

LYNNWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
UNOFFICIAL MEETING NOTES
April 7, 2021
Via Zoom

A quorum was not present at the meeting; no action could be taken.

10. Call to Order – 6:12 pm.

20. Roll Call

Boardmember Coelho
Boardmember Hernandez
Boardmember Stohr

Director Sordel
Administrative Assistant Flesher

30. Approval of Minutes – March 3, 2021. Postponed.

40. Written Communications – None.

50. Public Comments – None.

60. Comments from Boardmembers.

Boardmember Hernandez spoke about the clean-up event at Heritage Park.

Boardmember Coelho noted how many people he's seen in the parks during the nice weather. It's nice to see people connecting.

70. Messages from the City Council – None.

80. Resolutions and Other Business.

80.1 Adopt Revised Joint Meeting. Postponed.

80.2 Board Protocols Discussion. Director Sordel reported that the Mayor and Council are looking for consistency across the boards and commissions. He welcomed input on the draft board manual as distributed. Boardmember Hernandez mentioned that there was a question about how the Board could communicate outside of meetings. It would be nice to include that information.

Boardmember Coelho indicated that many of his questions were addressed by the manual. It clarified the expectation for boardmembers to learn as much as they can about the issues. He noted that Lynnwood is one of the most diverse cities in Snohomish County with a goal to create an inclusive environment. The dense amount of homework in English could be a barrier to participation. Is there a solution to that and is moving to address that counterproductive at some point? Former Council liaison Altamirano-Crosby always asked us to think about language barriers. How might that relate to responsibilities of being a boardmember?

Boardmember Hernandez mentioned that the process by which people get involved is related to a personal motivation or personal interest in parks or recreation. Staff is definitely addressing inclusivity in Lynnwood's parks and recreation facilities.

Boardmember Stohr suggested a more proactive approach to considering park champions who might be good candidates to add diversity on the board.

Boardmember Hernandez suggested this might be easier when we're able to move

back to usual activities which could present opportunities. Director Sordel welcomed additional comments and input from the Board.

90. Staff Reports

90.1 PARC Plan Update: Regional Partnerships. Director Sordel noted that partnerships are an important component of the PARC Plan. Partnerships can provide resources to fully maintain quality parks and trails, specialized expertise and have the benefit of strengthening community connects. PRCA has dozens of long-standing partners. Some of the most strategic partners include the following:

- Snohomish County
- Edmonds School District
- Lynnwood Parks & Recreation Foundation
- Heritage Park Partners
- City of Edmonds
- Verdant Health Commission
- Snohomish Tribe

Director Sordel noted that partnerships are referenced at least 77 times in the PARC Plan. He provided an overview of specific references; some of these have been completed or are no longer relevant and will be updated or removed.

The Plan's Strategic Direction 3.8 includes the policy to "pursue and maintain effective partnerships with governmental agencies and provide and non-profit organizations to plan and provide recreation activities and facilities in an effort to maximize opportunities for public recreation." Implementation Strategies in Chapter 7 reference partnerships with volunteer and community-based action, Snohomish County Conservation Futures and public-private partnerships. Director Sordel referenced some relevant current and upcoming examples.

All of these partnerships, especially volunteer projects, required significant staff coordination and labor resources. This is a barrier to expanding these programs and a potential opportunity for growth.

The partnership with Snohomish County is another partner with growth potential. The Municipal Urban Growth Area (MUGA), if annexed, would double size and population of the City. Annexation is not currently a high priority but could resurface in the next couple of years. The only county park in the MUGA is Meadowdale Beach Park; the MUGA is really underserved. The Level of Service issue would have to be discussed and addressed during any annexation conversations.

Edmonds School District is another strong partner with strong growth potential for site usage and programming.

Director Sordel invited the Board to consider the following questions:

- Which partnership approaches do you think should be prioritized in the update (e.g. MUGA, multimodal connectivity, school district, expanded volunteer opportunities)?
- What do "measurable results over the next 10 years" look like for successful partnerships?

- What ideas do you have on how we can create more robust volunteer opportunities?

Boardmember Stohr suggested that all of those should be top priorities. Natural connections exist to diverse partners who could be invited to join the Board: tribes, veterans, etc. With underserved areas in the MUGA, the partnership with Snohomish County is really important issue if annexation is going to happen. She loves the idea of having an intergenerational specialist as a volunteer coordinator who can engage the public across generations and bridge the gap between various partners.

Boardmember Hernandez asked if/how our partners would be involved in a review of the updated PARC Plan to provide input. Director Sordel agreed that is something that should be considered.

Boardmember Coelho noted that this reinforces Boardmember Stohr's argument about looking for talent within the organizations we partner with who could be candidates to serve on the Board. What do measurable results look like? The biggest challenge seems to be that the park system has to expand while balancing fiscal needs/restraint in a way that provides a dignified level of service. How do we expand in a way that allows us to increase our reach while still maintaining a Council-friendly proposition?

Boardmember Hernandez noted that it could be important to what we will measure with partners who might provide funding, to show potential opportunities to collaborate on the goals and the dollars.

Boardmember Coelho noted that some measurable results could include volunteer hours gained from partnerships, citizen ratings of the parks, and clearly illustrating how volunteer hours improve the parks. Boardmember Stohr added amount of grant funding leveraged and public dollars leveraged.

