

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 05, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar



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A. CALL TO ORDER

PRAC Chair Ryan O'Shaughnessy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Josh Anderson, Ren Scott, Kaasáank' Andrew Williams, Paulette Schirmer

Absent: Charles Westmoreland, Portland Sarantopoulos, Emma Van Nes, Danika Swanson

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Parks & Recreation Director; Lauren Verrelli, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director; Neil Steininger, Assembly Liaison; Annie Carroll, Parks & Recreation Staff Liaison

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Ms. Schirmer to approve the agenda. *No objections were heard, and the agenda was approved.*

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from October 1, 2024

Ms. Scott noted correction was needed to the spelling of Lemon Creek on page 3 paragraph 4.

MOTION by Ms. Schirmer to approve the minutes as amended. *No objections were heard, and the minutes were approved*

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - *None*

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2. November 5 Agenda Overview

Mr. Schaaf shared that he will be reporting on unfinished business at Adair-Kennedy Park and sharing a presentation on several ongoing playground projects. Mr. Kaasáank' asks when it would be appropriate to inquire about the scoreboard malfunctioning at Adair-Kennedy Park. Mr. Schaaf shares that the department is aware of the scoreboards issues and technicians have been trying to get it fixed. It will likely need to be replaced, and discussing the funding source for that project would fit well into the discussion of the Capital Improvement Plan which will be on the agenda at the December meeting.

G. NEW BUSINESS- *None*

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. Adair-Kennedy Court Improvements – *Presented by G. Schaaf*

Mr. Schaaf shares with the PRAC that last spring staff presented a proposal for maintenance on the basketball and tennis courts at Adair-Kennedy Memorial Park. As part of that project, they wanted to update the courts to better suit the frequent users. The initial proposal was to reconfigure the space into 6 pickleball courts where the current tennis courts are, and to make the basketball court a shared tennis court. He explains that there was plenty of public support from pickleball players, but tennis players had concerns about the plan. Tennis players explained their usage had decreased because of the poor condition of the courts, but that they were excited to use the space once they were resurfaced. Tennis players met with staff to discuss issues with the proposed striping plan, and staff revised the

plans according to the U.S. Tennis Association's published court dimensions and with consideration to clear zones outside the lines. The Department worked with Corvus Design to create the new striping plan presented to the PRAC tonight. He presents this plan and explains that it is an interim solution, and that plans for Jackie Renninger Park envision a dedicated pickleball area with 8 courts. Once this is built the space at Adair-Kennedy Park will be converted back to tennis courts. He asks the PRAC for any questions, and for a recommendation on how to proceed.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy notes that the PRAC received several public comments in support of the revised striping plan which was included in the agenda packet for review.

Ms. Scott shares that though she was not on PRAC at the time this plan was initially proposed, she has had time to review the decisions. She asks if the previously discussed online reservation system for the courts has been implemented yet. Ms. Verrelli answers that reservations will be available online next summer. Mr. Anderson follows up with a question about if any limitations will be set on reserving the courts. Ms. Verrelli answers that there will be stipulations put in place to prevent users from reserving more than their fair share of time.

Mr. Kaasáank' asks how disputes over court use are being resolved, and how usage rules are enforced. Mr. Schaaf explains that to date dispute resolution has been mostly self-guided. He hopes the implementation of an online reservation system will help so busier parties can reserve the space in advance, while more casual players will still be able to drop in anytime the courts are free.

MOTION by Mr. Kaasáank' for the PRAC recommend the Department proceed with the reconfiguration of courts at Adair-Kennedy Memorial Park as shown in the revised plan. *No objections were heard, and the motion passed.*

4. RED FOLDER - Public Comments on Adair-Kennedy Court Improvements

I. STAFF REPORTS

5. Sigoowu Ye Park & Sit' Tuwan Park Playground Replacement Project – Presented by G. Schaaf

Mr. Schaaf presents the PRAC with designs and plans for the playground replacement projects undertaken at Sigoowu Ye Park & Sit' Tuwan Park. He explains that the Department currently maintains 13 playgrounds around the City, and that the school district maintains 6 at the different elementary schools in town. Parks and Recreation has a set goal to replace playground equipment every 15 years to maintain safety and reduce maintenance costs. A typical replacement cost is around \$500 – \$750 thousand.

