

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Planning Policy Commission

6:30 PM
 July 25, 2019

Council Chambers
 135 E. Sunset Way

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

Joan Probala, Chair
 Ron Faul, Vice Chair
 Janice Carle
 Randy Harrison

Jason Voiss

Thomas Haskins, Alt.

Commissioners Not Present (Excused):

Joy Lewis

Bill Rinehart

Robin Beukers, Alt.

Administration/Staff:

Trish Heinonen, Policy Planning Manager

Jennifer Fink, Park Planner/Proj. Admin.

Chante Floreani, Park Planner/Proj. Admin.

Park Board Member Present:

Brad Book

CALL TO ORDER

PROBALA called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. MOVED BY VOISS, SECONDED BY CARLE that minutes of the PPC meeting on July 11, 2019 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **Public Meeting - Amendments to Issaquah's Comprehensive Plan: Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Element (Goals and Policies Only), (I)**

Presented by:

Jennifer Fink, Park Planner

Chante Floreani, Park Planner & Project Administrator

PROBALA reviewed the work PPC did in 2018 on the draft updates to the Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Element in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Fink began staff's presentation on the proposed amendments by clarifying the final version of the draft amendments. She introduced Floreani and continued PROBALA's comments about the work done in 2018 to develop the 2018 Parks Strategic Plan Goals and Policies, including PPC's Findings of Fact (page 9 of 43). She explained that tonight's presentation is an update as requested by PPC last year when PPC recommended approval of the draft 2018 Parks Strategic Plan to Council. She explained the work done to refine the Goals and Policies by the Ad Hoc Committee in early 2019, in which PPC Vice Chair FAUL and Park Board member BOOK participated.

Floreani continued staff's presentation on the thinking that went into the process of modifying the Goals and Policies. She briefly explained the new policies added and the new final organization and format with changes marked in red (copies distributed to participants). PROBALA commented she finds the new version easier to read.

Fink described public comment received, and gave staff's response to the concerns raised. She said staff is not proposing any changes as a result of the comments and feels the concerns are adequately addressed within existing policy and in the Parks Strategic Plan. She concluded her presentation by recapping the process followed to refine the Goals and Policies, and noted that City Council action will take action at a date to be determined.

PROBALA asked FAUL and BOOK, as members of the Ad Hoc Committee, for any comments. BOOK spoke in favor of the changes made in terms of improving readability. FAUL said the Ad Hoc Committee focused on how best to organize the document and where language needed to be strengthened and/or refined without doing extensive wordsmithing. BOOK agreed the Committee tried not to overly wordsmith the document in favor of looking primarily at the organization and format. Fink described how the document will be further refined in the next phase, including looking more closely at the wording. FAUL said the Committee worked to eliminate duplication and repetition, which also helped make the document more readable. PROBALA spoke in favor of how the document is organized, including separation of the goals and policies, and complimented the Committee and staff on a good job.

HARRISON said in addition to noxious weeds and invasive plants, catastrophic wildfires also pose a very real threat to the City's parks and open spaces. He described the efforts under way in the Squak Mountain neighborhood to identify potential catastrophic wildfires. Fink made a note of it, and referred to the City's contract with Forterra on developing a Green Issaquah: Urban Forest Management/Stewardship Program.

CARLE said she also found the document easy to read, and suggested that a header section be included at the beginning of the document that would serve as a table of contents to further enhance readability.

VOISS voiced his appreciation for a good job, and asked what are the next steps in the process. Fink explained how the Goals and Policies will be updated in the Parks Strategic Plan and the Comprehensive Plan update. Heinonen noted PPC will see this update again at the Comprehensive Plan amendments public hearing to be held in October.

The Commissioners briefly discussed whether or not to recommend including a reference to wildfires as a potential threat to the City's parks and open space, and if so, where to include it. HARRISON noted his understanding is that Eastside Fire & Rescue is currently working on developing an assessment and plan about potential wildfires, so it might make sense to wait until their work is available.

MOVED BY VOISS, SECONDED BY FAUL to forward the Goals and Policies to Issaquah's Comprehensive Plan: Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Element (Goals and Policies Only), as presented, with the addition of a Table of Contents, to the Council for approval.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fink gave a short update on the tree canopy assessment now under way, and gave a brief explanation of how the tree canopy percentage is calculated. HARRISON asked whether staff is familiar with a City map that displays those parts of Squak Mountain that are still zoned single-family residential and which potentially could still be developed. Heinonen replied staff will look for that map, and if necessary can develop one. HARRISON said such a map would be useful in understanding the tree canopy calculations. Heinonen made a note to send out the City's current policy on the tree canopy.

Schedule. Heinonen noted the next PPC meeting is scheduled for August 8.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to conduct, PROBALA adjourned the meeting at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowe
Recording Secretary