

**Snohomish City Council Workshop Minutes
February 4, 2020**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Kartak called the Snohomish City Council Joint Workshop with the Park and Recreation Board to order at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 4, 2020, in the Snohomish School District Resource Service Center, George Gilbertson Boardroom, 1601 Avenue D, Snohomish, Washington.

COUNCILMEMBERS/MAYOR PRESENT

Larry Countryman
Steve Dana
Judith Kuleta
Tom Merrill
Donna Ray
Linda Redmon
Jason Sanders
John Kartak, Mayor

STAFF PRESENT

Pat Adams, HR Manager and City Clerk
Debbie Burton (*late arrival 5:05 p.m.*)
Steve Schuller, City Administrator and
Utility General Manager
Brandi Whitson, Administrative Assistant

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Lya Badgley
John First
Rich Patton, Chair
Jesse Podoll

2. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** Park and Recreation Board Recommendations - 2021-2022 Budget

City Administrator and Utility General Manager Steve Schuller reviewed City park improvements and projects completed over the past ten years. He discussed possible funding available for park projects to include Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and the General Fund.

Park and Recreation Board member Lya Badgley explained why parks are important and noted green spaces act as gathering places where neighbors form social ties which produce stronger, safer neighborhoods and builds a sense of stewardship. In addition, there are many City strategic plan initiatives related to establishing parks, trails and green space.

Park and Recreation Board Chair Rich Patton shared highlights of past projects, which included parks naming, and approval of the Pilchuck Julia Landing plantings and the Boys & Girls Club Teen Room addition.

The Park and Recreation Board discussed and presented their initial proposed list of priorities for discussion with the City Council as follows:

- **Tree City USA.** Board members Jesse Podoll and John First discussed obtaining *Tree City USA* designation and indicated the City is very close to obtaining this designation. There are four standards to be met: 1) Dedicated Tree Board or City Department; 2) Tree Care Ordinance; 3) Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita, or \$20,000; and 4) Arbor Day observance with proclamation. Benefits include helping to gain financial support for tree projects, and, through signage, informing citizens and visitors that the community cares about its environment. Additional support related to marketing and tree tours could also be coordinated with Green Snohomish.
- **Facilities Reservation/Volunteer Coordinator.** Chair Patton explained the Board's proposal for the City to create a new staff position dedicated to reserving City facilities, such as ballfields, picnic shelters and the Carnegie Building. In addition, the position could coordinate volunteer programs and complete work in support of recreation activities in City parks.

Councilmember Kuleta requested the Board provide additional information on how the position can be funded and supported through reservation fees and marketing.

- **Improved Safety and Security in Parks.** Mr. Podoll discussed recent security and safety concerns at City parks. The Board would like to identify improvements and upgrades, including improved lighting, locks and cameras.

Council President Sanders supported researching engineering controls and possible coordination with other jurisdictions facing similar challenges in prioritizing and addressing identified safety and security concerns within City parks.

- **Ban of Glyphosate in Parks.** Chair Patton proposed banning the use of this herbicide in City parks.

Councilmember Merrill noted Green Snohomish is preparing to discuss this issue with the City Council at an upcoming meeting.

The Park and Recreation Board presented their proposed park capital project recommendations in order of priority, to be funded by Park Impact Fees, as follows:

- 1) **Averill Field.** The Board recommended Averill Field amenity improvements, to include restrooms, a gazebo, walkways, expanded playground and additional playground equipment.
- 2) **Homestead Park - Phase I.** Ms. Badgley explained the west side of Snohomish is experiencing growth, and the Park Board supports the development of a final master plan, with phased approach to development beginning with passive uses, such as walking paths, and a possible off-leash dog park.
- 3) **Cady Landing Connector Bridge.** Mr. First stated this is a vital project to connect the Riverfront Trail to Pilchuck Julia Landing. The connecting bridge and trail would go beneath the existing railroad trestle and over the small stream.

The Board indicated total available Park Impacts Fees are approximately \$800,000, with \$280,000 mandated to be expended during the upcoming budget cycle (2021-2022).

The City Council asked questions and discussed the Board's proposed priorities and projects, affirming those priorities would be examined further by the Council during their upcoming budget discussions.

Mayor Kartak thanked the Park and Recreation Board for their presentation.

3. **ADJOURN** at 5:55 p.m.

APPROVED this 18th day of February 2020

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

John Kartak, Mayor

Pat Adams, City Clerk