

## **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**Tuesday October 25, 2022 – 5:30 PM**

**Council Chambers, City Hall & Zoom**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Jason Gerwen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

**PRAB Members Present:** Jason Gerwen-Chair, Vito Iacobazzi-Vice-Chair, Alan Billingsley, Michael Lacadie, Anessa Mclendon Janet Spingath

**PRAB Members Excused:** Sylvia Allen

**Youth Council present:** Kera Buckmaster

**Youth Council absent:** Brandon Elliott, Kloe Salazar, Kaitlyn Miller

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

**Council Liaisons:** Don Anderson

**Guests:** Stacey Reding –Capital Projects Coordinator, Eileen and James Kelly, Paul Christopher, Steve Hannon, Mr. and Mrs. Coleman, Marianne Meier

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Alan Billingsley moved and Vito Iacobazzi seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2022 meeting as written. MPU.

**Public Comments:** No public comments

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Non-Motorized Transportation Plan:** Weston Ott shared that the City is updating its non-motorized transportation plan to reflect the improvements made over the last 10 years and to provide direction on how to expand its walking and rolling network. Weston asked that everyone provide input on how they are using the system and what non-motorized improvements are most important. He also asked that everyone encourage friends and family to take the survey. He provided a flyer with a QR code. The survey may be taken online at [www.lakewoodnmsurvey.com](http://www.lakewoodnmsurvey.com) Vito Iacobazzi asked about the plan for the future. There is a six-year transportation plan and a six-year capital improvement plan.

**Primley Park Neighborhood Meeting:** Mary Dodsworth reintroduced herself to the Primley Park Neighbors. Playgrounds typically have a lifespan of 10-15 years. It is now time to look at a new play structure. Primley Park is a great little neighborhood park. The City would like to hear from the neighbors what they like about the park, concerns and other possibilities. Stacey Reding reviewed the existing site to refresh everyone's memory, provided photos and a site plan.

Eileen Kelly previously lived across from the park and was thankful to Marianne Meier who has been a wonderful steward of the park. In 2002 that area was a dumping area. The neighbors strategized to make it a safe place for smaller kids. The Hardgroves installed the sprinkler system.

The Johnson's donated a metal bench. The Galbraeath family built a picnic table. Ed Clopping donated \$8k to take care of the trees that were losing their root base. Neighbors raised \$13k for the play equipment. It would be nice to have something to recognize the neighbors who have donated time and money. The City developed the park and dedicated it 2007.

Paul Christopher's house is adjacent to the park. He has 2 small children that use the park. An older child broke the chipmunk. The hill side has broken glass. Trash is all over because people are not considerate. It's frustrating that Primley doesn't get as much attention as the other parks. The area needs sidewalks and speed bumps. Cars go by really fast and there are lots of little kids in the neighborhood. He submits requests through myLakewood311 regularly. Trees have not been maintained and there is concern that they might break. Irrigation system is not working. People love this park and they come from all over. Some homeless and older teens have been in the park at night.

Steve Hannon has always enjoyed the park. It's a nice place to be on a hot day. Has said that when he retires he will help maintain the park. He asked about getting garbage can pickup.

Stacey Reding shared the park maintenance schedule.

James Kelly asked about the chipmunk spring toys being repaired and replaced. Mary Dodsworth explained that playground safety has changed and those exact may not be available.

The site is watered with a hose. Mary Dodsworth said that we will may look at moving the water closer to the water meter. It was suggested to use native plants.

Alan Billingsley asked the neighbors if there were issues with parking. Some people have parked on the grass but it's been fine. The playground does need to be ADA accessible so there will have to be an ADA accessible parking space and access to the park amenities.

Janet Spingath asked if a restroom was needed. Mary Dodsworth advised that we don't typically put restrooms at neighborhood parks.

Mary Dodsworth advised that the budget for improvements is \$50k.

Narrow street that people sometimes use to avoid the light. A speed bump or signage would help. Mary Dodsworth will provide this information to Public Works Engineering.

Janet asked if a dog waste receptacle was needed. The neighbors would prefer a trash can over dog waste receptacle. However, there was not agreement regarding adding trash cans.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman think the park is wonderful as it is. Chipmunks are always popular with the 8 grandchildren.

Jason Gerwen said that Primley Park was one of the first projects that he was involved with when he joined the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. It was the passion that the neighbors had to take pride in that park. It holds a special place in his heart. His family had Easter egg hunts there for a few years. He suggested bringing in 5-12-year-old play equipment. As a certified playground inspector spring toys are a little bit scary. His children didn't call it Primley park. They called it the Chip & Dale park. He would love to see some iteration of the chipmunks. Would like to freshen up the park.

Eileen Kelly said that Greg White put in the climbing rocks. Kids love the climbing rocks. They planted 3 oaks at the park.

Paul Christopher asked if it would be possible to have both a 2-5 playground and 5-12 playground next to it. There are different styles of playground e.g. modern, whimsical, themed. Jason Gerwen suggested that it be a natural looking play structure. Springy, twirl and swingy toys seem to be popular.

Janet Spingath asked about covered playgrounds. There aren't any in our park system.

Mary asked if anyone wanted fitness equipment for the adults.

James Kelly voted to keep play stuff only and not expand it.

The neighbors asked that the City protect the rocks and the oaks. They also thought it was wonderful that the City was asking for public input.

Mary Dodsworth concluded that improvements should happen early next year.

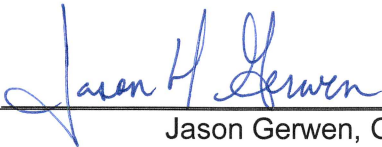
**Directors Report:** Mary Dodsworth provided an update that included: capital projects at Springbrook Park, Gateway signs, Wards Lake Phase 1, Seeley Lake, Turf Infield, American Lake, Oakbrook, Fort Steilacoom Park Boundary Line Adjustment, Nisqually Partnership Projects, RCO grants, Sponsorships, Rockets Away, Cemetery Restoration, Senior Center Building and the Tree Lighting and Parade on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Board Member Comments:** Don Anderson advised that the County has a potential \$25 million grant request. If approved, the Lakewood community center building could be rehabbed.

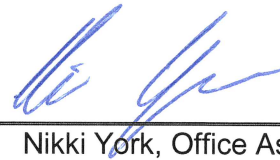
Mary Dodsworth advised that the Community Center was built in the 70s and is an important building to the community. Specialized Recreation is still happening. Mary Dodsworth explained that Pierce County, Metro Parks Tacoma and Lakewood work together to provide programming for individuals with disabilities.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the American Lake Conference Room at Lakewood City Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael Lacadie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Vito Iacobazzi seconded. MPU.



Jason Gerwen, Chairman



Nikki York, Office Assistant

