



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday November 22, 2022 – 5:30 PM
Council Chambers @ City Hall & Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Jason Gerwen called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

PRAB Members Excused: Sylvia Allen

Youth Council present: Kaitlyn Miller

Youth Council absent: Brandon Elliott, Kloe Salazar, Kera Buckmaster

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

Council Liaisons: Don Anderson

Guests: Elizabeth Scheid-- Recreation Coordinator (Senior Services), Debbie Washburn – Office Assistant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Vito Iacobazzi moved and Alan Billingsley seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2022 meeting as written. MPU.

Public Comments: No public comments

NEW BUSINESS:

Senior Program Update: Elizabeth Scheid, Recreation Coordinator for the Senior Activity Center shared how important activity is for older adults. During Covid staff created phone trees to do weekly checks on past members and to provide support as needed. Since departure from senior center in March, 2020, staff continued to provide a variety of programming options to include in person and virtual activities including Zoom Happy Hours & classes such as exercise and oil painting and drive through events supported by partnerships with Family Resource Center, West Pierce Fire & Rescue and Aging & Long Term Care). Virtual events featured guests who shared information or demonstrations in cooking, animal communication and games. Zoom Tutors helped with technical skills. Weekly walks in the park included such themes such as history and a walk with Fido. City Hall provided meeting space for the Knotty Knitters, Happy Bookers, Men's Coffee, Brain Games, Photography Club, AARP driver's safety course, holiday & seasonal events & support for Alzheimer's adult children caring for parents with memory loss. Staff continues to work with volunteers, attend county-wide networking groups, develop partnerships and receive grant funding to offset expenses and make up for loss of revenue generating programs that offset department 45% cost recovery expectation. Senior Services staff also support other city divisions, City special events and the weekly Farmers Market. Future programs will be expanded and will continue to provide virtual options as some participants are still hesitant of in-person group activities. We will work with Communications staff to do more public outreach to inform community members about programs for older adults.

The Senior Activity Center located in the Lakewood Community Center has extensive water damage and it is not safe to occupy. Councilmember Don Anderson said that the County is looking to make improvements but access would be several years out. The gym is the only accessible part of the building and currently is being used for specialized recreation programming. The City is considering a joint project with the Library (also several years out) or renting a space and making tenant improvements. We are looking at alternative spaces although one location with multiple rooms is preferred by older adults and can be more easily programmed, managed and supervised. Sylvia Allen suggested using churches in town that have space. Jason Gerwen thanked staff for keeping those senior activities going.

2023 PRAB Work Plan Review: Mary Dodsworth reviewed the work plan including updates on the Nisqually Partnership Program, Parks Capital Improvement Projects, Senior Center/Services, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion through Parks and Recreation, Special Events, Street End report, Park Sign Project, Climate Change Initiatives, Tree Preservation Ordinance, and Park Code or Facility Naming Processes (as requested by Council). Janet Spingath suggested learning about Zebra mussels and how to eliminate them from American Lake and asked about considering a goat herd at Fort Steilacoom Park to eliminate weeds. Mary Dodsworth noted they considered using goats at Wards Lake Park to address ivy and other invasive weeds. Jason Gerwen asked that information on street ends be sent in advance of the meeting so the board can visit the sites. Councilmember Don Anderson said Council is considering annexing or supporting the boat launch at Camp Murray and Historic Fort Steilacoom near Fort Steilacoom Park.

2023/24 Budget Update: Mary Dodsworth provided an update on the Council approved 2023/24 budget. The City has a two year balanced budget that lays the foundation and creates the road map for implementing City priorities. The City is in sound financial shape. Programs are sustaining with part time, seasonal and contract staff. Increases were made to maintenance worker positions to support the expanded work programs throughout the city (street landscapes, facilities, special events and park programs and areas. Councilmember Don Anderson commented that the City has a great staff and finance department. The 6 year projections were conservative.

Directors Report: Mary Dodsworth provided an update that included: capital projects at Springbrook Park, Gateway signs, Park Signs, Wards Lake Phase 1, Seeley Lake, FSP Turf Infields and home field, American Lake Park, Oakbrook Park, Primley Park, Fort Steilacoom Park Boundary Line Adjustment, Nisqually Partnership Project, Yoga and Meditation, Historic Fort Steilacoom, Lodging tax grants, community outreach and the Tree Lighting and Parade on December 10th.

Board Member Comments:

Jason Gerwen appreciates seeing the sandwich board signs around town to remind people about events.

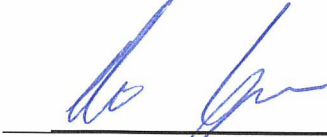
Annessa Mclendon is impressed with how forward thinking Lakewood is. Having a drone show instead of fireworks is important for the environment. Jason Gerwen said that the board is happy to have Annessa back on the board.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the American Lake Conference Room at Lakewood City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Vito Iacobazzi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Anessa Mclendon seconded. MPU.



Jason Gerwen, Chairman



Nikki York, Office Assistant