

**MINUTES
CITY OF LANGLEY
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
June 14, 2010**

Chair Nancy Rowan opened the meeting at 3:32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Gail Fleming, Cary Peterson, Nancy Rowan, Tucker Stevens,
Cathy Waymire-Rooks

Staff Present: Fred Evander, Kathleen Landel

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Nancy Rowan introduced and welcomed the new Parks and Open Space Commission member, Cathy Waymire-Rooks.

MINUTES

The Commission approved the minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Northview resident Candace Jordan presented a proposal to create a trail from the Mildred Anderson and Faye Bangston Park in The Highlands through the Langley Well-Site Natural Area. She has other Northview residents who could volunteer to help build and maintain the trail. A local artist has offered to make a trailhead marker.

Gail Fleming asked Candace if this proposal was in response to any complaints by Northview residents about the existing trail. Candace replied that she was not aware of any complaints about the current trail, and that the proposed trail would not necessarily replace the trail along the border of Northview, but would provide a more interesting and fun experience and promote walking the trails.

As a next step, the Commission asked to have a tour time set-up to walk the proposed area. Cary Peterson will work with Candace and Fred Evander to set up a tour for the Commission.

Candace Jordan mentioned that the landowners of the trail connecting Al Anderson Avenue to Maxwellton Road may be open to a trail easement.

Marianne Edain raised a concern about the bluff along the Cascade Walkway and the need for a detailed plan for maintaining the steep slope so that the roots are stabilized and the view is maintained. Edain mentioned that Elliot Menashe completed a plan a number of years ago. Fred Evander said that he would see if he can locate the plan and noted that the director of public works, Challis Stringer, would be able to provide more information on the current management of the vegetation.

COMMISSION OVERVIEW

Fred Evander reviewed the history of the development of the Parks and Open Space Element to the Langley Comprehensive Plan, the parks survey results and the open space framework in the Element.

The commissioners discussed the need to keep a balanced focus between parks and open space.

There was discussion of the lack of a budget for parks and open space other than park maintenance covered under the Public Works budget. The question was raised of how to get parks and open space as part of the budget. Kathleen Landel explained that the 2011 budget process will be starting in August, but that the current financial condition of the city made it unlikely that there would be general funds that could be allocated for this purpose. She noted that with the recently adopted ordinances establishing the parks maintenance and land acquisition funds, that donations can provide a revenue source for funding parks and open space expenses.

Kathleen commented that there are expenses related to an acquisition, even if it is a donation. She listed some of the costs of acquisition including legal fees, surveying and ongoing maintenance. It was mentioned that an adopt-a-park model could establish a model of neighborhood care for ongoing maintenance of parks and trails.

WORK PLAN REVIEW

The Commission reviewed the following areas of the 2010 Work Plan:

Designated Parks & Open Space Fund

Kathleen Landel said that the ordinances establishing the parks and open space maintenance and land acquisition funds had a first reading at the June 7th council meeting. They are scheduled for approval at the June 21st council meeting. There was one change requested by the Council. The sentence, "*shall require a recommendation by the Parks and Open Space Commission and approval by the City Council*" will be changed. The wording change was of a technical nature that keeps the approval of the funds under the council's authority, making it consistent with how other funds are handled.

Park Management Plans and Parks & Trails Stewardship

Fred Evander handed out short-term parks plans for Boy & Dog Park, Cascade Walkway, Generation Park, Hladky Park, Seawall Park and the Area Behind the Library and City Hall. Fred explained that parks plans provide ready-made wish lists for getting individuals involved in projects, plus will aggregate common needs such as mulching.

Fred asked the commissioners to think about whether the Commission should focus on small opportunities across a number of parks or focus on one park. There was a discussion that "natural areas" should have a focus on nature not people, while "parks" are where people predominate. The commission discussed having individual commissioners provide leadership in an area where they have a passion or interest.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA & TIME

The Commission agreed that future meetings will be from 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Mayor Paul Samuelson and previous Commission chair, Leah Green, joined at the end of the meeting. Leah came to have closure to her leaving the Commission to pursue other volunteer interests with the City. She stated her appreciation working with the Commission and the wonderful collaboration with the members. Mayor Samuelson expressed his gratitude and appreciation for Leah's leadership as the founding chair and the hard work and great foundation that she helped to put in place. The group adjourned to The Edgecliff to thank Leah and welcome Tucker and Cathy.

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Open Space Commission will occur Monday, July 12, 2010 at 3:00 pm. Kathleen Landel recorded the minutes for the meeting.

(NOTE: The July 12, 2010 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will occur Monday, August 9, 2010 at 3:00 pm.)