



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, June 23, 2015 – 5:30 PM
Lakewood City Hall – Council Chambers
6000 Main Street SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

MEMBERS

Jason Gerwen, Chair
Sylvia Allen
J. Alan Billingsley
Vito Iacobazzi, Vice Chair
Anessa McClendon
Tanja Scott
Heinz Haskins

Don Anderson, Council Liaison

STAFF

Mary Dodsworth, Director

Persons requesting special accommodations contact Cameron at 253-589-2489 as soon as possible in advance of this meeting so that an attempt to meet a special accommodation need can be made.

CALL TO ORDER

ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL

APPROVAL of May 27, 2015 MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENT

NEW BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gathering Spaces – Update

Code Update – model airplanes in parks

DIRECTORS REPORT

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

NEXT PRAB MEETING – TBD -

Dates to consider July 21 or 28, 2015 - 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURN



**LAKWOOD PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, MAY 27, 2015 – 5:30 PM
Lakewood City Hall
Council Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER

Vito Iacobazzi, Vice chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

ATTENDANCE

PRAB Members Present: Vito Iacobazzi; Alan Billingsley; Annessa McClendon, Sylvia Allen, Heinz Haskins and Youth Council member Jack Bowen.

PRAB Member Excused: Jason Gerwen, Tanja Scott

Staff Present: Mary Dodsworth, Director; Cameron Fairfield, Office Assistant

Council Liaison: Don Anderson, Mayor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Heinz Haskins moved and Alan Billingsley seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2015 meeting as presented. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Gardens / Urban Agriculture: Heidi Wachter, City attorney, gave a brief introduction and reviewed the memo provided regarding community gardens, farmers markets and urban agriculture. The purpose of the discussion was to review the topics and determine if new codes or changes to the City code are required. Heidi noted that there are current codes, permitting and enforcement procedures that are used for these topics / uses. Sylvia asked about liability related to city support of community garden sites or farmers markets. There were comparisons made to other community gardens around the surrounding area such as Tacoma and Pierce County. It was explained that this is not an urgent issue and we will update Council soon and provide additional information or request feedback as needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Gathering Spaces: Mary Dodsworth reviewed the work that has been done at previous meetings regarding this topic, including listing Issues, impacts and solutions as well as the pros and cons of various structural aesthetics. Based on previous feedback three potential locations at the park and five preliminary designs were discussed. Paul Casey, a local architect, described the different design elements for each option. Staff noted that size / scale was not important for our next exercise as each design could be created as small or large as needed for space, activities, budget, etc... Tonight we are looking at design options.

Speed Dating - Meeting guests were broken into five groups where they had an opportunity to share their likes, dislikes, and general comments regarding design elements and site locations. After everyone had rotated to each station and shared their input, a leader from each group shared the general consensus about each design. Everyone was given six dots and asked to vote on the design they liked most. Following the exercise there was no additional public comment.

Code Update: Council directed PRAB to review the issues regarding model aircraft in parks and recommend potential code or policy changes. The board reviewed this topic and the current municipal code and developed a list of issues at their February meeting. A subcommittee met in March for further discussion. A matrix was developed to look at issues, impacts and solutions. Suggestions were made regarding potential areas at the park that may be used, code language changes and administrative rules. Questions (and answers) from the board and public included how many people / aircraft could fit in this area (six at a time); would we fence off the area (possibly); is there standard use times or hobbyist protocol for length of time in an area when people are waiting, how would we make sure walkers are safe (flags or signage), and why are we opposed to allowing fueled aircraft (noise and fire danger). A group of hobbyists volunteered to help manage the area (like we do at the dog park). Board will take action at next meeting.

Joint Meeting with Council: Board reviewed the PRAB draft work plan and suggested the following questions be included in presentation: what are the 2016-17 big ideas, does our work program align with Council goals, are they satisfied with the public processes we've been managing, how will we fund Legacy Plan projects in the future, how will organizational changes affect parks and recreation? Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. in advance of June 8 meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Mary reviewed the monthly director's report and upcoming meeting schedule.

