

Minutes of the North Bend Parks Commission Meeting of February 22, 2012
Minutes are draft until approved at the following Parks Commission Meeting.

Attendance:

- Parks Commissioners in attendance: Chris Moore, Phil Lacefield, Eric Thompson, Yvonne Dalke.
- Parks Commissioners absent: Karen Wallace, John Fredenburg (notified ahead).
- Staff in attendance: Mike McCarty, Senior Planner
- Guests in attendance: Richard Anderson, Northwest Railway Museum; Councilmember Ryan Kolodejchuk

The meeting was called to order at 6:00.

William H. Taylor Park Improvements

Per their 2012 work plan request, the Parks Commission discussed the potential for additional railroad-related improvements at William H. Taylor (Railroad) Park and the North Bend Depot. Guest Richard Anderson, Executive Director of the Northwest Railway Museum, presented suggested improvements that the Museum would like to eventually pursue at the park. These included the following:

1. A display shelter, approximately 95' x 20', in which railroad cars or locomotives could be displayed in front of the depot (extending the tracks as necessary). The shelter would need to have a roof and secure enclosure to reduce liabilities and protect the equipment from weather, vandalism and theft, akin to the log-pavilion display shelter in Snoqualmie.
2. Platform/paving improvements at the depot, to provide a safer and easier track crossing for pedestrians between the street and the depot. The platform would be about 300 feet long, and would increase the connectivity of the depot and the downtown area.
3. Reconstruction of the original turn-around track, including a connection of the passing track back to the main track. This turn-around track, originally located behind the depot and crossing E. Park Street, formed a triangle so that locomotives could make return trips to Snoqualmie pulling the railroad cars (as opposed to having to push them backwards as is the current operation).

Mike McCarty additionally suggested removing some of the trees immediately west of the depot that have overgrown the area, which contribute to an overly-shaded and enclosed feel, and revising the landscaping to create a terminal vista from the end of Ballarat Avenue and better connection to the downtown. This could incorporate a flagpole at the terminus of Ballarat. The Parks Commissioners discussed how landscape improvements would open up the park and might thereby discourage vagrancy, which has been a concern of park users.

The Parks Commission was favorable to all of the ideas above. Mike suggested that if the Parks Commission wished to provide a recommendation to the Council on these items, that they consider a two-tiered recommendation as follows:

1. Add the display shelter, platform/paving improvements, and landscaping improvements to the Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan and Parks Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).
2. Request feedback from the City Council (at a Council Workstudy) as to whether to further explore the idea of the bypass and turn-around track. This track would significantly alter the existing park,

would create additional noise and activity impacts to adjacent property owners, and could require additional crossing measures at E. Park Street. However, it could also create a more active space in the park enjoyed by tourists and railroad enthusiasts, creating more of a draw to the downtown. If the Council wished to add this to the Parks Element and CIP, staff and the Parks Commission would then spend additional efforts preparing a recommendation for it and considering relevant issues.

The Parks Commission wished to move forward with this approach. Richard Anderson stated that he would determine whether crossing E. Park Street would be necessary for the turn-around track and inform Mike.

Roundabout Re-Landscape Proposal

Councilmember Ryan Kolodejchuck and the Parks Commission discussed re-landscaping the roundabout on North Bend Way, continued from the discussion at their last meeting. The Parks Commission and CM Kolodejchuck discussed the overall theme of the project, which would be to create a mountain-like landscape design in the roundabout, reflecting North Bend's mountain-culture atmosphere. Project components would include the following:

1. Digging up and temporarily setting aside the existing vegetation to replant once the earthwork and irrigation work has been completed;
2. Placing approximately 15 ton of granite boulders used to terrace additional levels of soil in the roundabout island (approximately 90 cubic yards of fill and topsoil);
3. Providing approximately 10 ton of river cobble to create streambed areas;
4. Installing irrigation within the roundabout, with a separate irrigation zone for the seasonal flower areas (#6 below);
5. Supplementing the replanted existing trees and shrubs with additional clusters of alpine fir trees and other similar mountain vegetation;
6. Providing three irrigated half-circle focal areas for future seasonal flower plantings (reserved for groups that may adopt the roundabout through the Adopt-a-Park program): one in front of the sign, one at the terminus of Cedar Falls Way and one at the terminus of eastbound North Bend Way.
7. Placing steerco (instead of bark) as a top cover over remaining bare soil.

Mike stated that if the Parks Commission wished to pursue the roundabout project, it should be added as a project in the Parks Capital Facilities Plan in the Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Doing so would enable the use of Park Impact Fee revenue and state grant eligibility for the project. The Parks Commission requested that we do this.

Mike stated that he would meet with and describe this concept to resident Kurt Taylor, who has agreed to provide the landscape plan for the project. CM Kolodejchuk stated that he would commit to providing the boulders and earthwork. The Parks Commission provided a recommendation to the Parks Foundation to use their remaining funds (estimated at \$3000) toward the plants for the project. Mike stated that he would prepare a recommendation memo to send to the Parks Foundation regarding this.

Amendments to the Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan

Mike described a recommendation to amend the Parks Trail Plan Map (figure 8.2 of the Comprehensive Plan) to provide a proposed trail connection in the Tanner area, consistent with a simultaneous recommendation by the Planning Commission to address this in the Transportation Element. The proposed trail would cross

the vacant DOT Tanner Pit property, the Tannerwood Subdivision (which has already provided a segment of this trail), and the vacant Segale property. This trail would allow off-street bicycle and pedestrian route through a significant residential area, connecting the Wood River neighborhood and trail system southwest to 140th Street, where it would link to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail and future Tanner Trail. The Parks Commission recommended adding this trail to the map.

Minutes of the December 14, 2011 Parks Commission Meeting

Phil Lacefield made a motion to approve the December 14 meeting minutes, seconded by Eric Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment - The Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Next Meeting - The next meeting of the Parks Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28 at 6pm.

Approval of Parks Commission Minutes:



~~Yvonne Dalke, Parks Commission Chair~~
Chris Moore



Mike McCarty, Senior Planner

Minutes prepared by Mike McCarty

