

LYNNWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 4, 2013

10. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

20. Roll Call

Boardmember Aldrich

Director Sordel

Boardmember Bluford

Parks Planner Cowan

Boardmember Gilbertson

Administrative Assistant Flesher

Boardmember Hildebrandt

Boardmember Swan

30. Approval of Minutes – August 7, 2013. Approved.

40. Written Communications – None.

50. Public Comments.

- Mary Ellen Walsh read an excerpt from the City's 2020 Comprehensive Plan speaking to the City's goal for a balanced transportation system that supports the City's land use vision and protects neighborhoods. Sound Transit's proposed Alternatives C1 and C2 for Lynnwood Link access into Lynnwood do not meet those standards. She indicated that officials from the EPA are involved and will be coming out to do a field study. She also mentioned that \$250,000 in Conservation Futures funds were used to purchase the park land in 1991; this will be an issue with Snohomish County.
- Gleb Shein spoke on behalf of many individuals who care about nature and the beautiful surroundings they live in. They want to save Scriber Creek Park from unnecessary intrusion. The City's website indicates that neighborhood parks serve the people who live within a 1/2 –mile radius. The City has only 20 acres of very undeveloped park land and Scriber Creek Park represents 25% of it. The park is bustling with a striving ecosystem. Sound Transit's C1 and C2 Alternatives impact a lot of people and impact this small neighborhood park. They plan to take perhaps 15% of it, the most usable part of it with picnic tables and open lawns. The C2 Alternative would go right along Scriber Creek Trail and will likely require removal of a lot of the park just to bring in the necessary machinery and build the extension. If either of these Alternatives is selected, the park will not be quiet and serene. Alternative C3 will only displace one business. We are here to ask you to help sway the opinion of others to help keep this public space for this neighborhood.
- Mike Dolder spoke as a business owner whose business would be displaced by Alternative C2. This would impact his 100 employees and their families. Alternatives C1 and C2 make very little sense because of the impact to homes and businesses and because they are more expensive. He also agreed with the environmental and aesthetic concerns.
- David Williamson spoke about the threat of earthquakes in our area and the danger of putting the Lynnwood Link extension through a wetland, which could be subject to liquefaction during a Cascadia event.

- Director Sordel thanked the public for attending. He reported that those in attendance could also comment at the September 9 Lynnwood City Council Business Meeting and at the September 14 Community Meeting. Sound Transit is also accepting input on the Draft EIS; comments are due by September 23. Lynnwood staff is developing its recommendation to the City Council.
- Holly Hernandez spoke in favor of development of Doc Hageman Park. The neighborhood has experienced a lot of growth and development since the City purchased the property with funds from Snohomish County. She is concerned that this future park seems to be a low priority and wants to make sure it is not forgotten just because it is outside of City limits. She hopes the Parks & Recreation Board will remind the City Council how important this project is, especially in light of new development that is coming in the area. She suggested starting the project with a phased approach if necessary. Director Sordel encouraged Ms. Hernandez to comment to City Council and County Council.

60. Comments from Boardmembers.

60.1 Boardmember Gilbertson

- reported that he had attended a meeting on the Lynnwood Link Extension. Public comments at that meeting were consistent with those heard here tonight – very supportive of Alternative C3 and opposed to Alternatives C1 and C2.
- is concerned about the lack of athletic fields in the City. We’re really feeling the loss of the Lynnwood High School fields. Director Sordel indicated that he would be meeting with representatives from the Edmonds School District and the City of Edmonds to discuss the future of the Meadowdale Playfields. He hopes to start moving forward with a master plan to improve the complex. Boardmember Hildebrandt asked how turf fields maximize teams’ use of the space. Director Sordel noted that turf fields allow teams to play year-round in all weather conditions. And because there is so much turf in the region, people generally don’t want to play on sand anymore. Our fields are underutilized because of their condition.

60.2 Boardmember Hildebrandt reported that the process of looking at parks for issues and assets had been a very helpful exercise.

70. Resolutions and Other Business.

70.1 Comprehensive Plan Discussion. The Board commented on the following parks:

Maple Mini Park

- During stormy weather this park can be underwater.
- Rocks are used instead of play chips.
- Never seen anyone use it in seven years.
- Not welcoming.
- Drab.
- Water retention area.
- Most of the lawn is not usable most of the year – muck.
- Maybe the play structure should be a boat.

- Unless you're in the neighborhood, you wouldn't go to this park.
- Low priority.
- Could use more public art.
- Could use interpretive signage.

