

CITY OF BURLINGTON
PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 1st, 2010

Board Members Present: Sonia De Los Rios, Don Erickson, Jim Iversen and Todd Power

City Council Members Present: Ted Montgomery and Joanne Valentine

Parks & Recreation Staff: Loren Cavanaugh, Director; Craig Bloodgood, Parks Supervisor and Shelley Johnstone, Secretary

Guests: City Councilor Tonya Beiche, Helen M. Doyle and Mark Kramer

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Chairperson Todd Power at 5:35pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion is made by Jim Iversen to accept the minutes of the February 1st, 2010 board meeting as written. Motion is seconded by Todd Power. All are in favor. Motion is carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks Comprehensive Plan Review: A copy of the plan has been distributed to board members for their perusal. Loren Cavanaugh reports that the plan has been presented at one, possibly two neighborhood planning meetings and has also been presented to the Burlington Planning Commission. Loren also shares a print out forwarded by Planning Director Margaret Fleek with comments from the commission.

Todd Power asks about the Grafton House Museum listing on page-58 of the Plan. Loren answers that this listing is within the C.I.P. and will be deleted in view of the museum's imminent removal from the Grafton property. Helen Doyle notes that the Grafton House Museum is also listed on page-14. Jim Iversen asks if the money within the endowment fund will remain after the removal of the Grafton House. Loren states that it will as the endowment fund is setup to maintain the property as a park. It will be used in the near future to clean up foundation remains and to bring in topsoil to the property. Helen inquires about the park sign that currently reads "Grafton House Museum". Loren responds that his plan is to modify the sign to read "Grafton House Park". Changing the word **Museum** to **Park** is a cost-saving alternative to erecting an entirely new sign.

Mark Kramer joins the March 1st meeting to advocate for an idea he has raised before the Planning Commission. His thought is for the City to initiate an "urban backyard oasis" project on the Grafton site by partnering with perhaps the B-EHS Highschool or Skagit Valley College's horticulture programs (or even interested private groups). The idea is to create a display garden similar in theory, but on a smaller scale to the one in west Mount Vernon along Memorial Highway. Mark comments that this sanctuary type of display is the trend in environmental and horticultural magazines. It creates an eco-friendly garden that is low maintenance with indigenous flora attracting native wildlife. He adds that Seattle has several of these projects throughout their city. Mark's suggestion would be to have the partnering agency present their proposal before the Parks Advisory Board for approval and the agency would then be responsible for maintaining the garden project. He envisions the urban oasis as a working environment, an outdoor classroom. Mark sees this venture as an opportunity for the City to "step away from the mundane" and still create a useable park area for the community. He would like the Parks Advisory Board to add this endeavor for the Grafton site to its Comprehensive Plan. Board members find the project intriguing and would like more time to explore the prospect. Loren states that he will add the concept to the Plan.

Mark continues with another subject he wishes to advocate for within the scope of the Parks Comprehensive Plan. He feels that the City should spend less effort creating regional facilities and focus on creating facilities that would serve Burlington's neighborhoods. Jim Iversen asks for clarification on what is meant by "regional". Mark's response sites the example of Skagit River Park which he feels was created to draw visitors from outside of the community. Mark feels that more neighborhood parks are needed to better serve

the City's population. He wishes for the designation of future neighborhood "pocket" parks within the Comprehensive Plan.

Continuing with the Comprehensive Plan review, Helen points out that the "Yard of the Month" program listed on page-20 under summer events should be deleted since it no longer takes place in the city.

Updates on Capital Projects: Loren Cavanaugh states that the two Capital projects begun in 2009, the Rotary Park Parking Lot and the Whitmarsh Restroom Building, are complete. Retainage has been forwarded to contractors for both projects. A problem with the lighting at the new Whitmarsh Restrooms has presented itself. A light detecting sensor is not functioning properly. Loren feels that this is associated with the restroom's "solatube", which is similar to a skylight. More updates regarding the problem and its solution will be following.

Seeding near the new retaining wall at Skagit River Park is done. Don Erickson asks if this is where the new Kiwanis barbeque pit will go. Loren says that the pit will be within the retaining wall area on the east side of the concessions shelter. Construction is slated to begin this week. Work on the retaining wall itself is nearly done and will be finished around the completed barbeque pit. Helen Doyle asks whether the Kiwanis barbeque will be available for the public to use also. Loren responds that yes, its use will be coordinated with the covered shelter rental in a similar fashion to the barbeque pits at Maiben Park and the Horseshoe Pits. Like the barbeque pits at these two facilities, the Kiwanis barbeque pit is also a wood/charcoal.

Railroad Park Support Letter: A letter of endorsement will be presented for signature at the next Parks Advisory Board meeting. The letter is a statement of support from the board that will accompany the National Scenic Byways grant application for Railroad Park Project.

OLD BUSINESS

Grafton Museum Update: The legal notice announcing the auction was in the Skagit Valley Herald newspaper today and will also be printed in their March 8th edition. Loren will host an on-site preproposal meeting on March 9th at 4:00 p.m. for interested bidders. The deadline for bid submittal is 4:00 p.m. on March 12th. Sealed bids will be opened a few moments after that time.

Skagit River Park Playfields: Jim Iversen comments that while walking through the park he noticed that the fields are not in great shape. He asks when the fertilizer application is planned. Craig Bloodgood responds that he received a current estimate earlier today and plans to schedule the application with the first window of opportunity in March. Loren Cavanaugh remarks that this time of the year is especially precarious to the playfields. He adds that it is a delicate balance between accommodating all of the sport groups vying for field space, yet not overbooking the playfields to a degree where adequate rotation to preserve their condition is hindered.

EXPENSE & REVENUE REPORTS

Current Expense (02/12/10) and Revenue (01/31/2010) reports are distributed to board members. No comments are posed.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion is made to adjourn the meeting by Jim Iversen and is seconded by Ted Montgomery. All are in favor. The meeting is adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 5th 2010 at 5:30pm in the Parks and Recreation Conference Room. The Parks and Recreation business entrance at Regent Street is locked by 4:30 p.m. Attendees should use the **South Entrance** of the building (off Washington Avenue). Current expense & revenue reports will be available for review.

Minutes prepared by Shelley Johnstone, Secretary for Burlington Parks & Recreation.