

**MINUTES
CITY OF LANGLEY
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
January 11, 2010**

Chair Leah Green opened the meeting at 2:32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Cary Peterson, Leah Green, David Schmidt, Nancy Rowan,
Gail Fleming

Staff Present: Kathleen Landel, Larry Cort

Guests: Council member, Robert Gilman

MINUTES

The Commission deferred the reading of the November 23, 2009 and November 30, 2009 minutes from the public hearings to the February 2010 commission meeting.

PROJECT UPDATES

Council Adoption of the Parks, Open Space & Trails Element

Community Planning Director, Larry Cort, and council member, Robert Gilman attended the meeting to update the Commission on the council adoption on December 21, 2009 of the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Element amendment recommended by the Commission.

Gilman reported that there were some editing and clarification items that were changed by the Council. The substantive change was to the Open Space Level of Service. Kathleen Landel provided a handout to the Commission with the Commission's recommended language and the language adopted by the Council.

Gilman explained that the primary reason for the language change was to use a more general statement at the Comp Plan level, because the Planning Advisory Board (PAB) is in the process of developing zoning and subdivision code that addresses open space allocation. Gilman said that the city is also grappling with ways to preserve open space in other ways including: fee simple purchase, transfer of development rights, subdivision code and a potential county overlay zone in the Langley Urban Growth Area (UGA).

Gail Fleming voiced a concern about the timing for the level of detail to be adopted by code so that there would be protections in place.

Cary Peterson asked whether there would be opportunities in the Langley UGA to protect land by reducing the development rights. Gilman said that if the city adopts a transfer of development rights program that landowners could hold or sell development rights.

Leah Green commented that for future productivity of the Commission it would be helpful to get feedback earlier on the level of detail required. A quarterly review of other related work within the city was suggested. Gilman said that advisory bodies can expect that some percent of their work will be changed. Larry Cort stated that the current subdivision code does not address open space requirements and that putting this in code is an important step.

Proposed Code Changes Impacting Parks, Open Space & Trails

Larry Cort provided an overview on the PAB's proposed changes to the zoning map and subdivision code that has parks, open space and trails implications. A handout of the draft was provided. He explained that in the proposed Conservation Design Zone it would be "density neutral" with clustered housing in areas best suited for building and in alignment with neighboring properties. In the planning approach to a particular project, the POST Element open space priorities map would help in identifying the areas to preserve. Cort said that the next step for the PAB is a public outreach effort to get community feedback on the proposed zoning and subdivision code changes.

Kathleen Landel said that she would make sure the Commission has access to reviewing the proposed subdivision changes.

Grant Information

Kathleen Landel shared that Island County has released its application for the upcoming Conservation Futures funding cycle. The city is requesting the application packet to become familiar with the application criteria and process; so that once there is a solid project we are prepared.

Landel also mentioned an upcoming application workshop for the state Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) grants. The RCO administers most of the state funding available for parks, open space and trails. The Commission decided that until we had developed some possible projects it was too soon to commit time to attend the workshop, given the year-to-year changes in the grant programs.

WORK PLAN

Leah Green suggested reviewing the Commission's purpose and discussing the Commission's role, now that their work on the POST Element is completed. The Commission reviewed the duties and responsibilities section of Chapter 2.57 Parks and Open Space Commission. The members discussed needing to clarify their new identity and how to get work done in this next phase of the Commission's development. There was interest in understanding the parks budget and having a future discussion on funding sources.

The Commission reviewed the goals, policies and priorities from the POST Element during the work plan discussion.

The following 2010 goals were discussed using the POST Element priorities as a framework:

Priority 1: Core Area & Core Concept

1. Develop a structure to create a designated land acquisition fund.
2. Encourage and support the city to work with the Fossek Family on an open space project on the Fossek Farm.

Priority 2: Existing Parks & Open Space

1. Develop a park management plan template.
2. Develop a park management plan for Langley Park.
3. Develop a park management plan for city wellhead area (Middle Earth).
4. Develop a volunteer program for park and trail stewardship.

It was decided to continue working on Priority 3: Trails, and Priority 4: Community Agriculture, at the next meeting.

The Commission requested having the public works director, Challis Stringer, come to a meeting to talk about parks management and the parks budget. It was also suggested that it would be helpful to invite Police Chief Bob Herzberg to talk about issues with Langley Park.

Kathleen Landel will talk to the Clerk/Treasurer, Debbie Mahler, about the process for setting up a designated land acquisition fund.

The members discussed how to keep moving their work forward now that they are moving to a once-a-month meeting. They agreed to take on assignments in between meetings.

HOMEWORK: Commission members will do on-line research to look for park management plan formats that they like, and will email the links to Kathleen.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 pm. The next regular meeting of the Parks and Open Space Commission will occur Monday, February 8, 2010 at 2:30 pm.

Kathleen Landel recorded the minutes for the meeting.