

Planning Policy Commission
3-8-18

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
JOINT MEETING:
PARK BOARD and PLANNING POLICY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

March 8, 2018

City Hall South
Council Chambers

135 Sunset Way
Issaquah, WA 98027

PPC MEMBERS PRESENT	PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Ron Faul, Vice Chair	Bradley Books
Joy Lewis	Susan Fairchild, Alt.
Troy Rahmig	Linda Whitworth
Jon Stob	Joe Frauenheim
	Chris Kovac
PPC MEMBERS ABSENT (EXCUSED)	STAFF PRESENT
Joan Probala	Keith Niven, Econ. Dev. & Dev Services Dir.
Carl Swedberg	Trish Heinonen, Long-Range Plng. Mgr.
Lindsey Walsh	Christen Leeson, Senior Planner
AJ McGauley, Alt.	Jeff Watling, Parks Director
	Jennifer Fink, Parks Planner
	Kurt Seemann, Public Works Engineering
OTHER PARTICIPANTS PRESENT	
David Kappler	Kari Rowley Magill
Ken Konigsmark	Steve Pereira
Mary Lynch	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Watling at 6:35 PM.

DISCUSSION: CENTRAL ISSAQUAH DISTRICT VISIONS AND GREEN NECKLACE (I)

Watling briefly recapped the discussion, exercises, and follow-up activities from the last joint meeting of the Park Board and PPC on February 8, 2018. He displayed the goals for tonight's meeting: to provide a draft document and walk through a parks map that addresses the Green Necklace; and to initiate a thorough conversation on character, including some hands-on exercises. He said the desired outcome is to have a consensus on the map and a sense of the group's thoughts on the visual experience of the Green Necklace.

He continued with the responses provided to the question posed at the last meeting of "what would success look like" for the Green Necklace. He said overwhelmingly the primary response has been "connectivity," followed by "experience." He gave more context for what those two concepts mean for the green necklace specifically and the parks system generally. He referred to a map on display of the Central Issaquah area and concentric circles representing a parks system that would support residents' needs and connect to the larger area. He gave more description about the opportunities represented by the map. He described how the work to implement the Parks Strategic Plan in development now will be accomplished, the partners involved, the collaborative effort that will be required, and how the details will get filled in. He said we really focused on the public system when thinking about the Green Necklace. Although there will be public-private opportunities, and they will be important, the exercise tonight focuses on the public priorities, he concluded.

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Greg Bower, Berger Partnership, consultant on the Parks Strategic Plan, continued the presentation. He said we will be displaying collections of about 80 images that will help us have a meaningful conversation about character. He said we will focus on 17 Green Necklace spaces on the map, and said a packet will be distributed with a brief description of each space. He said part of our work tonight will be to ask you to indicate which image you would like to see for our City, and for an image that you do like, which numbered space you think it would best fit. When that is completed, we will take your work, compile your preferences, and see where the priorities are, he stated.

Stephanie Woirel, Berger Partnership, gave a brief description of each of the 17 spaces, while Watling pointed them out on an overhead map. Participants were given a narrative description and a map, and asked to indicate their preferences and reactions to the images, and to which spaces those images would best apply. Participants submitted their written comments to the consultants, who will compile the results.

The participants reconvened. The consultants asked for any remarks on the exercise, and explained how they will use the results. FAUL noted there was nothing in the exercise that showed what the Sound Transit, ST-3, station might look like; also, item 5 (Gilman Blvd and NW Maple Street and Newport Way NW) is so large that it goes through several ecosystems; and there aren't any opportunities for vendor services in item 10 (east/west trail through Lake Samm State Park). STOB said it might be good to look at what Sound Transit has been doing in terms of stations so far to see what we like and what might be best for our community. The consultants made a note of the comments.

Pereira said most of these photos are not oriented toward retaining natural beauty or creating carbon offsets, and asked is the Parks Department also responsible for the City's tree canopy and preserving the beauty of the Issaquah Alps. Watling said this effort is focused on Central Issaquah, but he agrees that the Parks Department needs to look at the natural beauty of the City and its surroundings as a whole.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None.

OTHER/ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned by FAUL at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowe
Recording Secretary