- 90.2 Human Services Briefing. Director Sordel reported that he's been the liaison to the Human Services Commission (HSC) for almost two years. The City contracted with Dr. Robin Fenn to survey community stakeholders and a focus group on the role of the City in access to and affordability of primary care, behavioral health care, dental health services. Interrupted by pandemic. Main barriers were found to be cost, transportation, need for culturally appropriate providers, and clients/patients don't know where to go for information. The report was submitted to the HSC and we've been using this document as foundation for our recommendations to City Council.

Director Sordel shared a list of current and future community and human services needs that has been developed:

1. Conduct regular partner meetings between COL and community service providers.
2. Outreach to south county municipalities and engage them with regular partner meetings.
3. Create online provider directory for COL website.
4. Develop and implement health and social services community events with Lynnwood-based providers.
5. Invite partners to Joint Board and Commission meeting.
6. Convene and facilitate listening sessions regarding Community and Human Services.

7. Reimagine Fair on 44th.
8. Hire a Community & Human Services Coordinator.
9. Initiate marketing strategy sharing community and human service initiatives, partners and City strategies.
10. Develop measurable health and social services objectives tied to the City of Lynnwood strategic plan and budgeting process.
11. Develop evaluation tools assessing the efficacy and impact of health and social services activities in the community.

The providers to be engaged are County-wide and include a mix of private and state providers. We've been focusing on what the City's role in human service initiatives can and should be.

Boardmember Coelho commented on the extent of the list; he is excited to see where everything goes. Director Sordel noted that staff members Misty Burke and Mary-Anne Grafton have been exceptionally helpful in putting this together. It will fall under PRCA to execute the body of work.

Director Sordel reported that the City will begin to take on the roles of planner and/or facilitator of human services depending on the need. When the City's population reaches 50,000 it will take on the role of funder.

Beginning in FY 21-22, the City will begin defining human services commitments using the following priorities, goals and strategies:

Vision: All people in Lynnwood have access to the means to live healthy, vibrant lives.

Mission: The City of Lynnwood creates a healthy community by generating and supporting programs and policies ensuring people have equitable access to social, human, and community needs.

Guiding Principles:

- Recognize, respect and build on the strengths of individuals, families and our community.
- Honor the City of Lynnwood's rich diversity and strive to ensure human services are accessible and relevant.
- Create a safety net of services while remaining flexible enough to respond to emerging needs.

Values:

- Strive to construct services, policies and processes meeting people's needs on the basis of their self-identified needs and data.
- Prioritize innovation allowing flexibility to meet the changing requirements of our community.
- Prioritize sustainability over deficit spending with financial models and additional leveraged resources.
- Utilize new and recognized practices ensuring fair, inclusive and just access to services, building partnerships advancing a clear commitment to equity.

Goals:

1. Community members are safe, welcomed and included in social, civic, and economic life.

Investment Strategies

- Expand access to civic engagement opportunities.
- Expand access to culturally appropriate services and programs.
- Develop and support increased availability of accessible resources, services and programs advancing equity.

2. Individuals and families can meet their basic human needs.

Investment Strategies

- Build food security and increase availability and access to healthy food.
- Ensure families in crisis have access to information about attaining basic services.
- Develop partnerships to close gaps in basic human needs.

3. Residents can access resources to achieve quality physical and mental well-being.

Investment Strategies

- Ensure access to services that promote physical, mental, and dental health.
- Support programs to address the unmet needs of vulnerable and underserved populations.
- Support programs to promote safe and healthy relationship skills.

4. Children are healthy and ready to start school.

Investment Strategies

- Create opportunities for early learning, childcare and preschool programs and activities.
- Support early intervention services that improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.

5. Youth are healthy, successful in school and have a positive attachment to the community.

Investment Strategies

- Support access to safe and supportive environments that ensure youth participate in healthy activities and provide education about personal safety and positive interpersonal relationships.
- Support prevention and early intervention programs and services for youth struggling with mental health and/or substance abuse.
- Ensure youth experiencing homelessness and youth involved in the juvenile justice system have access to effective resources and programs supporting a positive transition to community life.

6. Healthy Aging- Older adults thrive as they age in our community.

Investment Strategies

- Build partnerships to increase resources and services for aging people, their families, and caregivers.
- Initiate planning and partner capacity building in social, health, education, and transportation opportunities to keep pace with projected age demographic increases.
- Develop policies and practices ensuring equitable human service provision for a group of people diverse in culture, generation, ability, and interest.

- Involve aging people in recommending the how the City may implement community level age-friendly principles and support aging in place.

7. Housing security is achieved for all? More discussion needed.

8. Veterans unique social and human needs are supported are recognized (served?) and supported in the community?

Investment Strategies

- •Partner with community agencies supporting veterans human service needs.
- •Build partnerships to increase resources and services for veterans, their families, and caregivers.
- •Involve veterans in recommending the how the City may implement community level principles that support veterans human service needs.

Director Sordel noted that the idea is to respond to emerging needs, not duplicate services. This provides the framework of what a human services program would look like and how PRCA's team can be involved in that work, including defining roles, working with partners and leveraging resources.

Boardmember Coelho commented that this looks like a monster undertaking, but seeing it as presented, he can't think of any other way except with the PRCA department. Director Sordel agreed it's going to take a lot of work, but we're clearly the ones to lead it. He is proud to be leading it with his team.

Boardmember Hernandez noted that this reminds her of the topic of the last joint meeting - resilient communities. This past year she's seen the City experience and respond to the pandemic issues and needs of the community with some pretty good groundwork. She appreciates the perspective that the City is a planner looking forward to being a funder in the future.

90.3 Staff Report. A written report was provided.

100. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 802 p.m.