



**LAKWOOD PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday September 28, 2021– 5:30 PM
Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Vito Iacobazzi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

PRAB Members Excused: Jason Gerwen-Chair

Youth Council:

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

Council Liaison: Linda Farmer

Guests: David Boyd

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sylvia Allen moved and Alan Billingsley seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2021 meeting as written. MPU.

Public Comments: No public comments

NEW BUSINESS:

Naming of a Public Facility: Mary Dodsworth provided background regarding Resolution #2016-18 which outlined the current City policy, application process and review criteria for naming or renaming a city facility. The resolution was updated in 2016 and Council selected the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to be the group to review future applications and provide a recommendation to Council. The Board reviewed and approved an application and review process earlier this year. As part of the review, the Board wanted to include a process for gathering public information and include a presentation by the applicant.

In 2018 the City received a request to rename a public facility after a well-known City Councilmember Dr. Claudia B. Thomas, who had recently passed away. The policy requires that if you are requesting to name or rename a facility after an individual you have to wait three years after the person has died before consideration. After three years Mr. Boyd amended his original application. During the meeting Mr. Boyd spoke to the Board regarding the locations he had considered. Originally he thought that Motor Ave was going to be a pedestrian plaza and closed to traffic and thought this would be a great way to honor Dr. Thomas by renaming the area the Dr. Claudia B Thomas promenade. He also considered renaming Lakewood City Hall. During the three year waiting period, the City took over ownership of Fort Steilacoom Park so he is now requesting that the park be renamed after Dr. Thomas. Mr. Boyd read through the various public comments and understands that they were overwhelming not in favor of a name

change for the park, however, he wanted to share some history about Dr. Thomas and the impact that she had on our City. He also stated that if the School District thought enough of Dr. Thomas to name a school after her, the City should recognize her contributions to our City and name a city facility after her. The park belongs to Lakewood why not give it a name that has a connection to Lakewood. Following Mr. Boyd's presentation, Director Dodsworth highlighted the various criteria from the resolution and how it would be impacted by the name change.

Public Hearing:

Vito Iacobazzi opened the public hearing and noted the information received by the City in advance of the public hearing and provided in the packet. Two people spoke to the request.

Robin Ferguson, Lakewood resident, expressed concerns about cost of renaming the park.

James Dunlop, Lakewood resident, spoke about the complex history and concerns with renaming the park.

No other comments were received so Vito closed the public hearing.

Alan Billingsley agreed that Claudia Thomas does deserve to be recognized for the great work she has done in Lakewood but Fort Steilacoom Park shouldn't be the place. Sylvia Allen, Michael Lacadie, and Fred Ramey concurred. Fred Ramey suggested considering renaming City Hall. Alan Billingsley moved to not rename Fort Steilacoom Park but to rename Lakewood City Hall or a portion there of after Dr. Claudia Thomas. Fred Ramey seconded. Motion passed by majority. The recommendation will be forwarded to City Council.

Directors Report: Mary Dodsworth reviewed the Directors Report including: Capital Project updates (Springbrook Park, Gateways, Chambers Creek Trail Phase I, Harry Todd Park, National Night Out Celebration, Angle Lane South, Edgewater Park Trees) Last Farmers Market of the season, 25th Anniversary Celebration, and upcoming Truck and Tractor Day, Tree Lighting, and Drive thru parade and Community outreach efforts.

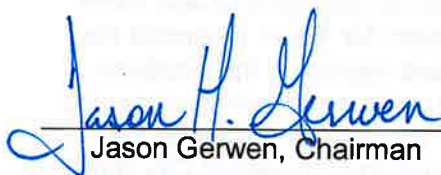
Board Comments:

Alan Billingsley advised that there is a volunteer work party at the South Sound Wildlife Area on Saturday October 2, 2021 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Vito Iacobazzi commented that the 25th Anniversary Celebration was great.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is the a regular PRAB meeting on Tuesday, October 26th at 5:30 p.m. This will be a virtual Zoom Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Fred Ramey moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Michael Lacadie seconded. MPU



Jason Gerwen, Chairman



Nikki York, Office Assistant