

**MINUTES
CITY OF LANGLEY
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
July 13, 2009**

Chair Leah Green opened the meeting at 2:34 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Cary Peterson, Leah Green, David Schmidt, Nancy Rowan,
Gail Fleming
Staff Present: Fred Evander, Kathleen Landel

MINUTES

The review and approval of the June 22, 2009 minutes was moved to the August commission meeting.

INTRODUCITON OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Leah Green introduced Gail Fleming and welcomed her as the new commissioner. Fleming's appointment was approved by the council at the July 13, 2009 council meeting.

REVISION OF WOKRPLAN AND TIMELINE

Kathleen Landel gave out and reviewed the handout "Timeline for the Parks and Open Space Element." The commissioners discussed and agreed on the next steps to draft and approve the Parks & Open Space Element (POS Element). They agreed with the proposal to add some additional meetings in order to meet the September 30, 2009 deadline to submit a draft of the POS Element to the state for review. Landel will email out meeting date options to finalize the Commission's meeting schedule for the remainder of 2009.

PARK SURVEY DATA

Fred Evander gave out a handout "Park Survey Data" with compiled data on the parks or recreation areas on South Whidbey, outside of the city, that respondents used the most. The top five parks in order were: 1) South Whidbey Community Park/Castle Park, 2) Double Bluff, 3) Maxwelton Beach/Dave Mackie Park, 4) Saratoga Woods, and 5) South Whidbey State Park.

The commissioners discussed the results and the opportunities in the POS Element including:

- Not to duplicate what exists elsewhere on South Whidbey, but also pay attention to why respondents used other parks
- Look at how to facilitate access from Langley to the top parks including alternative trail and non-motorized access
- Since so many people go to the community park/Castle Park perhaps there should be a kid-friendly park in the city
- Focus on what makes Langley unique: beach, forest, views
- Langley could use an off-leash dog option

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Fred Evander gave out copies of a handout on Level of Service Standard Basics and shared information on existing Level of Service (LOS) standards:

Neighborhood Parks	1.6 acres per 1000 population
Community Parks	2.6 acres per 1000 population
Open Space	25% of city area

Evander explained that LOS standards can be both quantitative and qualitative. The commission discussed possible LOS standards for parks, open space and trails. The issues discussed were:

Parks

- Sitting stations for resting/viewing the water
- Parks connected to trails
- Neighborhood connections
- Signage: park legibility, design features
- Establish maintenance standards: landscaping that is sustainable, align city maintenance capacity and values (quality and complexity) to landscaping/park design

Open Space

- Connectivity and distribution of open space throughout the City of Langley
- Preservation of tree lines, scenic corridors and views
- Preserve and restore to a healthy, natural state
- Include critical areas standards)

Trails

- Identify installation and management practices
- Signage/trail maps
- Establish ___ lineal feet or miles of trails per 1000 population
- Trail connections from downtown
- Connectivity between trails

Evander noted that many of the discussion points were similar to the principles the Planning Advisory Board developed for the subdivision standards:

- Diversity
- Connectivity
- Context sensitivity
- Sustainability

The commission agreed that it made sense to use these same principles for the POS Element. The Commission will continue to think of other LOS standards to include in the POS Element.

The commission agreed to establish two sub-committees:

1. **Stewardship Standards Sub-Committee:** Cary Peterson, Dave Schmidt, Marianne Edain (citizen). The committee will develop maintenance LOS standards for parks, open space and trails.
2. **Editing Sub-Committee:** Leah Green, Nancy Rowan, Gail Fleming. The committee will review the drafts of the POS Element and provided feedback to Evander in preparation for the Commission meetings.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

It was suggested to include in the POS Element a recommendation for the city to modify its agreement with Island County on the Joint Planning Area (JPA).

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm. The next regular meeting of the Parks and Open Space Commission will occur Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 2:30 pm.

Kathleen Landel recorded the minutes for the meeting.