

**LYNNWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 2, 2016**

10. Call to Order – 7:00pm.

20. Roll Call

Boardmember Aldrich

Boardmember Gilbertson

Boardmember Hildebrandt

Boardmember Thompson

Councilmember Ross

Director Sordel

Deputy Director Olson

Administrative Assistant Flesher

30. Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2015 and January 13, 2016. Approved.

40. Written Communications – None.

50. Public Comments – None.

60. Comments from Boardmembers.

Boardmember Hildebrandt reported that she had attended Verdant’s Healthier Community Conference following the “Healthier Me & My Family” track and found it interesting and valuable. Mayor Smith noted that, during the conference, the City of Lynnwood was presented with the 2016 Community Collaboration Award recognizing the Lynnwood Fire Department and Fire District #1 for the Community Resource Paramedic Task Force program.

Boardmember Gilbertson praised staff and the consultant for their work on the PARC plan, an extremely comprehensive and well done plan.

70. Resolutions and Other Business.

70.1 Election of Officers for 2016.

*Boardmember Thompson, seconded by Boardmember Gilbertson, moved to nominate Boardmember Hildebrandt as Chair for 2016. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Boardmember Hildebrandt, seconded by Boardmember Gilbertson, moved to nominate Boardmember Thompson as Vice Chair for 2016. Motion passed unanimously.*

70.2 Approval of 2015 Annual Report. Approved.

70.3 Golf Course Report.

Bill Schickler, President, and Matt Amundsen, Director of Operations, provided a report on Premier Golf’s second year of management of the Lynnwood Municipal Golf Course. Favorable weather conditions helped to make 2015 another good year for the course. Although Lynnwood saw major disruption from roundabout construction during high season and a problem with the irrigation control pump, the course still showed a 9% increase in rounds over 2014 (versus a 7% increase for the Puget Sound area).

Limited parking continues to be a major obstacle but a parking expansion is now in the planning phase. Revenue projections had assumed construction would be completed in 2015, so it will be challenging to meet the revenue targets for the year. Director Sordel indicated that architectural and engineering proposals had been solicited, with

a goal to begin construction of 50 additional spaces later this year. Public Works is managing the project. Mr. Schickler hopes to stage and execute the project with minimal disruption. Mr. Amundsen indicated that Lynnwood has had to hold back on programs and promotions because of the limited capacity.

Mr. Schickler indicated that lack of a food and beverage facility also limits revenue opportunities. The off-site storage of golf carts also costs at least two hours of labor each day. Secure cart storage closer to the Pro Shop would be a huge improvement.

Mr. Schickler and Mr. Amundsen spoke about the Affinity rewards program, which uses the reservation center and mobile app to promote special offers to fill unused tee times. They also praised Dan Smith, who stayed on when Premier took over management and has done such a great job. He is a special guy.

Boardmember Thompson asked if there was a way to incorporate education opportunities about how a golf course operates. Mr. Amundsen talked about the First Green program, which hosts students to learn about environmental aspects of golf courses and gives them a taste of playing golf. Half of Premier's courses also have Audubon Society certification. Director Sordel noted that Lynnwood had been certified in the past and suggested that this be revisited.

Director Sordel noted that the City's relationship with Edmonds Community College has been critical in the success of the course. He indicated that the City had drafted a revised lease agreement and is awaiting the college's response on the draft.

- 70.4 Dialog with Mayor Smith. Mayor Smith spoke about the development taking place in the City. A lot of planning has been done – the City Comprehensive Plan, the PARC Plan, the Economic Development Plan – and it has been exciting to come in and release staff's passion, energy, professionalism and hard work so that the City can move forward and start implementing these plans. The future is now. It feels like a bit of a culture change for staff because it is different and although it's hard work it is also very exciting. When she first came on board, the Mayor realized the City had not been doing long-term budget planning. We've embarked on this very hard work, with a theme of "fix it, refresh it and grow it." Staff started to build a "fix-it" list, with everything from updating codes and ordinances to fixing forms so they were "legal" and plucking that low-hanging fruit that people had not been afforded time to work on in the past.

Staff started building a 10-year strategic plan as she is working to get staff, leadership, City Council, boards and commissions thinking about future. Light rail will be here in less than ten years, and the face and environment of Lynnwood will be changed dramatically. The City needs to be doing sustainable planning for the future to be ready for environment, infrastructure, staffing levels, capital projects, space needs, etc. The concept of budgeting for outcomes (BFO) is layered on top of that; we will work on doing a BFO process for 2017-2018. Staff needs to think differently about how they're going to be budgeting for programs. It's hard work and as we are budgeting by program, those programs have to connect to the community vision. Departments don't get to work in silos any longer, particularly for programs that span multiple departments. It's really exciting and keeping City Council busy trying to make those policy changes and make sure they are right for the future.

The Mayor is reaching out and figuring out how to get input from boards and commissions as well as citizens and neighbors.

The Mayor mentioned other City initiatives – securing a sister City and talking about exchanges with culture and education. A recent veteran’s summit also brought together many programs and providers that service veterans in our community. They are excited to bring services to south county, and Verdant Health Commission will host a weekly time to engage veterans and connect them with service providers. We will be recruiting and engaging veterans to come take advantage of this opportunity.

The PARC Plan is significant as we get started with BFO. The Mayor especially liked the matrix with the conditions assessment and loved the equity mapping to discover gaps in access and safety issues. She hopes to really get this community to a place it deserves.

