



**LAKWOOD PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday October 26, 2021 – 5:30 PM
Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Jason Gerwen called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

PRAB Members Present: Jason Gerwen-Chair, Vito Iacobazzi-Vice-Chair, Sylvia Allen, Alan Billingsley, Michael Lacadie

PRAB Members Excused: Fred Ramey

Youth Council: Brandon Elliot, absent

Staff Present: Mary Dodsworth – Director, Nikki York – Office Assistant

Council Liaison: Linda Farmer

Guests: John Caulfield, City Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sylvia Allen moved and Alan Billingsley seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2021 meeting as written. MPU.

Public Comments: No public comments

NEW BUSINESS:

State of the City: John Caulfield, City Manager thanked the board for their ongoing work and for holding the public hearing at the last meeting regarding the naming of Fort Steilacoom Park. The topic created a lot of conversations. Since then the Mayor and City Manager met with the Nisqually tribe to clarify intent and process. We hope to schedule a meeting with the Nisqually Tribal Council and the City Council in November.

City Manager John Caulfield shared a Power Point presentation highlighting issues impacting the City including the 25th Anniversary of the City incorporation. This is the time to look back on whether the City has delivered on the promises made at incorporation in 1996.. The four promises were Local Control, Public Safety, Fiscal Responsibility and Parks. City Manager feels that we have delivered and exceeded expectations with more work to do. The City Manager reviewed the Council Goals which include: economic development, dependable infrastructure, public safety, fiscal responsibility, transparency and a robust community. The City had an emergency plan in place to help with our COVID-19 response. Focus first and foremost was the continuation of services. The City Manager encouraged everyone to get vaccinated. He reviewed 2021 community events, CARES Act and ARPA fund spending, and Human Service accomplishments, including mental health, partnerships and rental assistance. He covered our State legislative agenda and requests for project funding. Our work with our Federal delegation and Congress representative changes has been seamless. Economic Development: 2020 was the best year with 160 million in new investment. There are now over 5,000 businesses in Lakewood employing over 35,000 people. New projects included Lakewood Station Subarea

Plan, Lakewood Landing, Transportation projects, Stormwater and Sewer, Parks improvements and Grand Opening of Harry Todd Park. We also kicked off a city imaging campaign. Public Safety He noted the Police department dash cams and we are currently, waiting on body cameras. Crime is down by another 5%. LPD does a fantastic job. He noted we just hired a diversity equity and inclusion position who will work with our city equity team as well as our community outreach efforts. . Jason Gerwen thanked the City Manager for his service and what is being done for the community. Alan Billingsley asked CM to share the power point with board. It is posted on the website and a link was sent to the Board. Mary Dodsworth commented that we are very grateful to have a supportive City Manager.

Naming of a Public Facility Review: Mary provided an update on council comments and gathered feedback regarding the process. The board agreed the application and staff report was easy to review and provided enough information. Suggestions included adding information regarding the cost of making any changes, impacts to others and timeframe for proposed changes. The board wasn't able to determine what the threshold for broad community support would be. The board discussed the process and timing for sending a recommendation to Council. They suggested that the board should review the topic and hold a public hearing, they should wait to make a decision at the following meeting and then forward their comments to City Council. The City Council can determine if they want to agendize the topic, gather more information or make a decision. Council makes the final decision. The board did not think there should be an appeal process.

South Sound Wildlife Area Update: Alan Billingsley shared a Power Point presentation with before and after photos, work that has been done and the community support. Projects included an Eagle Scout project in the turtle ponds and NW Youth Corp and REI added a board walk to monitor the turtles and removed invasive scotch broom. The last community work party clean up had 60 community members addressing graffiti, cleared scotch broom, installed benches and removed garbage. Jason Gerwen thanked Alan Billingsley for the great report.

Directors Report: Mary Dodsworth reviewed the Directors Report including: Capital Project updates (Springbrook Park expansion, Gateways, New Bridge at Chambers Creek Trail Phase I, Harry Todd Park, Angle Lane South, Park Signage, Edgewater Park Trees, Wards Lake Park, FSP Pavilion, Seeley Lake, American Lake and Playground at FSP) Pierce College ILA, Truck and Tractor Day, Lakewood Youth Programing, Tree Lighting, Drive thru parade and Community outreach efforts.

Board Comments:

Jason Gerwen thanked Vito Iacobazzi for leading the meeting last month and keeping us on track.

Mary Dodsworth shared images of the new bridge that was installed at Chambers Creek today.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is the a regular PRAB meeting on Tuesday, November 23rd. at 5:30 p.m. This will be a virtual Zoom Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Vito Iacobazzi moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Sylvia Allen seconded. MPU


Jason Gerwen, Chairman


Nikki York, Office Assistant