CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Park Board

7:00 PM
May 30, 2024

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave NW, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board Members:
Chris Kovac, Chair
Marlene Waxse, Vice Chair
Andrew Eliquen (Absent)
David Liu
Ryan Olson
Nicholas Lee (*Excused Absence*)
Brenda Spears
Katie Bell (*Excused Absence*)
Tim Motley (*Excused Absence*)

Mari Stevens, Alternate
Paul Adair, Alternate
Martha Ginthner, Alternate

Administration/Staff:
Jeff Watling, Director
Robin Spear, Park Planning and Development Manager
Julie Cassata, Senior Park Planner
Hasanthi Piyasena, Department Operations Specialist, Parks & Community Services

Community Members/Guests:
Anna Laybourn, Design Workshop Consultant
Luyu Zeng, Design Workshop Consultant
Michael Wong, Community Member
Christina Bruning, Community Member

SPECIAL MEETING

Please note, this agenda also serves as the special meeting notice pursuant to RCW 42.30.080.

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Kovac called the meeting to order at approx. 7:01 PM.
Roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Minutes of April 29, 2024
There being no corrections, the minutes are approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Michael Wong: Squak mountain resident, living in Issaquah for 7 years, coaches his daughters little league and is an archery enthusiast and training to be a level 2 Junior Olympic instructor. Seeking an enclosed, outdoor archery range at the back of Tibbetts Park, on the public outreach map it gained some interest [part of the park plan update]. Went through the safety concerns and how safe enclosed ranges actually are and included design for a range that was recently built in CO. He mentioned an RCO archery range grant as a possible funding opportunity and spoke about the inclusion of many ages and abilities that are able to participate in archery.

REGULAR BUSINESS

a) **Park Board Chair & Vice Chair Elections, (A)**
Presented by:
Hasanthi Hoglund, Business Operations Specialist

Ryan Olson nominated Chris Kovac for the chair position. Marlene Waxse seconded. Chris asked if there was any other interest in the role and mentioned one more year.

There being no other nominations, **Chris Kovac** was confirmed as **chair** by unanimous consent.

Ryan Olson nominated Marlene Waxse for the vice chair position. Chris Kovac seconded.

There being no other nominations, **Marlene Waxse** was confirmed as **vice chair** by unanimous consent.

Park System Plan Update (I,D)

Presented by:
Robin Spear, Park Planning and Development Manager
Jeff Watling, Director
Design Workshop Consultant Team

Jeff Watling introduced the great collaboration with the team at Design Workshop on the development of this plan, the work from the staff team as well as the community n the numerous conversations with Park Board and other outreach. Anna Laybourn then went through the draft plan outline and chapters that includes the public outreach, some recommendations and how to implement the projects outlined later in the presentation. She went through some benchmarking statistics that were run on comparable cities nearby, Olympia WA, Remond WA, and Ashland OR and how Issaquah stacks up in terms of open space versus park areas. Anna also led the board through some Equity assessment and mapping that was reviewed as part of the plan and the indicators that were reviewed as part of the analysis. Luyu then walked the board through the concept for the plan and park system called Creeks to Peaks and how it is an evolution of the Green Necklace concept from the 2018 plan and Central Issaquah plan but that this expands to include the entire park system and was really based on a lot of community feedback. The concept is defined by pedestrian experience, walkability, quality of life, building a healthy resilient system, with social connections and aims to be an energized network of parks and trails connected from the valley floor to the mountain peaks and creates the pathways for the community to connect, recreate and traverse this amazing park system. Jeff then asked the board to reflect on a concept statement and see if either resonates. Robin and Julie then led the board through draft projects and inputs for how they were identified and the prioritized. They asked the board for feedback on near term projects and anything should be moved up or down in the lists.

Questions from the board included if acres of parks include open space in the benchmarking analysis and noted that our park acreage is low compared to some others. Question about if Lake Sammamish State Park was included in these numbers and it was confirmed this is just for city owned and managed lands. Another question about operating and capital budgets for these other cities and how they compare to ours.

Comment from the board to align all maps to have north facing up, and that creeks to peaks makes much more sense than Green Necklace. Question on if peaks to creeks was considered and it was though it is currently already in use by a couple of other trail and park systems and that our system is from the valley out into the mountains and from the heart of the city up to the forested hillsides [state parks] that surround Issaquah and thus creeks to peaks was chosen. Support for including community and the connection piece and including neighborhoods but making it shorter. A reminder that the Green Necklace concept was built around Issaquah Creek and was just that one curved alignment where this is the entire city which is great. Question about priority weight within project review, how this list was initially created and where it will live and reminder that this is 20 year vision. Question about facilities, pool and community center and reminder that those are still priorities but won't be included in the park plan. Support for Tibbetts being in the near term and really emphasizing it getting starting.

REPORTS

a) Youth Representative's Report - none

b) Director's Report: Director Watling led the board through the 2018 plan accomplishments to show how these plan documents lead to real tangible results. He also reminded the board that we have launched a Recreation Survey open through June 21and encouraged them to share it with their friends and neighbors.

b) Chairperson's Report: Chair Kovac shared his list of upcoming events.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS
Ryan Olson offered to cover the next meeting as both the chair and vice chair will be absent.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 P.M.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for June 24, 2024.