Sigoowu Ye Park is in a residential area in Lemon Creek, and currently has 30-year-old climbing structures, swing sets, and slides, and a newer sculptural bike rack installed in 2014. In 2023 the Department and Corvus Design held a well-attended public meeting at the park to discuss what the neighborhood wanted to see in the park's redesign. Feedback was used in discussion with the playground vendor Exerplay Landscape Structures who helped draft the treehouse themed design for the new playground equipment. The plan includes a two tower climber for kids 5-12 years old, and a smaller structure for kids 3-5 years old. They also included several ground level accessible elements, and a swing bay with 2 belt swings and a tot swing. Additionally new lighting bollards, bear proof trashcans, and park furnishings will be added. The project's total budget is \$785,000, but after receiving a \$125,000 Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant the total cost to CBJ will be \$660,000. The LWCF is funded through offshore oil lease revenue and requires that the property be used for outdoor recreation in perpetuity, so that means the park will be there for a very long time.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy expresses his appreciation that the department was able to apply for, and receive the LWCF Grant because of its conservation purposes and also the cost savings for the City.

Mr. Kaasáank' asks about the pronunciation of the Parks name, to which Mr. Schaaf says he would appreciate any correction he can share. Mr. Kaasáank points out that based on the spelling of the end of the park's name is likely pronounced y-EH instead of y-EE.

Mr. Schaaf begins presenting the improvements planned for Si't Tuwan park located in the Mendenhall Valley. He explains that it is part of a Tlingit and Haida Housing Authority development along Kanat'a Deyi Street parallel to the base of Thunder Mountain. Currently the park features a couple of climbing structures, a Teeter Totter, a swing set with belt swings and tot swings, and finally a half court basketball court. A planning meeting was held at the park similar to the one for Sigoowu Ye. Feedback revealed that the neighborhood wanted the basketball court to stay, and for lighting to be present but remain unobtrusive. The new design retains the basketball court, and included a gated area for younger children to play, and a separate area for 5–12-year-old to play in. A swing gate will be added to the access to the Under Thunder Trail which will help prevent motorized vehicles from speeding through the playground. The budget is approximately \$550,00 for the project.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy asks if there are accessible features included in the design of this park like Sigoowu Ye park. Mr. Schaaf answered that both play structures will have accessible play features lower to the ground and the spinning toy between the structures will be accessible as well.

Mr. Anderson asked if these projects are approved or going out to bid later. Mr. Schaaf explains that they are procuring the playground equipment differently than they have in the past. There was a contract to design the park overall, but the equipment will be purchased through a cooperative purchasing agreement which allows the City to buy things that have already been competitively sourced by another community.

Mr. Kaasáank' shares that he noticed the parks have Tlingit names and shares that when the time comes to do dedication for the parks he can reach out to the indigenous community. Additionally, he asks if there has been any consideration for incorporating cultural language components into the park because he would like to share these plans with the Tlingit and Haida Community Council who might be interested in that endeavor. Mr. Schaaf answers that he is thankful for the offer and excited by the prospect of incorporating language components into the park. He says there are no set plans yet, but it's not too late to design signage or work with the playground manufacturers to include language elements in the design.

J. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. O'Shaughnessy shares that the committee will be reframing how they deliver liaison reports. PRAC liaisons are required on the Youth Activity Board (YAB), and the Lands Housing & Economic Development (LHED) Committee. Other boards which do not require PRAC liaisons will instead be represented through visiting staff or representatives. In the case of Trail Mix this would mean inviting Executive Director Megan Tabacek to PRAC to give an update once or twice a year. He then notes that the PRAC will need to nominate a new LHED Liaison.

Mr. Steininger shares with PRAC when LHED meetings will likely be held in the new year. After discussion a LHED Liaison is not appointed, and Mr. O'Shaughnessy proposes that it would be best to postpone electing a liaison until PRAC reconvenes with more members present in December.

Mr. Anderson shares that YAB met 2 weeks ago to discuss how to further simplify the grant application process. They are hopeful to get packets approved in December, and out to the public in January.

K. NEXT MEETING DATE - December 3, 2024

L. ADJOURNMENT With no further business to discuss the committee meeting adjourned at 6:18pm

Respectfully submitted by Annie Carroll on 11/26/2024. Approved at the December 3 PRAC meeting.