

Minutes of the North Bend Parks Commission Meeting of Jan. 24, 2024

Minutes are draft until approved at the following Parks Commission Meeting

The meeting, held in person at North Bend City Hall, was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Attendance:

- Parks Commissioners in attendance: Tim Talevich, Kyle Braun, Eric Thompson (via Zoom), Brian Duncan, Kaylie McGhee and Matt Miller. Absent: Minna Rudd.
- Staff in attendance: Senior Planner Mike McCarty

Public Input

Bruce Chapman, representing the American Concrete Institute, presented the 2023 ACI Excellence Award to North Bend and the Si View Parks District for the Torguson Park Skate Park. Our local park took 1st Place in the Decorative Concrete Category. This international competition recognizes outstanding concrete projects, with nominees submitted from around the world. Representatives from Grindline Concrete Skatepark Design & Construction were on hand to receive the award, as well as Si View Parks Commissioners Susan Kelly and Mark Joselyn, representing Si View Parks.

Also, three local citizens interested in creating a community garden in North Bend gave a presentation on their plans. They showed slides of the concept, and are seeking a third to a half acre of flat land with water that is accessible to all residents, preferably in a central location. The presentation included: information on potential sites, including near the Senior Center; garden oversight by a volunteer board; funding options; and a tentative development timeline. Commission members suggested helpful ideas could come from existing gardens on Snoqualmie Ridge and Kirkland. Principal Planner McCarty mentioned potential land available on King County property along the Snoqualmie Valley Trail near the Twin Rivers school site. The citizens said they would do further research and would make a more formal proposal to the city in the near future.

Minutes of the Nov. 29, 2023 Parks Commission Meeting

Commissioner Braun made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner McGhee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dahlgren Family Park Canoe Play Structure

As part of the Dahlgren Family Park, plans were to include a canoe to reflect the river theme of the park. The purchased version of the canoe structure resembles a tribal canoe, so city staff contacted the Snoqualmie Tribe for consultation. The Tribe suggested that the city commission a Snoqualmie Tribe artist to paint the canoe in an appropriate design, and that interpretive signs reflecting tribal history be included in the project. \$15,000 is estimated for the project, including \$5,000 for commissioning the artist and \$10,000 for additional signs. Commissioner

Braun motioned to approve the expenditure from Park Impact Fees, or from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds if necessary, with Commissioner Duncan seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Dog Park Planning

A requested item in the 2022 Parks Survey was a dog park within North Bend. Principal Planner McCarty shared several potential sites for this new amenity. Several potential sites are on King County property, along the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. Commission members suggested that: 1) the city draft a letter to King County to express interest in working collaboratively on these sites; and 2) a survey be posted on the city web page to gauge public preference on a location. Commissioner McGhee volunteered to draft the survey questions for review at the next Commission meeting.

Pickleball Courts at Dahlgren Family Park

New Home Co., developers of a multifamily project just west of the Dahlgren Family Park, have dropped their original plans for a clubhouse building and in its place have proposed a pickleball court to make up for required recreation space. The pickleball facility would be in the adjacent Dahlgren Family Park, vs. within the development, so that it's open to the public. The court is to be funded and constructed by the developer. The current proposal shows land set aside for a possible second court in the future. Commissioner Braun suggested that it might save money to build both courts at the same time, with ARPA funds potentially being used for the project. McCarty said he would look at any legal issues relating to blending city and private work on the project. Braun made a motion to support using ARPA funds for the second court, if possible; Commissioner Talevich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Urban Forest Canopy Assessment

McCarty gave a brief overview of the Urban Tree Canopy Assessment, which was financed by a regional grant. He proposed incorporating recommendations from the assessment into the city's Comprehensive Plan, in the Energy and Sustainability Element section, under Urban Forestry. The additions consist of 10 goals related to enhancing the health and vitality of North Bend's urban forest canopy. Commissioner Braun made a motion to approve the policies as written; Commissioner Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Parks Revitalization

The city has \$150,000 in ARPA funds for parks revitalization to spend by the end of the year. These funds must be spent on projects ready to go, vs. ones requiring long-range planning. Commissioners were asked to pick five top projects from a potential list, and agreed on these five: 1) a batting cage at Torguson Park; 2) playground curbing/surround improvements in Si View play areas; 3) asphalt repair to the parking stalls at E.J. Roberts Park; 4) new asphalt paths at the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum; 5) a picnic shelter at Tollgate Farm.

Next Meeting

The Commission will meet next on March 27, 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Tim Talevich