The Mayor indicated that staff has been asking for the return of professional training. The City has reinstated the quarterly supervisors breakfast; at the last breakfast the conversation centered around generations and how they impact our workforce – what different generations expect from their work environment. At a Cultural Competence training earlier in the day, the facilitator led staff through discussions of self-awareness and awareness of others; as we do this our skills set grows and we become more competent in dealing with others.

Boardmember Aldrich expressed his interest in implementing park impact fees. The Mayor noted that the first step was that the PARC Plan raised park impact fees as a recommended way to raise money for growth. Staff now need to move it forward and bring it to City Council for approval. Deputy Director Olson indicated that staff would be working with Community Development staff and the developer community to figure out how to move forward. She also noted that staff is in exploratory phases of revenue options and will be reporting back to the Board. Director Sordel added that another option is to increase fees for program and services.

Boardmember Thompson noted that, as a citizen, she would pay into a park system; she thinks it should be a really simple message to help people understand what increased taxes would go to. She discussed the Seattle Green Factor, a score-based code requirement that increases the amount and improves the quality of landscaping in new development through a menu of smaller, site-specific, greening features including green roofs, rain gardens, vegetated walls, and trees and shrubs. This might be a way to improve spaces until park impact fees can be approved and fully implemented.

Deputy Director Olson noted that the Healthy Communities Action Plan includes developer incentives looking at rooftop gardens, public gardens, etc. The conversation inspires her to rework the language in the Plan around this piece. Boardmember Thompson wants the City to get to its goal of vegetative coverage, water infiltration, etc. Deputy Director Olson discussed a study confirming there is a biological, physiological response when someone goes into nature which create calming effects. The study touted the benefits of even walking down a block with great landscaping, trees, varied building facades, etc. Boardmember Aldrich cited a Stanford University study showing that people in hospitals who can see green trees from their room heal faster than those who can’t. Boardmember Thompson added that therapeutic gardens

have been shown to be effective. Discussion continued regarding incentivizing sustainability measures in development.

Mayor Smith encouraged board members to be vocal about citizen wants.

Boardmember Hildebrandt expressed her desire for continued opportunities for the boards and commissions to meet. She commended the Mayor providing these opportunities to learn. The Mayor agreed and added that it has been helpful for the City's board and commission members to hear from each other.

Boardmember Gilbertson expressed his concern about City departments working collaboratively rather than fighting for their own resources.

Boardmember Gilbertson expressed concern regarding development regulations in the Municipal Urban Growth Area (MUGA) and worries that Lynnwood's MUGA will mirror Seattle's Lake City with lack of sidewalks, little or no green space and apartment complex after apartment complex. He wondered how Lynnwood could work with the County to ensure we don't lose the opportunity to preserve green space. He asked how we could work with County to ensure that we don't lose those future opportunities. Director Sordel indicated that he had reached out to the County to find out how they are spending park impact fees that they have been collecting. He will continue these conversations. Boardmember Aldrich recalled that when he first joined the board the City purchased several parcels of park land.

Boardmember Gilbertson suggested that City boards and commissions meet to discuss social equity in broader terms. The Diversity Commission specifically creates a pathway to help us diversify our own boards and commissions and to reach out to diverse communities. We should be working together closely with the growing diversity in our community. Deputy Director Olson asked if Boardmember Gilbertson had suggestions on how to better collaborate. Boardmember Gilbertson suggested outreach to diverse communities by meeting with them where they are already having meetings, reaching out to communities and business owners and meeting with the Diversity Commission. He is also concerned about how to respond to the low-income population of the City. Access and opportunity to participate in recreation programs are really important, especially in dealing with issues like youth obesity. We've also got work to do with ADA requirements.

Deputy Director Olson reported that the Recreation Benefit Fund allots a specified dollar figure families can use toward program registrations or facility passes. They are required to pay a portion of the fee even if they have a large enough allotment to cover the cost. As we look in the future to continue to revise our fee policy, should we consider differential pricing based on income? Councilmember Ross suggested that it would be important to flush out the idea and the potential impact to revenues. We need to find a way to make it possible for people of all income levels to participate. Deputy Director Olson noted that, as we continue to adjust our fees to better cover costs, the gap will only increase.

Director Sordel discussed the importance of the City's partnership with the Edmonds School District. Boardmember Gilbertson expressed his concern about the proposed Lynnwood Elementary gym collaboration in light of the impacts of the Lynnwood High School closure, particularly if the gym project is meant to replace the planned Phase 2 of the Recreation Center remodel. Deputy Director Olson noted that the relationship

between the school district and the City is very different today than when the Lynnwood High School property was sold. She mentioned that the needs of teens and seniors are not being discounted or forgotten. Realistically, Phase 2 won't happen in the next ten years, and the Lynnwood Elementary gym affords us a good interim solution.

80. Staff Report.

80.1 Staff Report/Project Update. A staff report was provided and discussed.

90. Messages from the City Council. Councilmember Ross expressed her desire to see a change in the code requiring recreation space with multi-family housing development to ensure that suitable usable recreation space for all residents is included. She encouraged the Board and staff to work with Community Development staff and the Planning Commission to advocate for change. Director Sordel indicated that staff would be meeting with Community Development about impact fees and would add this to the conversation.

100. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:05p.m.