

Public Works Director David Vorse opened the September 19, 2012 Park Board Meeting at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Park Board Commissioners Roy Henson and Student Representative Erin Dillinger. Also present was Public Works Secretary Barbara Roller.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes for the July 18, 2012 Regular Park Board Meeting was tabled due to lack of a quorum.

Student Representative Erin Dillinger

Vorse welcomed the Castle Rock High School Student Representative to the Park Board Erin Dillinger. Dillinger detailed that she enjoys equestrian activities.

Riverfront Trail Enhancement Project

Vorse reviewed the Riverfront Trail Enhancement Project. The WWRP Trail Projects Evaluation has been received with this project ranking 11, just under the funding cutoff. However, this could still be a successful application if a higher ranking project declines funding due to match requirements. This project scored well in all categories with the exception of population and need.

WSDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Program

Vorse detailed an application submitted to the Washington State Department of Transportation for a Pedestrian and Bicycle Program grant. This program provides funding for alternative methods of transportation. The project evaluation will be out at the end of the year.

The hazards for pedestrian and bicyclist at the Exit 49 area are increasing. This summer a youth was struck by a car near Burger King.

Skate Park

Vorse reports that an application submitted to the Association of Washington Cities Risk Management Service Agency for a Loss Control Grant was awarded \$500 to purchase surface panels for the skate ramps.

Christian Church Youth Pastor Joel Royce and the youth group has completed assembly of the Hipped ¼ Pipe Ramp. This ramp still needs to be set in its' final position. This group, under Royce's leadership, may complete repairs when new surface panels are received. In response to a question from Commissioner Henson, Vorse clarified that the skate equipment can be rearranged with the backhoe.

Riverfront Trail Extension Project

Vorse clarified that although this project has been finalized, a few items from the Riverfront Trail Extension Project remain unfinished:

- A bench must be installed at the platform.
- Two more “windows” need to be cut and beneficial vegetation planted.
- Students will perform restorative work on fish bearing Janisch Creek.

A new application will be submitted to complete these final components using the remaining project funds.

Memorial

Commissioners have concurred that they would like a tree with a memorial plaque planted along Memory Lane at Michner Volunteer Park to honor Park Board Commissioner Lynda Frantsvog. Vorse reports that Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington specified that city funds could not be expended toward the purchase of a memorial in recognition of many years of service as a Park Board Commissioner. Vorse will obtain a quote for an exterior, vandal resistant plaque which is approximately 6” by 8”. Lynda’s son Daniel will be contacted for suggestions on the plaque inscription.

Park Board Representatives

Public Works Director David Vorse specified that Tom Byrne, Jeff Skeie and Pete Meyers were suggested for consideration to fill the vacant Park Board positions during a previous meeting. Student Representative Dillinger suggests teachers Julia Collins or Ryan Penner. Commissioner Henson hopes to encourage a woman or young person to join the board.

Budget 2013

Vorse reviewed the budget process. After he submits budget items, the Mayor prioritizes those items which are then sent to City Council for consideration and discussion.

Front Avenue N Improvement Project

Vorse explained that the revision of the northbound lane of Front Avenue N at Barr St. This will necessitate a redesign of Lions Memorial Park (Magnuson). This revision will create a triangular island surrounded on each side by an arterial street. The southbound lane of Front Avenue will still separate this park from the North Trailhead. An appropriate future use and design for this park must be determined.

High Banks

Vorse will budget \$18,000 for a mining permit at the High Banks. If the land swap is successful, the city could consider a contractor's proposal for the sale of dredge spoils. This project has lain dormant at DNR despite numerous attempts to get some movement. Vorse reluctantly feels that he must once again write a letter to the Commissioner of Public Lands, as he did in 2009.

In response to a question from Commissioner Henson, Vorse confirmed that if the Army Corps of Engineers dredged this portion of the river, the Big Bend spoils site could be refilled. Over the years, proceeds from the sale of dredge spoils have become the primary source of funding for parks. Contractors seem to prefer the heavier spoils that are deposited in this area, from the Toutle River.

Camera

Vorse would like to budget cameras for Lions Pride Park and the Trail due to the numerous incidence of vandalism to the restrooms and the theft of 2000 feet of electrical wire for trail lights. 'The Rock' blocks any video signal sent from the south side. A camera feed to the Police Department would require a conduit with a fiber optic line.

RV Dump Pay Station

In addition, a lot of water is being used at the RV Dump Station and mobile carpet cleaning services have been dumping waste. The dump station is extremely busy while less and less donations are received. This service was originally established for use by residents. Commissioner Henson specified that the water needs to be metered and donation signs should be visible. Student Representative Dillinger noted that increased enforcement could reduce theft and vandalism after dark.

Skate Park

Vorse would like to budget two basketball hoop to add a court at one end of the Skate Park. The skate equipment can be rearranged with the backhoe.

Lawnmower

Vorse would like to include a riding lawnmower in the budget.

Maintenance

In response to a question from Commissioner Henson, Vorse clarified that most of the funding for park maintenance is received through the sale of dredge spoils. The Park Fund, a part of the General Fund, received \$3900 in 2012. The vast majority of maintenance was funded through the sale of dredge spoils. Vorse requests that any park maintenance needs be identified and brought to his attention. Review of Park Plan Appendix B Survey Results page 12 indicates that cleanliness of restrooms is the most needed improvement at park facilities.

Lions Pride Park

Some of the barbeques at Lions Pride Park are in need of repairs.

Boat Launch Phase 2

Vorse reports that there has been a lot of use at the Boat Launch. Boarding floats have been delivered and will be installed this weekend. The restroom should be finished by the end of October. The lights still need to be installed and the picnic shelter is ready for delivery.

In response to a question from Commissioner Henson, Vorse clarified that this is a grant funded project. It appears that the Department of Fish & Wildlife will require mitigation for the current calming component. Although the swift river current at the launch helps reduce sediment, the launch was turned downstream to reduce the current's impact to boaters. Darrin Houpt, Cowlitz County Soil and Conservation District, is working with DFW on a proposal to continue improvements on Whittle Creek. Two other rehabilitation projects have been completed on Whittle Creek, at the mouth and behind Four Corners Farm and Garden. Whittle Creek Rehabilitation Phase 3 would improve hydraulics in the area upstream of Phase 1 improvements at the mouth up to the northern bend in the creek.

Reschedule Park Board Meetings

Commissioner Henson and Representative Dillinger have no problem rescheduling the Park Board meetings for the second Wednesday of the month.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Vorse adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.