



Parks & Recreation Commission
7:00 P.M.
May 23, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Brent Erickson, Chair, presided

Present: Juli Bradley, David Gast, Steve Hogan, Steve Lorenz,
and Melissa Smith

Excused: Walt Eby

Absent: Scott Jonason and Mark Nickerson

Staff Present: Jerry Acheson and Ronda Syverson

Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. He apologized to guests in the audience for starting the meeting late and mentioned that a few of the Parks Commissioners were not able to attend this meeting. Erickson stated that approval of minutes for the Parks Commission meeting held on April 25, 2007, will be placed on the June agenda.

FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE - PRESENTATION:

Acheson introduced Alison Lovell and Bill Stulburg representatives of the Fields Study Committee. They were present to offer information on the committee's mission and progress-to-date. Lovell began the presentation by stating that she is a Camas citizen and became involved with this task because there is a real need in our community for additional sports fields. She apologized that this presentation was given to City Council and the School Board prior to meeting with the Parks Commission, but they were trying to get things moving quickly. This process began in earnest about eighteen months ago.

Lovell and Stulburg presented a slide show, which offered a glimpse at the committee's vision. For example, turfed fields can be used throughout the year and require very little maintenance. The committee's current focus is on Doc Harris Stadium and the field adjacent to the stadium. Erickson commented that the proposal will also tie into the current trail system. In response to Smith's question, Lovell stated that multiple organizations will be asked to participate (i.e., Camas School District, City of Camas, soccer, baseball, softball, pee wee football, and other organizations).

The discussion led to the opportunity to offer more tournaments, perhaps at the State level. Lovell stated that we will see a large increase in usage if we turf and light the fields. It is just a matter of power washing and repainting the lines to prepare the field for a different sport. Portable fences have been discussed. Lighting can be placed so it does not bother nearby residents. Parking and access will be an important issue. The committee is working to design the fields and obtain funding sources. It was stated that this project will not require an increase in taxes.

6-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Parks Commission reached consensus that the 6-year Capital Improvement Plan, a component of the Comprehensive Plan, be approved.

ASH CREEK PARK DEVELOPMENT:

Acheson reported that a design review committee is being created to assist with development of Ash Creek Park. He asked for a volunteer from the Parks Commission to join the committee. Gast offered to participate. Acheson stated that we have received an excellent response from citizens wanting to be involved. Smith will act as Council liaison.

In response to Gast's question, Acheson commented that this will be an interesting project. It will include practice fields and open space areas.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Concerts in the Park: Acheson reported that the concerts will begin on July 25.

Camas Days: July 27-28, 2007

Community Center: In response to Smith's question, Acheson reported that there is nothing new to discuss.

Nature Conservancy: Trail system.

Camas Municipal Pool: The pool is being filled. The new heater is installed.

Parks & Open Space Comprehensive Plan: Discussion on the update has been continued by the Planning Commission. Erickson expressed his concern that this could hold up the approval process.

Open Space at Everett (near trailer park): Erickson reported that the cable is seldom placed across the entrance, so teenagers go down to the creek to do what teenagers do. He has reported this to G-P several times. Acheson and Smith will both contact G-P.

Community Center: The Camas/Washougal Community Chest donated a stove and refrigerator to the Friends of the Community Center.

Home at the Lacamas Creek Trailhead: The home will be demolished. The bid documents are being developed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.