

LYNNWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2020
Via Zoom

10. Call to Order – 6:03 pm.

20. Roll Call

Boardmember Coelho	Director Sordel
Boardmember Gladysz	Deputy Director Olson
Boardmember Hernandez	Senior Parks Planner Thompson
	Administrative Assistant Flesher

30. Approval of Minutes – March 4, 2020. Approved.

40. Written Communications – None.

50. Public Comments – Katie McKeown, applicant for the Board, was in attendance and introduced herself.

60. Comments from Boardmembers

60.1 Boardmember Coelho commented that it's strange considering what's going on with the virus but it is definitely starting to feel like summer in Lynnwood. Wilcox and Scriber Lake Parks have been very busy lately and he isn't sure how safe people are being, but the heavy use of the space right now underscores that green spaces in parks are so important and crucial to our community's health.

60.2 Boardmember Hernandez noted that she's had to get out of the house a few times and has also seen a lot of people in parks and lots of families on play equipment without face coverings. She believes it is a good thing people have a place to go.

60.3 Boardmember Gladysz commented that the park system in Lynnwood has been one of the most valuable things over the last few months. It's the one big stress relief we've had, even when other local parks have not been consistently open. It's been very beneficial.

70. Resolutions and Other Business.

70.1 Review 2020 Board Calendar. *The Board discussed changing the meeting time to 6:00pm on August 5. Boardmember Hernandez, seconded by Boardmember Gladysz, moved to begin the August 5 Board Meeting at 6:00pm. Motion approved.*

80. Staff Reports.

80.1 Budget/Covid-19 Update. Director Sordel gave an update on the status of open/closed parks and the Recreation Center, Senior Center and Meadowdale Playfields. The Recreation Center opened for limited lap swims and wellness pool with strict guidelines. People have been extremely happy to be able to use the pool. Even in Phase 3, the Recreation Center will only be open at 50% capacity. No department in the City has been more impacted than ours from an operational standpoint. By and large people are doing a pretty good job of respecting social distancing. Our summer camp has been running with lots of restrictions and adjustments. We've increased our virtual programming at the Recreation Center and Senior Center. We've made a lot of

shifting and adapting to our new normal. The lost revenue has totaled over \$1.2 million since March. We are filing an insurance claim for lost business with our carrier next week. We're hoping to recover a portion of those lost revenues. The Golf Course has been doing extremely well since its reopening.

Boardmember Gladysz asked if we would do anything differently if Snohomish County were to go back to Phase 1. Director Sordel responded that he didn't think so. Especially at this time of year we want to keep our parks open. Deputy Director Olson noted that we never shut down our park restrooms for sanitation reasons and in consideration of Lynnwood's unsheltered population. Other communities that shut down restroom buildings were forced to add honey buckets and hand washing stations to serve public who don't have access to restrooms. Boardmember Gladysz expressed frustration with other jurisdictions not posting current closure information on their websites and wondered why it wasn't more consistent. Deputy Director Olson noted that a challenge is that each agency has a different risk manager and insurance carrier providing guidance. We're regularly in communication with each other and keeping track of what everyone is doing. It is still a challenge, but we all meet regularly, and we feel the concern about that inconsistency.

Staff has been working on the financial situation with unprecedented lost revenues to the City. Collectively, the Mayor, staff and City Council have been working to fill the gap from the revenue shortfalls. The predicted shortfall across the City was almost \$9.5 million. City departments collectively reduced over \$6.2 million in expenditures. The City Council also approved moving permit and sales tax revenues from new construction previously allocated to the Economic Development Improvement Fund and closing the remaining gap with the City's Revenue Stabilization Fund. We're hoping Congress's next stimulus package might have some monies for state and local governments. In March we laid off all our part time non-benefited staff due to the closure of the Recreation Center. We're hoping the revenue forecast through the rest of the year remain intact. There are still many uncertainties. We submitted our first draft of the 2021-2022 budget, which included a total review of our operations. In September and October, we'll be able to share more information with you.

Boardmember Coelho asked what staff might need from the Boardmembers during budget preparation. Director Sordel responded that we might be able to spend a little bit of time at the August meeting to discuss this. We should know more by then how the overall City budget is looking. He hopes we won't have to make further reductions but wants to make sure the Board understands our issues and concerns and how you might best advocate for us. Deputy Director Olson noted that staff will share the reductions already being proposed. All departments are having to trim. In some cases, programs and services will be on the block and City Council will be facing tough choices.

