

Minutes of the North Bend Parks Commission Meeting of May 24, 2023

Attendance:

- Parks Commissioners in attendance: Minna Rudd, Tim Talevich, Brian Duncan, Kyle Braun
- Commissioners absent: Mark Correia, Eric Thompson, Paige Robbins.
- Staff in attendance: Principal Planner Mike McCarty.

No members of the general public participated in the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. at Gardiner Weeks Park, 411 Main Ave. S.

Minutes of the April 19, 2023 joint Parks Commission/Planning Commission Meeting

Commissioner Braun made a motion to approve the minutes as provided. Commissioner Duncan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tollgate Farm Farmstead Improvements Ribbon Cutting Celebration

Minna Rudd noted that the ribbon cutting for the barn and new parking lot at the Tollgate Farmstead will be on June 14 at 5pm. Parks Commissioners were encouraged to attend.

Park Planning for William H. Taylor Park and Riverfront Park

Mike McCarty noted that there will be a public workshop hosted by the City's consultant Site Workshop on the park planning for William H. Taylor Park and Riverfront Park at City Hall on June 13 at 5pm for the purpose of presenting alternative concepts that Site Workshop developed for the parks based on earlier public feedback received and analysis of the sites.

Oaktober Celebration idea from resident

Mike McCarty noted that a local resident, Terry Pottmeyer, is interested to host an Oaktober Celebration at EJ Roberts Park promoting the value of trees and the large oaks growing within that park. Mike asked the Parks Commissioners if they wished to meet with Ms. Pottmeyer to discuss further to determine if Ms. Pottmeyer's efforts could be incorporated into the City's Arbor Day recognition this year. The Commissioners wished to meet with Ms. Pottmeyer at their June meeting to discuss further.

Annual Park Tour

The Parks Commission commenced their park tour to evaluate needs within the parks for maintenance, to update the Parks Maintenance list for consideration by City staff for use of the annual \$10,000 parks maintenance budget. Parks Commissioners reviewed the parks against the prior maintenance recommendations they provided to the City in 2021. The Parks Commission decided to visit Gardiner Weeks Park, Si View Neighborhood Park and EJ Roberts Park at this meeting, and will continue their tour to visit additional parks at their meeting next month. The Parks Commissioners are not visiting William H. Taylor Park or Riverfront Park this year as those parks already have planning processes underway for considering future improvements. The following is a summary of items noted at the parks visited at this meeting:

Gardiner Weeks Park

- Many of the site corrections requested on the Parks Commissions list from their 2021 park tour had been completed, including principally the paving safety corrections along the pathways.

- The gazebo remains in poor condition. Parks Commissioners recommend either removing it and placing a pad and picnic table there, or providing a major renovation of it, depending on input from the Senior Center on how they use it or wish to see it used.
- The trees around the gazebo should be extensively limbed up to open up this area more for greater visibility through the park and make it less dark.
- The ivy around the gazebo should be removed, as well as the ivy at the base of the trees near the river.
- Dying birch tree in the middle of the lawn area between the Senior Center and Bendigo Boulevard should be removed and its stump and stump from previous dead fir tree should be ground.
- Add 2-3 picnic tables to the park.
- Paved pathway improvements should be constructed between the Senior Center, parking lot, and the Snoqualmie Valley History Museum, as the way to get to the museum is currently just across grass lawn.
- There may be opportunities for outdoor museum displays that could also benefit the park. Further coordination with the Museum could inform what this could be.
- Additional signage within the park could be provided to direct people from the parking lot to the museum (that could be coordinated by the Museum).
- Mike McCarty will seek additional input from Senior Center director Susan Kingsbury Comeau and Museum coordinator Christy Lake for park improvements that could benefit these facilities.

Si View Neighborhood Park

- The repairs to the play equipment have been completed, and they look good.
- Playground wood chip borders are significantly deteriorated and need to be replaced.
- A sand volleyball court or other elements requested by the public in the 2022 Parks Survey could be added in the large lawn area behind the pickleball court.
- Parks Commissioners determined that this park is not a good candidate for adding multiple pickleball courts (for tournament play) as there is insufficient parking.

EJ Roberts Park:

- Most of the maintenance needs identified on the 2021 maintenance list have been addressed.
- Within the swale area of EJ Roberts Park south of the tennis courts (within the River Glen neighborhood area), the grass is significantly deteriorated. A pollinator seed mix that is mowed only periodically, or a sand volleyball court might be good in this area.
- Pickleball Court striping should be added to the tennis courts. The Parks Commissioners confirmed they wish to use a part of their 2023 Small Park Improvement funds for this purpose. Mike McCarty noted that Public Works is currently getting an estimate for the work, for completion this summer.
- Anti-slip surfacing should be added to the bridges. Was previously there, but appears to have worn off.
- Fill in multiple small depressions/divits in the lawn area to correct trip hazards and smooth the field.
- Larger project needed is to repave the parking area adjacent to Thrasher Avenue, which is deteriorated, uneven, and full of holes.

Other discussion items

- Parks Commissioners discussed the Parks Commission establishing a Parks Commission webpage where they could post volunteer project ideas for the adopt-a-park program and Eagle Scout Projects, and seek public input for use of the Small Park Improvement fund and maintenance needs.
- Park directional signage should be added at key points along the Tanner Trail providing direction to pedestrians and bikes to Torguson Park, Si View Community Park, and Dahlgren Family Park.

Next Meeting

The Parks Commissioners will continue their tour at their next meeting on June 28, including visiting Torguson Park, Dahlgren Family Park and Tollgate Farm Park.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30pm, and followed the meeting with a social barbecue at EJ Roberts Park.

Minutes prepared by Mike McCarty