



Parks & Recreation Commission
7:00 P.M.
September 26, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Brent Erickson, Chair, presided

Present: Juli Bradley, Walt Eby, David Gast, Scott Jonason,
and Melissa Smith

Excused: Steve Lorenz and Mark Nickerson

Staff Present: Jerry Acheson and Ronda Syverson

A motion was made by Jonason, seconded by Gast, and carried that minutes of the general meeting of June 27, 2007, be approved as written.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Acheson reported that with the retirement of Ernie Suggs, long-term Camas Community Education Director, discussions have been held on the future management of this program. The Community Education Program falls under the administration of the Camas School District (CSD). The Camas Parks and Recreation Department was considered when looking for a management alternative. After thorough consideration, CSD will continue to manage the program with temporary assistance by the Washougal Parks and Recreation Manager. CSD plans to recruit a replacement for Mr. Suggs.

PROPOSED 2008 BUDGET

Acheson distributed a copy of the proposed 2008 budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. He stated that this budget represents a steady budget and offers the ability to get some things accomplished (i.e., extended pool season, pool equipment and pump, trail maintenance, special events, etc.). Gast noted that the increase is roughly 3%.

Erickson requested that the Trail Map be reprinted. He stated that the maps were very well received and are a useful tool to promote our parks, open space, and trail system to our citizens and new Camas residents. A discussion was held on possible funding sources to reprint the maps. The cost is approximately \$1 each with a printing of 5,000 maps.

Acheson mentioned that this budget reflects the work to split costs for trail maintenance and open space into separate categories. This effort will allow us to develop a historical spending trend. Gast asked if there is additional money for trail maintenance? Acheson reported that Jim Gant and Eric Levison were involved with the development of this budget. Smith asked if there was anything else the Parks Commission or staff would like to see in the budget. Acheson responded that we will be able to get a lot done in 2008.

In response to Gast's question, Acheson stated that we do not plan to construct any new parks in 2008.

Erickson asked that the Parks Commissioners review the proposed budget and contact Acheson with any questions or concerns. The 2008 budget will be discussed further at the October 24, 2007, Parks Commission meeting.

FIELD OF DREAMS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Acheson reported that the Field of Dreams Committee is presenting a report to the Camas City Council and private partners on October 1, 2007, at 4:30 p.m.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Ash Creek Park: Acheson reported that we have finished the public input phase. The conditional use permit process has begun and should wrap up by about February 2008. We may be able to do some site clearing in 2008, but no real construction toward park development is planned. The park is proposed as a neighborhood park with one multi-use field that will not be lighted.

Prune Hill Sports Park: Acheson stated that the construction bids came in way over budget. We may work with the Camas School District to develop a trail around the soccer field.

Comp Plan Update: City Council has approved the plan.

Ostenson Canyon Park: A discussion was held on the public process and concerns that were expressed. The concerns of noise and the sequence of the public process were addressed in the conditional use permit. This project was presented to the Hearings Examiner. The park is proposed as a community park with multi-use lighted fields.

OTHER:

October 2007 Agenda Items: Pool report and cemetery updates

Cemetery: Erickson asked that staff look into development of an Ash Garden at the Camas Cemetery. He stated that Washougal and other cemeteries have developed an ash garden as an option to a cremation wall. He also asked that staff look into appropriate markings for an Ash Garden.

Heritage Trail: Acheson distributed a letter from a member of the Lacamas Shores development in regards to the gazebo on Heritage Trail. The resident is asking that the gazebo be removed as it is a problem area (trash and vandalism). Bradley commented that it is too bad that the site is vandalized as it offers a beautiful view of the lake and surrounding area.

A motion was made by Eby, seconded by Jonason, and carried that the gazebo along Heritage Trail at Lacamas Lake be removed.

Erickson requested that staff get the word out to the public that the gazebo will be removed because of the safety issues due to repeated vandalism. Smith stated that pictures should be taken showing the condition of the gazebo.

Member of the Audience: Bryan Cole, MacKay & Sposito
Mr. Cole suggested placing a notice on the trail that the gazebo would be demolished.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.