Boardmember Gladysz asked if moving to Phase 3 would help with the revenue projections. Director Sordel responded that it would. Boardmember Hernandez asked about diminishing returns opening the Recreation with limited programming. Director Sordel indicated that we are evaluating that.

- 80.2 Park Usage and Satisfaction Surveys. Deputy Director Olson reported that staff wants to capture how many people are using our parks and what we know about them. This

data will help us to do a level of service analysis next year for the PARC Plan update. We've done a request for quotes from companies that offer services to provide this information. One company does this with cameras in the parks. The other two companies use big data with tracking on mobile devices. There is no perfect way to get information aside from someone to physically be in our parks and do multiple counts. We're going to get as much data as we can about our park usage. It's more data than we'll have ever had available to us in the past. Staff is excited to be able to share better data with the Board on how our parks are being used.

Deputy Director Olson reported that we are also live with park user satisfaction surveys. We'll be promoting the survey heavily. We also have summer interns who will be out in the parks showing people how to complete the survey. Boardmember Gladysz noted that survey results would likely look different in light of Covid-19. Deputy Director Olson noted that there will definitely be differences. She walked the Board through the survey and reviewed some of the responses received so far.

Boardmember Hernandez noted one question included an option about socializing with family and friends. It would also be important to know if the parks are a place people go to build community and what type of programs they might want to see in the parks. Deputy Director Olson replied that it was really important to keep this survey to only three minutes long. The bigger questions and programmatic questions are important as well, but the best option would be a different survey. Next year's survey will be of Recreation customers; we might also survey the whole community about their park needs. Your question is a good question for that type of survey.

Boardmember Gladysz asked if people would take the survey every day if they are in the park every day. Deputy Director Olson replied that we're promoting it as something to take every time you visit, but it's probably not necessary to take the survey every day. Boardmember Coelho asked if you could take the survey multiple times; could Boardmembers help by asking other people to take the survey using our phones? Deputy Director Olson responded that we would gladly accept that support.

80.3 Capital Project Updates. Deputy Director Olson provided an overview of the current capital project program.

Completed:

- Spruce Playground
- Playfields Restrooms (ADA)
- Bike2Health

In Progress:

- South Lynnwood Park
- Seabrook Demolition
- Water Tower
- McCrary Acquisition
- Systemwide ADA/Deferred Maintenance
- Scriber Lake Park

In Design:

- Skate Park Playground
- Scriber Creek Trail

Pre-Design:

- Veterans Park
- Scriber Lake Park Trail Rehabilitation
- Town Square Park Acquisition

On Hold:

- Rowe Park
- Senior Center Portable
- Recreation Center Refresh

The Spruce Park playground was replaced in the spring just before Covid-19 closures. Staff is planning a virtual ribbon-cutting to be released around the time when playgrounds re-open.

Parks Planner Thompson gave an update on the following capital projects:

South Lynnwood Park was developed in 1978 and is located in the most racially diverse area of Lynnwood. The City has been awarded approximately \$1.6 million in grant funds for its renovation. She reviewed planned features of the renovation. We have recently submitted for permits and have state and federal environmental approvals. We are well suited to go out to bid for the project this fall. Construction is anticipated to begin in January and be complete and ready for a ribbon cutting by August 2021.

Scriber Creek Trail is an existing trail that generally runs from the Transit Center North to Wilcox Park. The project will dramatically upgrade the 1-mile trail to a multi-use trail. The project has been split into three phases: Phase 1, the southernmost section, will be built by Sound Transit and should be completed in 2023; Phase 2 will be built by the City in 2023; Phase 3 north to Wilcox Park is temporarily on hold. She explained the variety of surfaces and improvements that will be required along the trail.

Scriber Lake Park improvements include a habitat management plan, starting a Friends of Scriber Lake work and fundraising group, trail rehabilitation and inlet improvement.

Boardmember Coelho mentioned an article about parks in areas where people need them leading to gentrification. Deputy Director Olson noted that this has happened in areas, however the neighbors in South Lynnwood support the park improvements. It's already a very active park but there is only street parking, which lends itself to be utilized mainly by the neighbors. Boardmember Hernandez asked about the subarea plan for South Lynnwood. Deputy Director Olson noted that there will be an engagement page on the website soon for this project. When the page is live, staff will send the link to the Board. Boardmember Hernandez asked if there is budget for additional improvements at Scriber Lake Park besides the trail rehabilitation. Deputy Director Olson replied that staff needs to continue planning for additional phases of Scriber Lake Park renovation, but these additional phases are not likely in the next five years or so.

80.4 Staff Report. A written report was provided.

90. Messages from the City Council.

100. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.