BOARD COMMENTS: None

NEXT MEETING: The next PRAB business meeting is scheduled Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Lakewood City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Sylvia moved to adjourn the meeting and Heinz seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Jason Gerwen, Chairman

Mary Dodsworth, Director

TO: Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)

FROM: Mary Dodsworth, Director

SUBJECT: Code Update – model airplanes in parks

Summary: Council directed PRAB to review issues regarding model aircraft in parks and recommend potential Lakewood Municipal Code (LMC) or policy changes. The board reviewed this topic and the current municipal code and developed a list of issues at their February meeting. A subcommittee met in March for further discussion. A matrix was developed to look at issues, impacts and solutions (attached). Suggestions were made regarding potential areas at the park that may be used, code language changes and administrative rules.

Recommendations:

1. Code Change Recommendations: 08.76.500 - Model Aircraft and Rockets:
No person shall fly rockets or model radio controlled aircraft in any park area unless in a designated area.

Justification: This would outlaw radio controlled planes in all City Parks unless they were in an area determined to be big enough and safe enough for use. The site would be in an area that could be monitored and activities altered based on other uses in the area.

2. Move LMC section 08.76.500 from Part V (misdemeanors) to Part III – (infractions).

Justification: This would make it easier for police to enforce.

3. Establish the model airplane fly zone in overflow parking area across from the red barn near the cemetery.

Justification: this area is not programmed space and is used the least amount of time for overflow parking. It is out of visual range from Steilacoom Blvd and athletic fields to reduce “distraction” issues. No trees or buildings to create hazards. Can be roped or fenced off without limiting use by others. Access is from park road so easier to close to air traffic when needed for other uses.

4. Develop a set of Administrative Rules to govern use of the site.

Justification: The rules would be separate from the code and posted at the proposed site. This would give the city flexibility to add / remove / change rules based on how the area is being used. Rule suggestions include: electric aircraft only, no nitro or gasoline powered aircraft, flying in designated area only, must operate in a safe manner (no diving towards vehicle, people, animals or buildings), must yield to manned aircraft, must be kept in line of site, must maintain an altitude of less than 500 feet, flying outside of established area is prohibited, flying for commercial use must be permitted by the City and a City of Lakewood business license is required, pilots flying in First Person View must have a spotter, and City staff can close area to use at any time.

5. Develop a volunteer program to help educate park users, fund improvements and encourage safe use of area.

Justification: Volunteers are the eyes and ears of our park system and can help us identify issues, concerns, trends and solutions. They can also support site improvements with work parties, fund raising and procuring sponsorship.

| ISSUES | Impact / Solution |
|--|---|
| Safety | Park Users - awareness of area, first person view, require a spotter, Need signage or flags. Put on a park map and post on website. |
| | Park Land - parking areas to be defined, can't just drive up to spot, electric devices only, no fuel powered devices |
| | Vegetation – create no fly zones. Select an area to be used. |
| | Wildlife - hours of operation, select location to protect wildlife |
| Distraction to athletes and drivers | Create buffer zone. Do not put near roads or active sports fields. Develop hours of operation to avoid sporting events. Provide education to hobbyists. |
| Size of use area | 3 – 5 acres |
| Recreational vs Commercial | Recreation and personal use only / education Commercial users need a City of Lakewood Business license |
| Noise | Follow City code – Re: Decibel Levels and hours |
| Creates access to other areas: neighborhood areas WSH - Pierce College | Define location to restrict using park to access neighborhood areas WSH - Pierce College. |
| Hours of Operation | Allow when park is open. Closed at city discretion (when area is needed for other activities / events. Not open during cross country meets and events. |
| Site Improvements | What amenities are needed to support site. Keep area undeveloped. May need some fencing. All that is needed for a runway is a mowed area. No asphalt runways. Benches and garbage cans are nice for participants. |
| Supervision / Enforcement | Group can police themselves (self-monitoring like at dog park) Call Police/911 if safety issues are occurring. Change code from misdemeanor to infraction to make it easier for police to respond and site. |
| Cameras – Privacy | Must stay within established area. If they want to use unmanned airplanes for filming, must get special use permit. |
| Local / state / fed rules | Add to code that all local/state/federal rules must be followed so we don't have to update code if FAA changes rules or if rules change regarding police use, size, height, etc... |
| Signage / education | Need to educate users and non-users regarding location / rules. Signs are a must! Provide information on website, in Connections newsletter, etc... link to other websites for information/ education. |
| Battery vs fuel | Electric Only – no fuel |
| Size / weight of aircraft | Not exceed 15 pounds |