

Minutes of the North Bend Parks Commission Meeting of June 17, 2019
Minutes are draft until approved at the following Parks Commission Meeting

Attendance:

- Parks Commissioners in attendance: Judy Bilanko, Kyle Braun, Minna Rudd, Eric Thompson, and Brian Duncan
- Parks Commissioners absent: Mark Correira, Kassi Winter
- Staff in attendance: Mike McCarty, Senior Planner, Lynn Hyde, Economic Development Manager and Planner, Bre Keveren, Special Events & VIC Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

May 22, 2019 Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

Minutes were passed unanimously.

North Bend Arts and Industry Presentation, Proposal to Join Parks Commission

Debra Landers and Beth Burrows from the North Bend Arts and Industry (NBA&I) organization presented to the Parks Commission, with a proposal for the Parks Commission to have an Arts advisory member (or members). The Parks Commission discussed the following:

- There is a lot of overlap opportunity between Arts and Parks.
- Mike McCarty noted: Parks Commission formally encompasses the *parks* and the *beautification* in their charter, and Parks Commission has the ability in this charter to obtain non-voting advisory members.
- Lynn Hyde noted: Debra Landers and Beth Burrows have a connection with the art community in the City. They and we are looking for ways to infuse public art and utilize their expertise.
- Mike noted: The purpose of this presentation is for Parks Commission to hear NBA&I's ideas; no decisions need to be made this evening.
- Debra noted that her and Beth represent two organizations: the North Bend Downtown Foundation and NBA&I.
- Beth noted: Background: NBA&I started with an old, dilapidated building that was discovered to be the last unique locomotive shed in the Valley, built by the Gardiner Vinnedge family in 1924. Since then, they have been working to turn it into an art creation space, where the community can watch artists work, create and sell art.
- Debra noted: The Downtown Foundation is looking to hire the Watershed company to create a "spine of art / creative spine" throughout the Valley; eventually connecting with more communities through public art. Debra explained the "spine of art / creative spine": Watershed would look at how people flow through town; where they gather; where they stop.
Brief outline of process: 1.) Collaborate with all stakeholders and with citizens; 2.) Create the vision; 3.) Watershed would plan and help figure out how to fund it all.
- Debra noted: We think we could get real synergy going; acting in an advisory position with the Parks Commission could be beneficial for everyone. All of this is opportunity in some form for art to be part of that. We believe it is in line with what Parks Commission wants to do.
- Beth reviewed the NBA&I handout with the Parks Commission.

- Mike noted: One caution to offer: The Art Barn and North Bend Arts and Industry is not a public facility or organization, so the Parks Commission would need to be careful that the arts advisory member wasn't just representing the interests of their private organization.

- Kyle Braun disclosed to the Parks Commission that he works for Watershed, and as such, will not make any attempt to convince anyone in any way to work with Watershed.

- Mike noted: There needs to be awareness of what is happening with the Parks Commission, so we aren't multiplying what is already being worked on. We cannot take the lead on a lot of things due to staff constraints, but NBA&I can bring items to the Parks Commission to bring a recommendation to Council.

Lynn noted: Idea: Art to guide people along the trail to Torguson Park.

- Debra agreed, and noted the importance of identifying Landmark Trees and historical buildings, as an integral part of local culture.

- Kyle noted the importance of City branding and unifying that throughout all trail and other City signage.

- Judy Bilanko posed the question: How far would the spine of art extend? Upper Valley? North Bend, Fall City, Snoqualmie...All the way down the loop, or just North Bend?

- Beth answered: The entirety of the spine would go all the way to Duvall, but the hub of the spine would be in North Bend. Debra added: We are still in the infancy of this here with NBA&I, but to eventually have collaboration with other connecting communities would be wonderful.

- Beth noted a recent Savor Snoqualmie Arts meeting, where other community arts organizations were discussing partnering.

- Kyle asked where the Art Barn idea came from.

- Beth answered: We wanted a space that is not developed with new homes; a space devoted to art. Deb noted that North Bend already has the artists; the only thing needed now is a space devoted to art.

This concluded the presentation from NBA&I.

Follow-up:

Mike posed the question: Any follow-up discussion or questions to provide?

-Judy asked to think about this proposal, and noted that the importance of bringing all commissioners into the loop.

- Minna Rudd agreed, and noted that Parks Commission must consider if the Commission is requesting one advisory committee member or multiple.

- Mike added: We also do not want this to act only as a funnel of NBA&I's interest to Council – should be more broad. Minna added: It might be beneficial to have one more art representative that is not a representative of NBA&I participating as an advisory committee.

Parks Commissioners will deliberate at the next Parks Commission meeting and discuss.

Council Work Study – Riverwalk Discussion

Lynn Hyde summarized the Council's discussion at the May 28 Workstudy regarding the proposed Riverwalk along the South Fork Snoqualmie River in the downtown area. Most important to Council:

Focus on the right bank; focus on Phase I along Riverfront Park; that will involve working with property owners who at this point have not been interested in providing easements or selling.

- Mike noted: Eventually we would want to get more business interest along the trail, which could involve some rezoning.
- The plan is for both banks to eventually be development. City Council prefers starting with the right bank, given proximity to development and Riverfront Park.
- There is benefit in a more urban feeling trail and a more rural feeling trail (also provides for flooding, future changes, etc.); keeping some trail gravel, and some asphalt.
- City Council provided direction for Parks Commission to continue with this effort. Parks Commission to create future workshops on this.
- Lynn noted: We will approach these property owners thoughtfully before making it public.
- Judy noted: If the trail is welcoming; attractive, it will encourage property owners to be open to this change; it changes the entire dynamic. Example: Torguson Park improvements: Created a whole different feeling for the neighboring homes; it is beautiful, and it was done right. Great comparison, Mike noted. Mike asked Minna if she experienced similar concerns from property owners during trail building at Si View Park. Minna answered: No. Minna noted that everyone around the park takes excellent care of it; acting as "eyes and ears" of Torguson Park.
- Kyle noted: When you activate a space with positive changes, it discourages negative, detrimental actions. Judy noted: But this is people's property. Mike noted the importance of understanding their fears, and acknowledging it.
- Brian asked how often property owners complain about squatters. Judy answered: About once a year. Police come out and help clean up.
- Staff need to make the contact, get initial conversation going.

Downtown Block Party

Parks Commission created volunteer booth time slots, discussed plan of action for July 20, 2019.


June 28th 5pm Grand Opening Community Walk Event – Tollgate and Meadowbrook Connector Trails to Snoqualmie Valley Trail

Si View staff, King County and Mayor Hearing will attend. Everyone will meet at 5:00 pm at the Kiosk, and take a leisurely walk down the trail, utilizing the new connector trail.

Lynn asked: Could Parks be a stakeholder on the group where NBA&I potentially begins moving on Watershed project? How do we make sure the Parks Commission is represented on this project that involves public parks? Can we have a representative? Or can a Watershed representative attend a meeting? Kyle offered to attend, but wants to ensure he is following proper procedure, as he is also a Parks Commissioner. Lynn asked: Would you be willing to partner in some way, shape or form in this Master Plan? Parks Commission: Judy yes, Kyle yes, Brian yes. Will check to see if Kyle can participate.

Next Meeting - August 28, 2019

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.



Judy Bilanko, Parks Commission Chair
Minutes prepared by Bre Keveren



Mike McCarty, Senior Planner