Sprague's Pond Mini Park

- Recent addition of play equipment brought some energy to site.
- Park was full during visit. Also being used by neighbors.
- Wasn't there a concern about who was taking care of the water?
- Sprague family was going to donate a portion of the pond to the City.
- Could you put a mini-dock out there?
- The site is very restrictive because of its layout.
- Could provide interpretive signs.
- Could use a shelter or a shade structure.
- Parking is a limitation.
- Could use more public art.

Daleway Park

- Very heavily used in the summer.
- A lot of people walk dogs in the park or through the park.
- Very attractive park.
- Have trouble with people dumping garbage in the park.
- Concerned about safety at night because it is a thoroughfare.
- Surprised by how big it was.
- Could use historical signage.
- Could use public art.
- It would be nice to have signage about the old trees on the site.
- There is wasted water in the spray park.
- Fix water pressure issue.

Meadowdale Park

- Blown away by all the amenities in the park.
- Was packed with people.
- Need more parking (have the land).
- Use of pond in lower section of park – drain or fill?
- Could use a shelter.
- Angle parking on 56th.

North Lynnwood Park

- Expand parking.
- Was packed with people.
- Most heavily used picnic shelters in the system.
- Park is used 365 days a year.
- Opportunity to use the small outdoor performance space.
- Fix water pressure issue.

- Drainage issue at the north of the park – a spot by the bench is always soggy.
- Add fitness stations along the trail.
- Could use public art.
- Fence is not very private or very nice.
- Could use a parking agreement with the school district.

Pioneer Park

- Add fitness stations along trail.
- Smoother walkway could bring more people from SHAG housing.
- Good use of tennis courts.
- Could use better way finding signage (at this park and all parks).

South Lynnwood Park

- Kids play soccer there a lot.
- Grassy area was very wet during visit.
- Ties into the Interurban Trail – tricky to make corners on bicycle. (This connection is going away within a couple of years.)
- Could use a picnic shelter.
- Play equipment is old.
- It looked neglected.
- Tennis courts are in good shape.

Spruce Park

- Basketball court heavily used.
- Could use a shelter.
- Wooded area is really nice.

Stadler Ridge Park

- Love how the slides are integrated in the landscape.
- Could use a restroom.
- Could use a shelter.

Meadowdale Playfields

- Opportunity for a loop trail.
- Evaluate parking and layout.
- Need to improve the fields.
- Could use a parking agreement with the school district.

Lynndale Park

- Very heavily used.
- Older play equipment needs to be replaced.
- Nice trails in the woods.
- Generally need more athletic fields in the City.
- Could use public art.

Lynndale Skate Park

- Opportunity for off-leash dog area.
- Public art needs maintenance.

Wilcox Park

- Could use another picnic shelter.
- Open space is very heavily used.
- Opportunity to expand the park to the west?
- Edmonds School District owns nearby field – opportunity for connection/partnership.
- Opportunity for loop trail and fitness station.

Parks Planner Cowan asked Boardmembers to visit open space areas and trails prior to the October meeting.

80. Staff Reports.

- Snohomish County awarded the City \$5,000,000 from Conservation Futures monies to purchase the 13-acre Seabrook property north of Meadowdale Beach Park in Lund's Gulch. Once the Interlocal Agreement is approved, staff will obtain a property appraisal and begin negotiations with the property owner, who is currently planning high density development. The City already owns 77 acres directly below the site. In its natural state, the property absorbs water during large storm events and preserves the land below and the salmon bearing Lund's Gulch Creek and Meadowdale Beach Park.
- City Council has held 14 meetings about the Golf Course issue. Four vendors attended a mandatory vendors' conference today. Vendor proposals are due on September 16. Course maintenance is included as an alternate in the RFP. Staff hopes to take a contract to Council for approval by October 28. Boardmember Gilbertson stated that the Council's inaction has delayed this issue for too long and he applauded Director Sordel's efforts. Where does Edmonds Community College fit into negotiations? Director Sordel reported that he had met with college representatives in August and will continue meeting during this process. It will be important to address the parking issue. Boardmember Gilbertson asked who would participate in the proposal review process. Director Sordel responded that he would, as well as Finance Director Hines, Assistant City Administrator Ceniza, and Park Maintenance Superintendent Colinas. Director Sordel thanked Boardmember Gilbertson and the Seattle team for their assistance in the process.
- Boardmember Gilbertson suggested a meeting prior to October 2 to discuss the Lynnwood Link issue and craft a unified recommendation to City Council. Director Sordel indicated that he would talk to Community Development staff to determine an appropriate approach. Members in attendance agree that Alternative C3 has the least impact to businesses, residents, the park and the wetland. Staff can report that the Board supports Alternative C3. We might also want to meet again before October 2.

90. Messages from the City Council. None.

100. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.