hall for the Parks Comprehensive Plan Public hearing before the Planning Commission. Acheson stated it is important that members of the Parks Commission try to attend.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

Lorenz asked if there was any news on the new community center. Jonason reported that the “Friends of the Camas/Washougal Community Center” have some great fundraising ideas in place, and they are currently in the process of finalizing their mission statement and bylaws in order to proceed with these events.

Gast questioned if there where any regulations on trails slopes? Acheson replied that there is really nothing in the code at this time that they are enforcing. Gast asked if the Parks Committee should add something about future trails that specifies how steep slopes on a trail can be? Acheson replied that the new Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan, when it gets adopted, has specifications for ADA standards.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on July 25th, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The July meeting may be cancelled depending on the agenda. Acheson will notify everyone if the meeting is cancelled.