

**MINUTES
CITY OF LANGLEY
PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
January 12, 2009**

Leah Green, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Leah Green (Chair), Dave Schmidt, Cary Peterson,
Michael Cramer, Nancy Rowan
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Fred Evander, Kathleen Landel
Council Present: Rene Neff
Guests: None

MINUTES

Leah Green asked for approval of the December 8, 2008 minutes. Green requested adding on page two regarding the meeting schedule, that additional monthly meetings would be scheduled for sub-group work as needed. The minutes were approved unanimously with this addition.

AGENDA REVIEW

Two items were added to the agenda: 1) debriefing the December 15, 2008 presentation to the city council, and 2) discussion of email questions received that morning by Fred Evander and Leah Green.

COUNCIL PRESENTATION DEBRIEF – Discussion

Fred Evander gave the Mid-inventory Review presentation to the Council on December 15, 2008. Leah Green, Rene Neff and Kathleen Landel were also in attendance. Landel handed out a summary of comments made by the Council during the presentation discussion. The presentation went well and is available on the Commission webpage.

EMAIL QUESTIONS - Discussion

Email questions were sent to Fred Evander and Leah Green on January 12, 2008. The questions pertained to the term "greenbelt" not being included in the Mid-Inventory Review presentation to the Council when it had been included in an earlier presentation.

Evander shared his email response explaining that the earlier presentation (10.27.08) was a detailed presentation of the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan as it related to the Parks & Open Space Commission. The most recent presentation gave a briefer overview of the goals and policies, using the term "integrated open space", which is defined in Land Use Policy 2.6 to include "greenbelt, tree horizons, forested buffers, wildlife corridors, parks, overlooks and trails". Evander gave an assurance in his response that the Commission is actively working to implement Policy 2.6.

Evander explained that the city's greenbelt must be defined in the Comprehensive Plan, and said that there is currently not a definition. Evander said that what constituted a greenbelt needed to be defined through the Parks & Open Space planning process.

Evander explained that the Commission's technical sub-group (Michael Cramer, Cary Peterson, Dave Schmidt) will be meeting on January 26, 2009 at 3:30 pm, and at the meeting, the group will focus on each concept outlined in the "integrated Open space" definition. All Commission members were invited to attend the sub-group meeting.

WALKING TOUR - Discussion

The Commission members left city hall and took a walking tour and inventoried the downtown area including Brookhaven Apartments, Langley Park and the waterfront areas.

TYPES AND TRENDS OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE – Discussion

Fred Evander led a discussion with a PowerPoint presentation and a handout, *Table 2: Park, Open Space, and Pathways Classification Table*.

The Commission discussed the need to determine classification definitions specific to Langley, addressing how to scale the national guidelines to our city. There was a suggestion to look at what other small cities have done.

The Commission discussed Langley park examples and observed that the Commission member's definitions of a neighborhood park or community park tended to focus on the park's function and use.

Other discussion comments identified a variety of issues, including: the fact that mini-parks predominate in Langley, there was a need for indoor gathering spaces, there were not enough kid parks, and the group needed to consider parks and open space around us to identify the areas that were serving the citizens of Langley.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEM

Evander asked the Commission if they would be interested in having Bob Waterman come to the next meeting to share the ideas for trails that come out of the Comprehensive Plan Transportation Sub-committee. The Commission agreed that this would be helpful information.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 PM. The next regular Parks & Open Space Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2009 at 2:30 PM. Minutes were taken by Kathleen Landel.