

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## City Council, Joint Meeting w/Parks & Recreation Commission March 19, 2012

Mayor Tom Odell called the Joint Meeting of the Sammamish City Council/Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 6:30 pm.

**Councilmembers present:** Mayor Tom Odell, Deputy Mayor John James, Councilmembers John Curley, Don Gerend, Ramiro Valderrama, Tom Vance and Nancy Whitten.

**Parks & Recreation Commission members present:** Krist Morrit, Steve Wright, Rena Brady, Larry Crandall, Brad Conner, Pauline Cantor, Hank Klein and Mary Doerrer. **Absent:** Judy Peterson

**Staff present:** City Manager Ben Yazici, Assistant City Manager Lyman Howard, Parks & Recreation Director Jessi Richardson, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director Linda Frkuska, Assistant City Attorney Kari Sand, and Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk, Lita Hachey.

### Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Roll was called. Larry Crandall led the pledge.

### Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** Councilmember Valderrama moved to approve the agenda. Deputy Mayor James seconded. Agenda was approved unanimously 7-0.

### Student Liaison Reports

- **Eastlake High School – Felipe Concha** – It has been a pretty busy time at Eastlake. The Tolo dance on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, was successful despite low attendance. Spring sports are starting up with track, boys' soccer, baseball, softball and girls' tennis. Winter sports have ended with the girls' basketball team making the playoffs. Students are registering for next year's classes and signing up for AP testing. Eastlake is still mourning the loss of SRO Officer Stan Chapin but now have a new SRO Officer Williams. Plateau Pink Day (a collaboration between Skyline and Eastside Catholic), is a field day event to raise awareness for cancer. Relay of life is in May, another cancer fundraiser. They are hosting an Unplugged Music Event, one of three per year, which is an open-mic evening of music.
  
- **Eastside Catholic High-Chad Brown**- Spring sports are starting with baseball, boys' soccer (3-0-1) and the girls' lacrosse team is doing well. The talent show is this Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> and on the weekend of March 31<sup>st</sup> the school play "Foot loose" will begin. Prom is in the beginning of May. The school will be losing their principal at the end of the year and his

replacement has not yet been announced. The annual school auction was held a few weeks ago. Tennis has been delayed due to the bad weather.

- **Skyline High School-Eric Thies** - Girls tennis and all other spring sports have begun. Plateau Pink day is approaching and everyone is hoping for a bigger attendance this year. The St. Patrick's Day celebration happened all last week. The internet video, KONY 20-12 has brought a lot of attention to the situation in Uganda with child soldiers. Seniors will be graduating in three months and International Baccalaureate testing will be in May along with AP testing.

### **Public Comment**

**Elizabeth Grayson, 22341 NE 22<sup>nd</sup> Street** – Ms. Grayson spoke about transparency and accountability within the City Council. At the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting Council approved a new \$700,000 permit tracking system and a 3.2% increase for the City Attorney contract. She feels that Sammamish should not be compared to Redmond, Issaquah and Bellevue as we don't have the same tax base. In this economy, why couldn't the computer system wait or why does the City attorney needs a cost of living increase? This is not the time to be spending this kind of money and she asks that the Council be more careful with our money.

**Charlie Goodrich, 22328 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street** –As councilmembers and stewards of Sammamish, there many key decisions that need to be made. These decisions should be based on good data. He sees improvements but more information needs to be provided to City Council to make these decisions. He asks that Council not make decisions before they have all the facts and information. As a citizen, he would like to see the decision-making methods improve to make sure we are making the best use of our resources.

### **Consent Calendar**

**Approval: Claims for period ending March 19, 2012 in the amount of \$968,013.09 for Check No. 31562 through No. 31667**

**Resolution: Accepting The Recreation Center Phase 1A: Secondary Access Driveway Project As Complete (R2012-490)**

**Approval: Minutes for the March 6, 2012 Regular Meeting**

**MOTION: Councilmember Curley moved to approve the consent calendar. Deputy Mayor James seconded. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.**

### **New Business**

**Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan Hand-off from Parks & Recreation Commission to City Council**

Parks & Recreation Director Jessi Richardson gave a staff report followed by Pauline Cantor, Chairperson for the Parks and Recreation Commission and Hank Klein, Vice-chairperson for the Parks and Recreation Commission (*presentation is available on the City's website at [www.ci.sammamish.wa.us](http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us)*)

**General Discussion:** Councilmember Whitten noted that the Six Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will be approved in June 2012 and the PRO plan needs to be approved along that same time line. Both plans will need to be adopted before the end of this year.

Councilmember Valderrama asked if the objectives outlined in the vision statement are weighed equally or in priority order. Ms. Cantor stated that they are meant to be of equal value but there is a hole in the NE quadrant as well as a hole in relation to an aquatic/in-door recreation facility. We need to maintain parks and the safety of playground equipment etc. Councilmember Valderrama would like to know if there is going to be a prioritized list given to Council.

Councilmember Whitten gave special thanks to the Parks staff and the Parks Commission for their hard work put into the PRO plan documents. She would like additional assessments on the needs of the ballfields and recreation fields.

