

**LYNNWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 5, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

10. Call to Order – 6:05 pm.

20. Roll Call

Boardmember Coelho  
Boardmember Gladysz  
Boardmember Hernandez  
Boardmember McKeown  
Boardmember Stohr

Councilmember Frizzell  
Director Sordel  
Deputy Director Olson  
Parks Planner Thompson  
Administrative Assistant Flesher

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

40. Written Communications – None.

50. Public Comments – None.

60. Comments from Boardmembers.

Boardmember Coelho reported that he had visited South Lynnwood Park and commented that the mural is gorgeous. It was an awesome evening seeing people enjoying the park.

Boardmember Stohr lives mentioned that someone regularly decorates the trees on the 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue traffic circle and it looks very nice.

70. Messages from the City Council. Councilmember Frizzell noted that she's excited about what's going on in South Lynnwood Park. Pickleball will not be happening for a while, but what's coming is going to be gorgeous and she can hardly wait. She reported that Councilmember Cotton had vacated his position and Council is in the process of filling the vacancy.

Boardmember Hernandez expressed appreciation for Council's work on regional housing.

80. Resolutions and Other Business.

80.1 Board Manual Update. Boardmember Coelho noted that the draft outlines more customs, procedures, and the role/scope of the Board. He had provided few notes but otherwise thought it looked great. Director Sordel asked for additional feedback and questions from Boardmembers. Boardmember Coelho believes it is important to understand our rules and what's expected of us. It's nice to have something that's so clear about what's expected of Boardmember. He urged the Board to review and provide feedback.

The Board asked about member communication. Deputy Director Olson indicated that many boards and commissions utilize ad-hoc committees. The Parks & Recreation Board has also frequently nominated spokespersons. Members should be careful of having a group discussion thread that goes beyond informational. Boardmember Coelho suggested adding something about ad-hoc committee creation or mechanisms to do work outside of the scope here.

90. Staff Reports

90.1 Scriber Creek Trail – Park Resource Impacts. Parks Planner Thompson reported that analysis and planning for the trail started in 2018 has come far. Staff is now preparing

for next major milestone – finalizing the permitting process. She explained the coordination required with a multitude of state and federal agencies. The project involves a lot of environmental components – streams, floodplains, wetlands and open water. All necessary agencies have confirmed that the project doesn't do harm to the park lands. Staff is working to meet the 4(f) public involvement requirements of the US Department of Transportation Act, the government's effort to preserve publicly owned lands. Staff need to show efforts have been made to avoid negative impacts and that there aren't alternative locations for the project and to distribute the information for public review.

Work will take place in or adjacent to protected lands of Sprague's Pond Mini-Park, Scriber Lake Park, Wilcox Park and Scriber Creek Park. The justifications for the updated trail route include providing buffer, improving sitelines, and allowing for 6-foot trail. Section 4(f) looks at whether any of the parks will be negatively impacted. Scriber Creek Park and Scriber Lake Park currently include trails at grade, with fill or asphalt, which has inhibited the natural flow of that wetland complex; both will be rejuvenated with the raised trail. Work at the other two parks will remove ADA barriers and improve crossings.

The parks will not be adversely impacted. Section 4(f) doesn't have specific requirements for outreach. Information has been sent to targeted users with eNews, posted on City social media accounts, updated on the project webpage and offered at tonight's presentation to the Board. Staff welcomed Board comments until May 7.

Boardmember Hernandez asked whether improvements were needed to add the elevated walkway considering Scriber Lake's hydrology issues. Were there studies or mitigation efforts that addressed the issues? Parks Planner Thompson noted that, with the trail moving through our wetland complex, we can quantify how much of the existing trail impacts the stream and its associated wetland and wetland buffer. That has been documented. We can quantify how much human impact there has been over the last 30 years. They do very detailed calculations. That has been done and there are mitigation reports and critical area reports and lots of surveys. Boardmember Hernandez asked if Public Works is addressing some of the water issues as a separate project. Parks Planner Thompson responded that there are separate, but coordinated, projects. For Scriber Lake Park, Public Works completed the Scriber Creek Corridor Management Plan a few years ago and many projects are identified. That project is temporarily on hold due to a coordination issue with WSDOT. Boardmember Hernandez noted that we could say that the trail improves access in many ways to all four of those parks. It is a great facility for our parks and it improves the water issues. Parks Planner Thompson agreed that staff is grateful to have all of the confirmation collectively from the other agencies.

