

**MINUTES
CITY OF LANGLEY
PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
September 8, 2008**

Leah Green, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:32 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

MINUTES

Leah Green asked for approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

LAST MEETING REVIEW/COMMENTS

Nancy Rowan liked the revised inventory forms prepared by Fred Evander. Evander said that he is making some formatting changes that were suggested. Cary Peterson asked to have a NAME line added. Members would like extra copies of the meeting agenda available for the Commission members. Green commented that she will add "Agenda Review" as a regular item to the agenda.

AGENDA REVIEW

Leah Green reviewed the meeting agenda and asked if there were any items that needed to be added. There were no items to add.

WORK PLAN

Kathleen Landel provided an overview of the work plan that was included in the members notebooks handed out at the last meeting. She explained that there would be three main stages in the first 17-months of the Commission's work, 1) land inventorying, 2) analysis/synthesis, and 3) drafting the Comp Plan Parks & Open Space Element. Landel explained that specific public participation events are included in the work plan in order to obtain feedback on draft priorities and to hold a public hearing prior to the Council's approval of the Comp Plan element.

Leah Green asked if the Commission could provide a key issues sheet which gives an overview of the parks and open space issues. Evander replied that the Commission will be conducting a ground-up inventory that will assist in the Commission developing their own understanding of the focus areas and priority areas.

STAFF TASK: Provide a one-page summary of identified parks and open space issues.

Cary Peterson asked if the land inventory process could be front-loaded so the Commission would be able to deliberate and start its analysis sooner.

AGREED: In order to give more intensive time to the land inventory upfront, the Commission made the following changes to the meeting schedule:

- Land Inventory: September 22, 2008, 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm
- Land Inventory: October 13, 2008, 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm
- Lands Inventory Debrief & Next Steps: October 27, 2008, 2:30 – 4:30 pm
- Tentative - Land Acquisition & Stewardship Tools with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust : November 10, 2008, 2:30 – 4:30 pm

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kathleen Landel provided an overview of public participation. She explained the four aspects of sustainable decisions (economically viable, technically feasible, environmentally compatible, and publically accepted) and the orbits of participation (deciders, planners, advisors, reviewers, observers, unsurprised/uninvolved). Landel explained that it was important to communicate across all of the different orbits. She provided a handout with materials from the International Association for Public Participation on the “Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation” and “Spectrum of Public Participation” and how the Commission could inform, consult and involve the public.

The members discussed the question, “How do we want to incorporate public participation in our regular meetings?” A number of options were listed on the white board:

- Send in questions and invite to next meeting to address the questions.
- Regular citizen comment agenda item.
- Identify discussion items on agenda with time open for public discussion.
- Set aside certain meetings that are study sessions with a lot of time for public discussion.

Discussion included how to provide time for citizen input and make sure to keep the meeting on track so the Commission can get its work accomplished. Michael Cramer said that time limits would be beneficial. Cary Peterson said it was important for the Commission to hear people’s input, and the type of public participation would effect how people saw the Commission’s process.

General discussion followed on the need to be as open and accessible as possible, and if a situation got off track the members would find ways to bring things back into focus.

AGREED: By consensus, the following public participation actions were decided:

- Discussion items on the Commission's agenda will include time for public comments and discussion. If a citizen would like to make a comment on a topic not on the agenda it can be given outside of a meeting to a staff person or Commission members who are able to be accessible, or comments can be submitted in writing.
- Staff will start a Parks & Open Space email list for people who are interested in getting the agenda, minutes and meeting handouts.
- The Commission will begin to educate the public on the Commission's task and timeline.

LANGLEY'S BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Fred Evander made a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the geography of Langley and current Comp Plan goals that relates to planning for parks and open space.

There was discussion on the existing goal of 25% of land within the city limits being designated as open space: What is the history of how the percent was determined? How important is this criteria versus other criteria? The figure doesn't necessarily relate to quality of life criteria and feels arbitrary versus, the type of land and where it is.

Members identified some issues from the discussion:

- What is critical and needs to be saved?
- What qualities of land and what outcomes are we looking for?
- What parks/open space opportunities would provide connections from neighborhood to neighborhood?
- Need to establish clear priorities and criteria based on land inventory and public input.

STAFF TASK: Provide copies to members of the critical areas map, existing parks map and Capital Facilities Element of the Comp Plan, PowerPoint presentation.

PRE-TOUR PREPARATION

Staff will go back and revise the land tour plan based on the revised meeting schedule.

MEETING ASSESSMENT

Liked meeting. Good presentation. Excellent change to do overview land tours quickly. Presentation and maps will help when we go out and look at the land.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM. The meeting was held at Langley City Hall. The next regular Parks & Open Space Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2008 at 2:30 PM. Minutes were taken by Kathleen Landel.