Councilmember Gerend also thanked the Parks team and Commission and discussed moving forward with a scaled down version of the community aquatic center and perhaps a field house and pushing out other items on the list to 2015. Those capital dollars could be used for major projects. This concept could include partnering with another agency and reducing the burden on the citizens of Sammamish. The Money Magazine ratings have placed Sammamish in the 15<sup>th</sup> spot this year as "Best places to live in USA". We have been in the top 15 for the last three years.

Councilmember Curley would like to see some analysis done to show hard numbers on how many people use our parks and how often they use the parks before we spend more money on additional parks in Sammamish.

Councilmember Whitten feels the community center plan should proceed in on an adaptive management type of approach. If the community center moves forward then other project will significantly be moved out in time. We are anticipating a plan and design that the city can afford and as well as letting the people of Sammamish vote on it.

Deputy Mayor James spoke about active use parks and the value they serve the community. Hank Klein stated that citizen use is just a small portion of preserving a park. The value of a park is so much more than that.

Councilmember Vance stated that we have a variety of parks that serve different purposes but they are all valuable to our community. Rena Brady discussed the NE quadrant link and how it would connect the park system and serve the entire city.

Councilmember Whitten stated that although valuable, the cost factor in getting the analysis on each park and its usage would be a huge cost to the city. The analysis might be more useful for ballfields or specific recreational use parks.

Councilmember Valderrama supports the analysis of these parks proposals and is concerned about the expense of adding additional parks at this time. He feels there is no justification for new parks during this recession.

Steve Wright would like to build on the sense of community in Sammamish and a place where we can recreate together.

Parks and Recreation Director, Jessi Richardson stated she and her staff are committed to assembling a group of volunteers to prepare a sample count of users at Ebright Creek. There is no timeline for this, but she hopes to begin working on this in the late spring.

Referring to the Geographic Equity Map, Mayor Odell agrees that the circles should be expanded to one mile to see the effect. He would like to overlay the population and location of schools and community parks in the NE quadrant area. With the cost per acre chart for 2011, it should be noted that this includes Evans Creek preserve. Mayor Odell also supports the study of a parks usage analysis. The community center/aquatic center comes with cost to the city. We need to look at the Parks CIP and how big that pot is and how we proceed. How will the maintenance expense look? He also complimented the work that staff and commissioners did in putting all this information into the PRO plan. Councilmember Odell commented the information in the PRO plan is terrific and makes the Councils' decision making easier.

At the next Study session, Councilmember Whitten would like information on what the role of the PRO plan is and how it is to guide us. It is a policy planning document with a lot of official guidelines on how the City performs in the future.

Councilmember Gerend believes the connecting links from Sahalee down to Evans Creek Preserve will help tie the preserve into the City. The connecting link from SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Park to the Lower Commons is a valuable link that would be inexpensive.

Larry Crandall commented on the journey and process everyone is taking to improve our parks system.

Commissioner Cantor commented that there are many off-site benefits to our parks which aid in developing our community.

Councilmember Whitten questioned how the city will pay for the maintenance of the capital projects with all these new parks proposals? This should be a factor in how much more we are going to expand.

Brad Conner complimented the many volunteer efforts in Sammamish and supports the proposed analysis of the parks.

Council recessed from 8:30 pm to 8:35 pm.

### **Council Reports**

- Councilmember Gerend: Passed around another letter from the board of directors of the Association of Washington Cities to the Governor and various leaders, relating to the budget deliberations. They propose to take City funds from the liquor revenues and make it permanent. The letter proposes to make it temporary during these tough times only. He also reported on his trip to Washington DC, for the National League of Cities conference.

- Councilmember Whitten: Thanked the staff for their commitment to commissions and committees. The City has shown its maturity and growth.
- Deputy Mayor James: Commented on the Sammi Awards program which was held on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and what a wonderful event it was. The Economic Development committee received the economic development self-assessment tool (EDSA) results and they will be reviewing them and scheduling a public meeting in April. Mr. Yazici handed out some hard copies of the report.
- Councilmember Valderrama: Thanks again to Parks staff and Parks Commission for the enthusiasm and passion they put into their work. He attended the Planning Commission meeting last Thursday night and was very impressed.
- Councilmember Curley: Attended the Youth Eastside Services breakfast. Encouraged everyone to participate in the Boys and Girls Club 5K/10K Fun Run on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Mayor Odell: Thanks to the Parks Department and Parks and Recreation Commission for the amazing effort put into produce the PRO plan. He encourages Council to get written comments in to Jessi Richardson as soon as possible. Commented on the SAMMI Awards evening on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony was dedicated to Stan Chapin and noted that Officer Williams will return to become the Eastlake SRO. He is very interested in the Economic Self-Assessment tool and what it will show.

**City Manager Report**

- City Manager Ben Yazici is interested in Councils comments on the Economic Self-Assessment tool.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm

---

Lita Hachey, Administrative Assistant  
to the City Clerk

---

Thomas T. Odell, Mayor