

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015 5:30pm, Pleasant Glade Elementary

Present:

Commission: Glen Crandal, Lu Carlson, Paul Royer, Ken Balsley, Matt Acker & Robert Kowalski

Staff: Lori Flemm

Public: James Reddick, PARC Foundation and 13 citizens (see sign in sheet).

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm, by Vice-Chair Robert Kowalski.

Additions or deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions.

Announcements

Fun Fair Parade Entry Judging is on Saturday, May16, and Commissioners are asked to judge again this year.

Minutes

The March 25, 2015 minutes were unanimously approved and placed on record.

Correspondence

Letter from Councilman Lenny Greenstein, recommending that the Lacey Park Board rename the Lacey Senior Center the Virgil S. Clarkson Senior Center. Mr. Clarkson has served on Lacey City Council for many years, including two terms as Mayor, served on the Board of Senior Services, WA State Council on Aging and was instrumental in getting funds for construction and expansion of the Lacey Senior Center.

Lu Carlson said "this is perfect", great idea and supports the idea 100%.

Ken Balsley added that if the Lacey Senior Center is to be named after a person, Virgil Clarkson is the only person he would consider.

Robert Kowalski said Mr. Clarkson is one of his personal heroes and renaming the Senior Center in his name "would be perfect".

Paul Royer said Mr. Clarkson qualifies under renaming policy criteria F1 a & b. Glen Crandal believes Mr. Clarkson meets the same criteria for renaming the Center, as Greg Cuoio did when the newest park was named for him recently, probably even exceeding the policy criteria.

**Motion: To approve recommended name change of
The Lacey Senior Center, to the Virgil S. Clarkson
Senior Center.**

Motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Recommendation will be forwarded to Lacey City Council for approval.

New Business

a) Pleasant Glade Neighborhood Park

1. Staff Presentation:

- Lori welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone sign in, and come to microphone for comments.
- RCO letter extended park opening to December 31, 2015.
- WA State DNR Grant awarded to inventory and assessment of trees on the property, as well as recommendations for native plants/trees that could be planted.
- September 23 Park Board meeting will review draft forest management plan and will likely be held at Pleasant Glade Elementary.

- Park must allow for open access, no internal areas can be fenced off or gated.
- Caretaker area may be fenced, with no public access.
- Need to consider supplemental rules specific for this park.
- Minimal development in this phase, so staff prefers to continue to call this Pleasant Glade Park, but will consider other name nominations.
- Addressed citizen concerns presented at the January meeting:
 - **Hours of use:** please call Thurston County dispatch if you see/hear activity in the park after park hours. Restrooms & pedestrian gate will be locked each night by park security, or caretaker.
 - **Trespass:** City does not put up private property signs, though citizens may post their own signs on their own property.
 - **Annexation into City limits:** Policy allows for park development when park is annexed into City limits. Additional funds will be needed for development.
 - **Storm water runoff:** City must submit permit application for County to review and make recommendations. Citizen made comment regarding storm water runoff, saying there is a problem with water runoff over Pleasant Glade Road then onto private property drain fields, and is hopeful City development of park property will take care of this long term problem.
 - **Pond:** Fencing will remain around pond for safety and environmental purposes (erosion, keep dogs out of the water, etc.).
 - **Speed on Pleasant Glade Road:** Speed limit is posted 35mph. County will not add speed bumps but may post 'no outlet' sign. County suggested that neighbors contact Scott Davis (867-2345) for traffic calming measures, as there is a program in place.
 - **Parking:** Parking is not allowed along shoulder of Pleasant Glade Rd. NE. No Parking signs will be posted. This neighborhood park is a designated walk/bike in park, no parking area until additional funds/planning available. Closest public parking is .9 mile at 26th & Western Chehalis Trail. Neighbors asked who will monitor and police the parking? Call dispatch for any rule violations, including parking violations. Tow away signs requested, but if posted, no parking would apply to everyone, not just park users. Some neighbors expressed opposition and want to be allowed to park on shoulder.
 - **Gate at caretaker residence:** Caretaker driveway will be gated.
 - **Lighting:** No lights planned, except security light on future buildings.
 - **Cows:** Will leave the site.
 - **Restrooms:** Most neighborhood parks do not have restrooms, some have portable toilets for sport use groups, but this park will not have restrooms in this phase. Concern expressed about school student use of park without restrooms.
 - **Fire/smoking:** No fireworks allowed in parks.
 - **Insufficient development funds:** State is requiring this park be opened for full public access, hoping to make the best of the situation and maximize funds, despite limited funds.

- **Trash & litter:** ‘Pack in, pack out’ vs. providing trash receptacles. Citizen strongly suggests garbage cans.
- **Trail:** A wood chip trail is planned.
- **Caretaker:** Current caretaker is planning to stay.
- **Long term maintenance:** Could reduce caretaker rent and ask them to assume more maintenance responsibilities, if economy declines and maintenance funds are exhausted.
- **Dogs:** Leashed dogs are allowed in parks with a few exceptions (except RAC ballfields), so could make site specific rule that does not allow dogs in the park. Would apply to all (including neighbor’s dogs), except some service dogs. Citizens agreed, keep rule as is, and post. Felt it was important to have a dog bag dispenser. Lori noted that if vandalized, it would be removed.
- **Wildlife habitat:** nothing planned.
- **Environmental concerns:** 100’ buffer on pond, 200’ buffer on creek. May be exempt from SEPA review due to limited development of the area.
- **Setbacks:** 25’ minor street, 35’ all other streets. Side & backyards are 15’.
- **Adjacent parks:** Portions of Cuoio Park are open (except hay production area). Citizen said City has ‘no trespassing’ sign clearly posted in some areas and was surprised to hear the park was open to the public. Lori clarified that the RCO grant for Cuoio Park was only for 67 acre portion not the entire park.

