

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday March 28, 2023– 5:30 PM
American Lake Conference Room @ City Hall & Zoom

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, Michael Lacadie, Janet Spingath, Anessa McClendon

PRAB Members Excused: Jason Gerwen-Chair, Alan Billingsley

Youth Council: Brandon Elliott-absent, Kloe Salazar-absent, Kera Buckmaster-absent, Kaitlyn Miller-present

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

Council Liaisons: Don Anderson, absent

Guests: Stacey Reding – Capital Project Coordinator, Gerard Bega, Guillaume Bega, France Bega, Cameron Fairfield –Recreation Coordinator, Jen Spane, Karli Schwimmer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sylvia Allen moved and Anessa McClendon seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2023 meeting as written. MPU.

Public Comments: No public comments

NEW BUSINESS:

Eagle Scout Presentations:

Gerard Bega presented an Eagle Scout proposal to make and install compost bins at the Springbrook Garden. He presented two different styles. Sylvia Allen asked about the purpose of the three different sections and suggested to work with the master gardeners at the Community Garden. Vito Iacobazzi asked about the equipment that will be used move the compost between the bins. City maintenance staff will use a bobcat and their preference is the open style bin. It is also the preferred style of the Springbrook gardeners. Mary Dodsworth advised Gerard to meet with City maintenance staff to confirm that the specs will work with the equipment that will be used. Vito Iacobazzi asked about old nails in the salvaged wood. Old nails have been removed. The roof component is somewhat open to prevent over saturation. Sylvia Allen said it's a great project. Sylvia Allen moved to approve the proposed project. Anessa McClendon seconded. MPU.

Guillaume Bega presented an Eagle Scout proposal to refurbish benches that were built as part of his brother JP Bega's Eagle Scout Project. The legs will need to be repaired, painted or stained and recoated with water protectant. Vito Iacobazzi recommended sanding the benches. Sylvia Allen suggested using marine varnish to give them a clear waterproof finish. Mary suggested talking to garden caretakers to see if they want something whimsical or handprints. Sylvia Allen said

it's a great project. Michael Lacadie moved to approve the proposed project. Sylvia Allen seconded. MPU.

Diversity, equity & Inclusion (DEI): Mary Dodsworth and Cameron Fairfield presented a power point. Mary Dodsworth gave a simple definition that Diversity means everyone. Equity is to do what needs to be done to make the outcome the same. Inclusion means that people feel included after their experience. An example of how the City does this is to promote an event with a Spanish flyer but also realizing that people who speak Spanish need to be working the event so people feel welcome and can describe what's happening or how to experience the event. Mary shared that the Council Strategic Plan and the Parks Legacy Plan both have goals to make Lakewood a healthy and vibrant community and honor diversity and equity. The Park Amenity Condition Assessment (PACA), a measurement tool, was added to the Legacy Plan and includes having a park within ½ mile of every resident and having quality amenities at each site. Cultural awareness and inclusion are strategically included at events. Examples include: partnering with the Nisqually tribe on the honor walk, adding Fiesta de la Familia featuring Hispanic heritage, Summer FEST includes partnering with the Sister Cities Association for the international festival, MLK Celebration videos featured Jo Ethel and Brandon Elliott. The Farmers Market provides access and matching grants for visitors using SNAP/EBT, Market Match, WIC/Senior WIC and Kids Healthy Bucks, Senior Programs reduce isolation, Public Art on Signal Box wraps and our rotating art at City Hall highlight our diverse community, Summer Camps provide low cost childcare, Human Services provide a variety of support services for our most vulnerable citizens, we work with community partners, include diversity awareness in hiring and on boards and commissions. The City is thinking about DEI all the time.

Pierce County Specialized Recreation: Jen Spane provided background and Karli Schwimmer provided an overview to the program. The partnership that was developed 2 years ago. The City of Lakewood was one of the first City's to participate. The program is designed to modify recreation to meet the needs of people who come to the programs. It is more social based so that participants can use social skills and most include an active component. Current demand is still being determined. Pierce County started a summer camp 50 yrs ago to serve special needs. Metro Parks Tacoma offered programming for adults and few agencies were supporting Special Olympics. Many participants were travelling hours to participate in programs. The current program has three regular staff and 12 part time staff. The program requires over staffing to support the special needs of the participants. Activities that are listed in the quarterly "Adventure within Reach" Guide include: Weekly Art classes, Scrapbooking, cooking classes, social groups, crafts, hangouts and dances. They are still doing virtual programming as some participants aren't ready to come back to an in person activity. They have 300 shuttle riders getting to the programs each day. 2022 had 11,606 total registrations 26,000 hours of activities. The City of Lakewood began the year with 13 participants and ended the year with 32. Programs are located in cities throughout the community. Janet Spingath asked how the program would be able to grow. Expansion to other communities like Gig Harbor and more staffing. For the Special Olympics Programming they would like to recruit more volunteers and have more facilities to use. Pierce County Special Olympics has one of the largest teams. Vito Iacobazzi gave them Kudos! Sylvia Allen gave a Congratulations. Mary Dodsworth advised that the City's funding into the program is \$10,000 - \$20,000 per year based on Lakewood residents who participate. Janet Spingath asked how they are able to use the Lakewood community center. The gym and one meeting room are still safe to use.

Prepare for Parks Appreciation Day: Nikki York provided an overview of the parks and projects scheduled for this year's volunteer event on Saturday April 22, 2023 from 9 a.m. - Noon

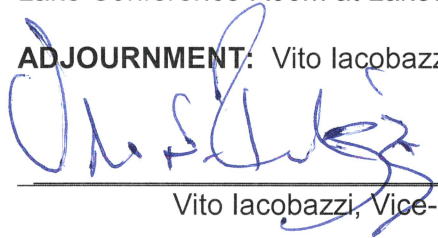
Directors Report: Mary Dodsworth provided an update that included: capital projects at Springbrook Park, Park Monument Sign project expanded to include wayfinding and reader boards,

Wards Lake Phase 1 & 2, FSP Turf Infields and home field, American Lake Park, and the Gateway Arcs public art ribbon cutting on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Board Member Comments: None

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the American Lake Conference Room at Lakewood City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Vito Iacobazzi adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.



Vito Iacobazzi, Vice-Chairman



Nikki York, Office Assistant