

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 5:30 – 7:30pm

Pleasant Glade Elementary Gym

(1920 Abernethy Rd NE Lacey, 98516)

Present:

Commission: Lu Carlson, Paul Royer, Matt Acker & Robert Kowalski. Ken Balsley arrived at 6:45pm

Excused: Glen Crandal

Staff: Lori Flemm

Public: (see attached sign-in sheet)

The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm, by Chair Paul Royer.

Additions or deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions.

Minutes

The December 3, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved and placed on record.

Calendar

The Feb. 25 Park Board meeting will be the annual Regional Park Board Meeting, held at the Jacob Smith House in Lacey.

Correspondence

- a) Letter from US Board on Geographic Names re: Longs Pond Official Name

New Business: Pleasant Glade Neighborhood Park

a) Staff Presentation

Lori made a presentation on the need to open the park fully to public access, state granting agency requirements, the 2015 approved budget of \$10,000, park rules, and summarized comments received from citizen who could not attend this meeting.

- b) Citizen/Public Comment: Forty (40) citizens were present. Many testified and asked questions. The comments are grouped in categories and concerns summarized.

1. **Night use:** Park open hours are dawn to dusk. Misuse after hours is occurring.
2. **Trespass:** Need signs defining park v. private property lines. Need fencing along property lines.
3. **Annexation into city limits:** Current policy is park won't be develop fully until the area annexes into the city.
4. **Storm Water Run- off and water quality in Woodland Creek:** Need to address storm water run- off from park property onto PG Road, floods when rains; Catch basin outflow does not percolate. Any parking lot constructed should be permeable. Water quality in Woodland Creek should be utmost concern. Minimal use of pesticides. Keep dogs out of the pond and creek.
5. **Speed on PG Road and narrow shoulders:** May need speed bumps on Pleasant Glade (PG) Road to slow traffic down for safety of users walking and bicycling to park. Speed limit on the road – can it be reduced. Concerned about sight distance and safety of entrance off PG Rd. and liability. High school students speed down PG Rd. at lunch time. On trash day, neighbors place trash cans out on road.
6. **Safe Access to the park:** Sidewalks are needed on PG Rd. and Abernathy Rd. for safe access to the park.

7. **Parking:** No parallel parking allowed currently along PG Rd. so need no parking signs on Pleasant Glade Road. Narrow shoulders not conducive for parking, yet people will try to park there. Need signs to prevent park users from parking in neighbor's yards and turnaround in driveways. Walk-in and bicycle in access.
8. **Lighting:** Any lighting provided should be ecofriendly and use cut off fixtures so it doesn't spill over onto adjacent property.
9. **Farming:** Disappointed that the cows have to leave, as they are part of the rural character of the neighborhood. Prefer that it remain as a working farm for education/student learning experience.

Chair Royer pointed out that state laws (the RCW) would need to be revised to allow the current use of land, cattle grazing, to remain.

10. **Restroom:** Restroom may be needed or people will urinate in the brush.

11. **Threat/Danger of Fire:** Smokers who drop cigarette butts could start a brush fire. Fire fighter access in rugged back terrain difficult.

Fireworks could lead to grass fire. Fireworks are allowed in Thurston County/unincorporated areas. Concern about fireworks neighbors are shooting off landing in the park and starting a fire.

Lori responded to a citizen's question: Fireworks are not allowed in parks, even if they are located in Thurston County/unincorporated areas.

12. **Insufficient Development funds:** Concerned about allowing public access before park is developed, concern about lack of funds to build park properly (\$10,000 is not enough). Recommendation: Open a small portion of the whole property to the public, build a small parking lot, and a narrow area around the pond. Wait until we have the money to build the park 'right'. Suggest buying a \$100 picnic table instead of park standard table.

13. **Trash and litter:** Park users may litter the area – how frequently will it be collected? Retired person from Washington State Parks suggested that we think twice about trash receptacles. If no trash cans are on site, sends a message 'carry it in, carry it out'.

14. **Trail:** Weeds will grow up through trail making it difficult to use. Trail should respect buffers of pond. Horses are allowed on the Chehalis Western Trail. Horses are not allowed in Lacey Parks or on Lacey Trails.

15. **Caretaker:** If caretaker leaves, will the buildings be vacant and deteriorate? Will bad caretakers be evicted? Prefer that caretaker remain on the site.

Lori responded to a citizen's question: The City intends to have a caretaker present on the site. Background checks are performed on all tenants prior to rental agreement. Good track record with the caretaker on the PG property.

16. **Long Term maintenance:** If the economy continues to decline or not recover, who will maintain the site; will the park have to close?

Lori responded to a citizen's question: The City of Lacey will maintain the site; the city has not had to close parks in the recent past due to budget or staff reductions.

17. **Dogs running off leash:** Worried about dogs running off-leash on property. Limit use when park opens with rules. This property can be compared to what has happened at Woodland Creek Community Park.

18. **Wildlife habitat:** Habitat should be considered a sacred area. Raptors, raccoons, beavers, salmon.

19. **Environmental concerns:** riparian buffer, native trees, hazard trees.

20. Adjacent Parks: Concerns expressed by neighbors about Palm Creek Headwaters and Greg Cuoio Community Park. Put up fence on property lines. "Cuoio Park acquisition is the City of Lacey's greatest accomplishment of all time".

Lori responded to the Citizen's question: Does this park connect to Cuoio Park? This park is adjacent to Cuoio Park Property.

Lori responded to a citizen question about how to express concerns with opening the site fully to public access to the state granting agency: Dan Haws, Project Manager, RCO, PO Box 40917, Olympia 98504-0917. WWRP= Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition.

(See Attachment to minutes: "List of Citizen identified issues written on easel pad during 1/28/15 Park Board Meeting Re: Agenda item 7b) Pleasant Glade Neighborhood Park)

Chair Royer thanked everyone for coming tonight.

c) Commissioner Discussion: Commissioners decided to hold discussion at the March meeting.

Director's Report

a) Programs & Special Events

- 1) 30th Polar Bear Plunge
- 2) Daddy Daughter Dance and Princesses Ball
- 3) Ethnic Celebration will be held on March 7

b) Planning

- 1) The Hub at the intersection of the Chehalis Western and Woodland Trails: Commissioners reviewed the conceptual plans that were emailed to the commissioners.

c) Grants & Budget

- 1) Puget Sound Crops Crew project complete
- 2) DNR Urban Forestry Grant Application for Pleasant Glade park Urban Forest Management Plan Submitted

d) Miscellaneous

- 1) Wire Theft at softball fields and soccer field #1 the Regional Athletic Complex on Jan. 15, 2015.

Commissioner's Report

Matt Acker:

Lu Carlson:

Chair's Report

No report.

Citizen Comments

Citizens present commented under New Business.

Committee Reports

a) PARC Foundation, James Reddick:

February 25 meeting will be at the Jacob Smith House. The PARC Foundation is updating their website. They are organizing an annual bicycling and paddling event.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 5:30pm at the Lacey City Hall.