

LYNNWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2020
Via Zoom

10. Call to Order – 6:02 pm.

20. Roll Call

Boardmember Coelho
Boardmember Gladysz
Boardmember Hernandez
Boardmember McKeown

Councilmember Altamirano-Crosby
Director Sordel
Deputy Director Olson
Administrative Assistant Flesher

30. Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2020. Approved.

40. Written Communications – None.

50. Public Comments. Whitney Stohr and Baba Darboe, applicants for the Board, were in attendance.

60. Comments from Boardmembers

Boardmember Gladysz inquired about the opening of sport courts and play equipment in parks. He noted that he observed that many people over the last few months were not following social distancing guidelines (e.g. not wearing masks) on park trails and play structure equipment. Director Sordel responded that the parks team has been receiving numerous complaints about the closure of the amenities. As we are transitioning into fall weather with less daylight, we've observed many people respecting the guidelines. Other cities are making similar moves. We are pleased to be able to offer these amenities to the public again.

Boardmember Coelho reported that he had attended the first Public Hearing on the budget. After three hours he was able to speak in support of the importance of parks and tired to raise awareness that they are the most public-facing City services now and likely into next year. He hopes his comments made an impact. He also reported that his store has been holding biweekly silent auctions for charity; a few days ago they raised \$615 for the Lynnwood Parks and Recreation Foundation. He asked if the City had considered text banking for messaging purposes.

Boardmember McKeown, who was confirmed as a new board member by Council in September, introduced herself. She previously worked for the Montana parks agency. She has lived in Lynnwood for three years and she and her dog enjoy Lynnwood's parks and she's excited to work with the Board and get more engaged in the community.

70. Resolutions and Other Business.

70.1 November/December Meeting Time. The Board discussed changing the November and December meeting start times to 6:00pm. *Boardmember Hernandez, seconded by Boardmember Gladysz, moved to start the November 4 and December 2 meetings at 6:00pm. Motion approved.*

80. Staff Reports.

80.1 PRCA Draft Budget Presentation. Staff presented the draft department budget PowerPoint for the Board.

Boardmember Gladysz liked how staff laid out the challenges and how they are doing the best they possibly can to still provide a great service. It's important to show the department is trying to do the most it can with the budget it has given the circumstances.

Director Sordel thanked the City Council and Mayor for their support of keeping parks open during Covid-19. He believes that our department has been impacted more than any other in the City with so many challenges to overcome and deal with. We wanted to tell our story including how we've been impacted. We know the next biennium is going to be challenging too.

Boardmember Gladysz was happy to see the plan for how staff will deal with less budget. You know the problem is not over and you're making necessary adjustments.

Board applicant Stohr commented that it was a great presentation. She asked if there were opportunities for partnerships with outside nonprofits to offset some of the decreased level of service. If so, she suggested highlighting that in a slide and adding the value of volunteers and in-kind services. Deputy Director Olson noted that staff plans to add a slide or addressing these ideas.

Boardmember Coelho added that his takeaways from the presentation were that the department has a versatile and well-trained staff and leadership is making it a priority to maintain staff and institutional knowledge. You have a firm grasp on what's important and what to prioritize. And you guys are very scrappy. He thought the presentation was impressive.

Boardmember Hernandez suggested tweaking the part of the presentation that talks about the \$2 million in cuts for 2020 and then the \$1 million for the biennium to make it more clear. She felt very proud of things staff has been working on for a long time. For instance, all the work that has gone into the Golf Course made it a hit and a really important piece of recreation in Lynnwood as well as the Meadowdale Playfields and Recreation Center. It's important to let City Council know that you've already built a lot of really good resources in the community and that they need maintenance. We can't let go of all the progress that's been made. You guys have built a really good amount of assets and resources in the community. She also liked that the pictures reflected a variety of maintenance tasks. That's important because she doesn't think people understand how many things the park maintenance team does.

Deputy Director Olson asked what the Board thought of the impact/letter grade slide. Boardmember Hernandez liked it. Boardmember McKeown also really liked the slide and thought it was very simple, clear and helpful. Overall there is no question that the additional 1.0 FTE for parks is 100% necessary. Director Sordel noted that the team figured out how to reposition resources to meet the highest priority. Deputy Director Olson added that it comes at a cost, and it still isn't everything we need. Even with this additional FTE, because we have new things coming online, there will still be impacts to the level of service. Boardmember Hernandez suggested making that point a bit stronger.

Councilmember Altamirano-Crosby commented that it was an excellent presentation. She highlighted the need to have an open mind for all the cultures and in the community. She suggested acknowledging that being a welcoming City is a work in progress. There are communities in Lynnwood that don't participate in these programs and don't understand or aren't aware of the opportunities; childcare and

connection calls are examples. She would be interested to see the demographic data of program participants and BIPOC participation. How many BIPOC know the connection calls can be made in their language? Social equity and inclusion require thinking outside the box in terms of communication about programs and opportunities. She feels frustrated that there are not as many communities of color participating but enjoys working programs with us. Another example is that many community members don't ride bikes or use the trails because they don't know the rules. We should take every opportunity to increase communication in the community.

Boardmember Coelho asked staff to articulate what is at stake with this presentation. Deputy Director Olson responded that, after the Mayor presents her budget and each department makes its presentation, the Council can approve the budget or request changes. This presentation makes the case for our budget to go through as proposed without further reductions.

Boardmember Hernandez asked if staff would be prepared if further reductions are required. Deputy Director Olson explained that staff has considered that but is not prepared to share potential options at this time.

Boardmember Coelho thanked staff for being so transparent and candid about the process. He asked what the Board could do to help. Director Sordel noted that staff looks to the Board members to be our advisors and advocates and to support our efforts. He suggested attending the public hearing and making comments and/or writing the Council. Deputy Director Olson added that any members of the Board can speak as citizens, but if any member plans to speak on behalf of the Board, there would have to be a vote authorizing it.

Director Sordel thanked the Board for its support.

80.2 Staff Report. A written report was provided.

90. Messages from the City Council. Councilmember Altamirano-Crosby reported that the Council meetings are very long and she is trying to learn as much as she can. As the liaison to the Parks & Recreation Board, she needs to make her update to Council on October 21. She asked if staff could meet with her to make sure she has a good update. She is happy to be the Council liaison to the Board.

100. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.