

Minutes of the North Bend Parks Commission Meeting of October 26, 2011
Minutes are draft until approved at the following Parks Commission Meeting.

Attendance:

- Parks Commissioners in attendance: Yvonne Dalke, Karen Wallace, Chris Moore, Cody Roell.
- Parks Commissioners absent: Eric Thompson (notified ahead), Phil Lacefield (notified ahead), John Fredenburg.
- Staff in attendance: Mike McCarty, Senior Planner
- Guest in attendance: Michele Khouri

The meeting was called to order at 6:00.

Minutes of the September 28, 2011 Parks Commission Meeting

Karen Wallace made a motion to approve the September 28 meeting minutes, seconded by Cody Roell. The motion passed unanimously.

Tollgate Farm Park Plans

Mike presented the park plans and two playground equipment alternatives proposed by the Si View Metropolitan Park District (MPD) for the improvements to Tollgate Farm Park.

The Parks Commission had the following recommendations on the playground equipment:

- Option B should be used for the playground equipment (containing the double slide, the gyro-pod spinner, etc.) The Parks Commission preferred this overall option as it had more diverse options for play, and allowed better opportunities for chase-type play on and through the equipment. The Parks Commission particularly liked the dual slide and the gyro-pod spinner, which would likely be popular with kids.
- One of the sets of monkey bars on Option B should be replaced with another type of play equipment to provide greater variety in the equipment. The Parks Commission suggested either replacing the "loop traverse" monkey bars with a gliding roller "track ride," or to replacing the "360 horizontal ladder" monkey bars with a dome-climber or other 3-dimensional climber that can be climbed in, around and on top of.
- If possible, the arch bridge should be replaced with a bouncy suspension bridge, as the Parks Commission felt that kids would prefer this more interactive-type of bridge.
- The Parks Commission recommended replacing the benches at the playground with a low cement seating-wall separating the playground from the landscaped areas immediately adjacent to the playground. This low wall would serve as a bench, while better preventing the landscaping from being trampled and keeping the bark and wood chips from inter-mingling.

The Parks Commission also had the following recommendations on the overall site and landscape plan for the park:

- If parks-maintenance staff are ok with this and proper care and pruning can be arranged, a few of the landscape trees should be replaced with fruit trees (perhaps 4) to reflect the farmstead-heritage of the park, and to provide an opportunity for park users to enjoy fruits directly off the trees in season. If implemented, the fruit trees should be in a location away from the parking lot and

playground, to avoid mess from dropping fruit and potential for fruit throwing. The parks commission recommended utilizing apple, cherry, and plum trees appropriate to local climate and conditions.

- For the pre-cast concrete-form restroom building, the more simple board and batten and horizontal siding profile should be used rather than the simulated river-rock profile, to better reflect the character of agricultural out-buildings, consistent with the vision of the Tollgate Farm Central Meadow Master Plan. The building should be painted with the same colors as the farmhouse.
- Mike also noted that a 10-foot Type 2 landscape buffer between the parking lot and the perimeter property line would be required, and that the sidewalk-“islands” in the parking lot would need to be expanded to include trees, for conformance to the City’s landscape regulations.

Urban Forestry Plan and Street Tree Regulations

Mike presented the draft Urban Forestry Plan and Street Tree Regulations, containing suggested edits provided by Davey Resource Group, the consultant that prepared the City’s Public Tree Inventory. The Parks Commission decided to accept all of the edits suggested by Davey Resource Group, except their suggestion to not exempt native species from the policy of planting generally no greater than 10% of a species or 20% of a genus in the overall public tree population. Mike and the Parks Commission felt that native tree species are important to the identity and character of North Bend, and that if there were a pest problem with a native species, it would be a regional and not just local issue to address.

Mike also presented the draft Street Tree Regulations, which would be a new chapter of the North Bend Municipal Code, and which would implement the goals and policies of the Urban Forestry Plan by requiring street tree permits to plant, prune or remove street trees. Parks Commissioners re-iterated their concerns that the City provide multiple means of public outreach to ensure that residents are aware of where they are responsible for the maintenance of street trees in front of their properties, as provided in the plan. Mike stated that he would develop an Urban Forestry/ Street tree web page on the City’s website to clarify these requirements, and provide this information in the City’s newsletter and via other media.

Yvonne Dalke provided a motion, seconded by Chris Moore, to recommend approval of the Urban Forestry Plan and Street Tree Regulations. The motion passed unanimously. Mike stated that the Parks Commission (Tree Board) recommendation would be provided to the Planning Commission for consideration of the regulations, and both the recommendation of the Parks Commission and Planning Commission would be provided to the City Council to consider adoption of the plan and regulations.

Chair and Vice Chair for 2012

Mike informed the Parks Commission that per NBMC 2.24.090, the Parks Commission needs to elect a new chairperson once a year. The Parks Commissioners chose to elect Chris Moore as Chair, and Karen Wallace as Vice Chair. The new terms of office will become effective January 1, 2012.

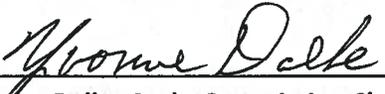
Special Meeting Times for November and December

Due to the holidays, the Parks Commission agreed to meet on November 16 and December 14 rather than the usual fourth Wednesday of the month.

Adjournment - The Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Next Meeting - The next meeting of the Parks Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16 at 6pm.

Approval of Parks Commission Minutes:



Yvonne Dalke, Parks Commission Chair



Mike McCarty, Senior Planner

Minutes prepared by Mike McCarty

