

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LANGLEY  
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION  
September 29, 2008**

The Parks and Open Space meeting convened at 2:30 at Talking Circle.

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Present: Leah Green, Cary Peterson, Michael Cramer, Nancy Rowan, David Schmidt  
Others Present: Rene Neff  
Staff Present: Fred Evander

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2008 were not reviewed at the meeting.

**WALKING TOUR #1**

The commission walked from Talking Circle to Al Anderson Road. Members noted the trail at the south end of Al Anderson Road. Rene Neff said that the trail was privately owned, but was used by a lot of people in the City. Cary Peterson and Leah Green said that a number of people from Talking Circle utilized the trail.

Cary Peterson pointed out a parcel north of Talking Circle. Cary said that she owned a quarter portion of the land and said that the plan was to preserve the pasture on the eastern part of the site as open space.

The Commission walked through the Woodman Cemetery. Michael Cramer pointed out the formerly topped trees and noted the multiple new leaders of the trees. Michael also pointed out a dead alder on the northern portion of the site.

The Commission walked through James Anderson's property. Members commented on the nicely mowed and maintained trails and descended through a narrow ravine onto Fairgrounds Road.

Fred Evander pointed out the steep slope critical areas to the west and east of the Fairgrounds, including the area descended by the commission. The commission walked through the Fairgrounds. Fred noted the existing Comprehensive Plan Parks and Open Space Element policy to partner with the Fairgrounds and the School District to provide open space opportunities. He encouraged the commission to think about potential partnerships between the City, the Fairgrounds and the school district. Nancy Rowan said that the presence of a RV pump out site could encourage more RV camping.

The Commission walked through the school grounds. Fred said that he felt that the baseball fields on the southeast portion of the site were underutilized. Michael Cramer and Rene Neff said that the fields were used often by t-ball players as well as middle school students. Members noted that an improved track on the school grounds could be beneficial.

The commission visited the wetlands owned by the City of Langley and the school district. Dave Schmidt explained the original restoration of the site. The commission brainstormed a number of ideas for future maintenance including school district participation, AmeriCorps volunteers, and work parties. Cary Peterson said that a machine would be required to remove the mass of

blackberries, explaining that a citizen work party would not be sufficient to clear the site of the invasive species. The commission toured the wetland. Fred Evander noted the lack of a trail that extended through the site. Cary Peterson and Michael Cramer said that the creation of a connecting trail through the site would be relatively simple.

The Parks and Open Space Commission explored the trail to the Highlands through the City property. Fred Evander noted the potential connection of the trail with 6<sup>th</sup> Street along the utility corridor. Cary Peterson said that the area underneath the corridor should be cleared to provide access to the line. Fred also noted the existing access to Northview through private property.

The commission walked through the future parks and open space associated with the Highlands development.

## **BREAK**

The Parks and Open Space Commission took a brief break and drove to Generation Park

## **WALKING TOUR #2**

The Parks and Open Space Commission explored Generation Park and considered potential options for improvement. Ideas included additional trees, improvements to the trash can, and the movement of the split rail fence to create more area devoted to park use.

The commission walked to the north end of the DeBruyn right-of-way. Cary Peterson questioned the width of the right-of-way and whether the neighboring residences had built in the right-of-way.

The commission talked with Ray Haman and explored his property at the west end of 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Ray explained the history of the land, including his troubles getting the City to build a fence between his property and Generation Park, and the recent use of the land as a hideout for stolen goods. The commission explored the land and noted the Hazelnut Orchard, field and large ravine.

The commission walked to Saratoga Passage via the ravine. Commission members noted the depth of the ravine as well as the prevalence of English ivy in the area.

The commission returned to Generation Park via Saratoga Creek Lane, Brackenwood Avenue and Saratoga Avenue.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50. The next regular Parks and Open Space Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. Minutes were recorded by Fred Evander.