Boardmember Gladysz commented that it seems like a million organizations touch this. How much more painful would it be if it weren't a project for transportation, but we just wanted to build a little loop for people enjoying the park? Parks Planner Thompson responded that this describes our identified project to improve the loop around Scriber Lake Park. The paperwork required would be similar. Replacing existing infrastructure within wetland buffer is allowed by local guidelines. Boardmember Gladysz asked about a project to add something new. Parks Planner Thompson indicated there would be more mitigation and we'd have to confirm it was best choice and not impacting fish or wildlife. For instance, at South Lynnwood Park, work within

the wetland buffer requires that we provide some percentage of restoration; we're removing a long section of asphalt pathway and converting to woodchips and installing a detention rain garden pond because some of the edges to active development area are within the wetland buffer. We can develop trails or pathways in wetland buffers but not active recreation components.

Parks Planner Thompson provided an overview of the Scriber Creek Trail project phases.

Boardmember Gladysz asked whether the trail would be accessible during construction. Parks Planner Thompson responded that it would not. A lot of infrastructure will require closing the trail while they are building it. Some of the space might also be needed for construction activity. Staff will follow-up regarding closures as construction gets closer. Boardmember Gladysz will be interested to see the alternate/detour route.

Boardmember Coelho is excited about the new trail. He hopes the extensive preparation will pay off. Deputy Director Olson noted that there would still be ongoing maintenance needed but the infrastructure is designed to last 50 years.

90.2 PARC Plan Update: Recreation Needs Survey and Outreach. Deputy Director Olson reported that the City conducted robust outreach for the initial PARC Plan with an online survey (300+ responses) and a randomly generated statistically valid telephone survey (300+ response). Results of those are in the PARC Plan appendix. We drew conclusions from the survey results that we used to develop the goals for our PARC Plan. Some of the takeaways were that people valued cleanliness/maintenance and safe parks and wanted walking paths, natural areas and playgrounds.

For the update, we are doing the following:

- Park User Survey, July 1, 2020-May 1, 2021 in English and Spanish (98 responses)
- Recreation Needs Survey, April 28, 2021– May 17, 2021 in English, Spanish, Korean and Russian, online and at a variety of locations including Food Bank and Vaccine Clinics (184 responses to date; goal of 300 responses)
- Customer Satisfaction Survey, May 10-24, 2021 in English and Spanish, sent to every email in customer database (22,000; goal of 300 responses). This survey includes a deeper dive into programming areas by age group to get more precise information about programming needs in our community. It includes questions focused on programming needs and indoor space desires, as there could be upcoming opportunities to re-envision our indoor spaces. We want to respond to needs of changing demographics of our community.

Boardmember Hernandez commented that she had taken a survey; it was very similar to survey in the current PARC Plan. She will be interested to see the changes and how we interpret those, especially considering the circumstances of the last year. 98 responses to the in-the-park surveys seems low. Deputy Director Olson noted that she didn't find it surprising because people didn't want to be approached during the pandemic.

PARC Plan Update: Equity Commitment. Deputy Director Olson reported that there would be continued conversation around how we address equity in our

comprehensive plan. The adopted plan did a lot of legwork to analyze demographic factors in Lynnwood. It directed us to invest in South Lynnwood Park, Scriber Creek Trail and Scriber Lake Park; it helped us become a 10-Minute Walk grantee; it has driven home the need to continue park planning in an equitable way. As with most other park agencies across the country, Lynnwood is grappling with planning for the full diverse community we serve, undoing past harms, and determining next steps. NRPA has put out a toolkit for agencies to use as a framework of action around equity and the City Racial Equity Advancing Lynnwood team has provided many resources. We will use these to guide us on our journey. We launched this effort with staff at a recent department-wide meeting. A staff committee is working to draft an equity commitment statement as we move forward in planning for equity in parks and in our operations. We'll bring that statement to the Board to adopt in our plan.

Boardmember Coelho inquired about actions that could feasibly be taken to make a more equitable park service. Deputy Director Olson indicated that staff would work together to learn and discover what that might look like. Some ideas could include geographic distribution of parks and trails, level of investment for deferred maintenance and ADA barrier removal, distribution of amenities throughout the park system, amenities desired by non-white users, policies around park rentals, hiring practices, and messaging in multiple languages. Parks Planner Thompson noted that many Edmonds School District (ESD) facilities are completely fenced. Deputy Director Olson noted that staff would continue to have conversations with ESD about the role of school properties in providing recreation space for the community and advocate for a district-wide policy to ensure recreation spaces are open for public use during non-school hours.

Boardmember Coelho asked about a park tour in July. Director Sordel reported that it isn't feasible to have everyone in a bus; staff is developing an alternative strategy to be shared in June.

90.3 Staff Report. A written report was provided.

100. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.