2. Citizen/Public Comment:

- Terry- School busses allowed?
Lori said school busses are allowed to turn around in caretaker driveway.
- Don Fisher- How will invasive species be handled?
Mowing, weed whacking and volunteers pull by hand.
- Dylan Reese- like to see no parking signs, no smoking rule, trash cans, provided, dogs allowed with leash.
- Amenities: Park name sign, rules sign, fencing, trash cans, dog bag station, picnic table(s), bike rack, culvert
 - Nora Mena- perimeter fencing is secure due to animals. How will other fences be identified? Some internal fences will be removed.
 - Dog bag station will be installed as long as they aren’t vandalized.
 - Citizen suggested picnic table be low priority and perhaps an Eagle Scout project.
 - Citizen strongly suggested the City of Lacey do no less than WSDOT ‘best management practices’ and provide dog bag station(s) to control fecal coliform. Seconded by another citizen.
 - Mr. Larson: Main problem seems to be no parking. Perhaps the budget could provide \$500-600 for permeable gravel parking area. People will be reluctant to use the park if they think their car might be towed. It would cost considerably more than that to provide parking.
 - Google Maps shows the property as Pleasant Glade Park, so some people may visit thinking it is a fully developed park. Others may

know it is undeveloped but want to see development progress. Still others may want to access the creek. In any event, the park will likely attract driving visitors who will need a place to park their vehicles.

- Citizen stated that a limited use park with no parking is like throwing money down the drain. He does not live in the neighborhood, so would have to drive close to the park and hike in to be able to use the park for things like disc golf practice. Park should be usable for all taxpayers/citizens, not just the people who live in the neighborhood.

Lori reviewed details of the Cost Estimate handed out, which will be revised to reflect the prioritization of amenities to include trash cans and dog bag station.

3. Commissioner Discussion

- Lu Carlson: With busloads of school kids visiting the park/creek, won't restrooms be needed? Lori said in her experience with school kids at Lake Lois Habitat which does not have restrooms, it has not stopped the groups from coming. Citizens confirmed they chaperone lots of school field trips and have never had bathroom accidents.
- Ken Balsley: How often are trash cans emptied? Lori said staff will visit park once a week and more often if necessary. Caretaker will also check trash can.
- Lu Carlson: Very surprised to learn speed limit is 35mph on Pleasant Glade Rd. Suggest residents pursue lower the speed limit through the County.
- Citizen: What will be the response time if sheriff is called for trespass or other rule violations? Lori said response time would depend on other calls they are working.
- Paul Royer: Appreciates input from community. Difficult situation to 'have' to develop based on state/grant requirement, but pleased with list of priorities and community involvement.

Lori will draw up a plan, submit permit application to the County and will post PDF online for public viewing and will email those on the mailing list.

Director's Report

Lori thanked Chairman Paul Royer for allowing Vice-Chair Robert Kowalski to chair this meeting. Robert has done a good job and this is a great experience for him.

a) Programs & Special Events

- 1) STEM Fair: Saturday, May 2 @ Huntamer Park.
- 2) Fun Fair, Grand Parade and Judging beginning at 4:00pm, Saturday, May 16. Please email Lori if you would like to participate.
- 3) Peach jar and quarterly Recreation Guide: NTPS will change the way information fliers (possibly including LPRD quarterly brochures) are distributed, via an email system called Peachjar. LPRD & NTPS staff will be meeting next week to discuss alternatives for quarterly brochure distribution.

b) Planning

- 1) Construction Plans being drawn up for The Hub at the intersection of the Chehalis Western and Woodland Trails: Construction Schedule shows construction completed this summer.
- c) Grants & Budget
 - 1) DNR Urban Forestry Grant for Pleasant Glade Park Urban Forest Management Plan Schedule
 - 2) RAC 20 Year Financial Plan Annual Update and Savings from Bond Refinancing.
- d) Miscellaneous
 - 1) Safety concern on Woodland Trail at Sleater-Kinney Road SE crossing is being reviewed by Public Works Department. Lori thanked Commissioners for bringing concern to light.

Commissioner's Report

Glen Crandal asked about a large development planned in the UGA near McAllister Heights (1,000+ homes). Will the City receive any money from the developer? Lori assumes traffic mitigation funds but will inquire.

Matt Acker said Military All Star Baseball tryouts were recently held at the RAC.

Chair's Report

No report.

Citizen Comments

No additional citizen comments.

Committee Reports

- a) PARC Foundation, James Reddick:
 - Appreciates Commissioner Lu Carlson attending St. Mark's Lutheran Church service on Sunday to receive a \$1,000 grant for Summer Lunch Program and Playground Pals.
 - Bay to Capital Relay (Aug 1) website nearly ready.
 - Various grant applications recently submitted.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 5:30pm at the Lacey City Hall.