



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**  
**Thursday, January 16, 2020, 4:00 PM**  
**City Hall, 616 NE 4th Avenue**

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**Special Meeting**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Staff: Jerry Acheson and Susan Newlove

Meeting Facilitator: Ryan Mottau

Present: Steve Lorenz, Cassi Marshall, Katy Daane, Randy Curtis, Phil Williams, Jason Irving, Shannon Roberts and David Dewey

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**IV. MEETING ITEMS**

**A. Welcome and Overview**

Curtis introduced the two newest members of the Parks Commission, Phil Williams and Jason Irving. Both of the new members gave an introduction on their backgrounds and interests in the Parks and Recreation Commission. Each member went around the table and introduced themselves giving a brief background of their involvement on the Parks Commission.

Ryan Mottau of MIG facilitated the retreat. He stated that the objective of the retreat is to focus on what has been accomplished in 2019 on the work plan and what the path is looking forward in 2020. He wants to review what staff did this year and what the group did as the Parks Commission. He wants to finish the evening by reviewing their role as Parks Commissioners and their involvement in the community.

**B. Staff Presentations and Year in Review**

Jerry Acheson reviewed the project list for 2019-2020 beginning with five trail projects:

3rd Avenue Trail/Baz Property - permitting is complete and the project should begin by the first of February, he will inform the Parks Commission of temporary closures during this project.

East Lake Trail - This is a joint project with Washington Trails Association. Acheson reviewed land purchases and grants associated with the trail. Leases with Docks and property on this land are temporary. In response to Curtis, Acheson stated that the docks should be removed due to safety issues on the trail.

Camp Currie trail - The city is in contact with Clark County Parks Dept. regarding this project, which is multi-jurisdictional.

Parklands to Heritage Trail - This is a joint project with Camas Meadows Golf Course, the trail will connect into Heritage Trail.

Mill Ditch Trail - This is an expensive project with two undercrossings that will be required to keep pedestrians from crossing streets. The city will be seeking grants to fund this project, this is a trail that can be widely used by the community for a variety of things.

#### Parks and Facilities:

The Master Plan for Fallen Leaf Lake Park was completed a few years ago with 50 plus acres being held for the City by Columbia Landtrust. The current focus is on the Toxic Algae bloom at the lake, staff has been in contact with Clark County Health Department regarding this issue.

Skate Park: Acheson stated that this project has both a skate park designer and a local landscape architect involved. They will seek a partnership with the City of Washougal. The Partners with Camas Parks and Recreation have submitted a grant application to the Tony Hawk Foundation to help out with this project. Curtis stated that this has been a good example of a grassroots project that started with a presentation to the Parks Commission and then City Council.

Heritage Park: An ongoing parking issue of overuse continues 6 weeks during the summer. The police department will start ticketing people who park along the side of the road on Lake Road. Acheson stated that they've concluded that the area is just overused during the summer and isn't designed for the use it's getting. In response to Dewey, Acheson stated that the Legacy Lands project could potentially help alleviate the parking issue. Williams recommended using a shuttle bus service and Acheson stated that they are currently reviewing the idea.

Dog Park: The city is having discussions with the City of Washougal and the Port of Camas-Washougal on this project. They are trying to reconnect with DOGPAW. Discussion ensued on potential locations for a dog park. Mottau stated that nothing gets more year-round use than a dog park, and regular dog park use can help decrease neighborhood crime.

Camas Community Center: Acheson will communicate with City Council on what

they want to happen at this facility. Acheson stated that the facility was built in 1915 so it has historical value and some critical improvements are needed. Shannon Roberts stated that the Community Center is a wonderful building. The Parks Commission members agreed that the facility fulfills an affordable need in the community.

Crown Park Master Plan: The Master Plan has been approved by City Council and the pool was taken out. A permanent restroom and sports court were approved but the water feature was never settled on. Curtis suggested that the Parks Commission have more discussions on this plan and he expressed the importance of permanent restrooms at Crown park. Williams inquired about clarity on the survey results regarding the Community Center and Crown Park. Mottau stated that he would not recommend a pool in a park the size of Crown Park.

Lewis & Clark Regional Trail: This is a countywide project that is finished. The trail goes throughout the county.

Leadbetter House & Reuse Design: They are looking into the best use for this facility. An Architect is currently looking into the facility to get background information on the historic aspect of the facility.

Acheson reviewed the property acquisitions for the Legacy lands project. The group discussed the PRGA Committee and the MPD process. Acheson stated that it's time for an update to the PROS Plan, this plan gets updated every 6 years.

#### C. Looking Forward: 2020

The Mayor introduced himself and thanked the commission for all of the work that they've done and added that they are an important group to the city. He spoke about the Community Center bond issue, what are the next steps and where do we go from here. He felt that the process was rushed. In the summer, he would like to have a presentation on the pros and cons of having a community pool. He wants help from the Parks Commission to facilitate this plan.

Curtis stated that he spent the last four months talking to people in the community and viewing social media comments. He feels that many of the people who voted no on the bond still want a pool but feel that the proposal wasn't good. Curtis didn't like that the Parks Commission was left out of the process. The mayor stated that the pool bond issue has divided the community, he wants the new process to be more citizen driven and focused. Curtis stated that they have to keep the no-build option available too.

Legacy Lands Master Plan process: Acheson reviewed the upcoming 7-mile trail system that is in the plan and stated that the paved section is 1.5 miles. He spoke

about trail connections. He reviewed the properties of the project: Buma Property, Rose Property, Mills property, CJ Dens and Wildlife League. Acheson gave a thorough explanation of each property and how they pertain to the project.

In response to Daane's question about Camp Currie, Acheson stated that the issue can be mitigated with fencing. Dewey stated that this project will disburse parking to help alleviate the parking issue at Heritage Park. Marshall stated that Acheson has done a great job with this project. Mottau stated that trails and open spaces are what define Camas.

#### D. Role of Camas Parks Commissioners

Mottau stated that this is where we start to think about what the Parks Commissioners goals are. He used the annual retreat as an example of something that's been worked into the plan. Curtis stated that if they clearly define the role of the Parks Commission, he feels that the Mayor will be an advocate for the recommendations made by the Parks Commission.

Mottau stated that the current annual report has a fairly long list. Curtis stated that the report works well but doesn't understand why recommendations didn't get acknowledged this past year. Dewey suggested a condensed report that is more refined. Roberts suggested that the MPD be brought up again to City Council

Jason Irving stated that he would like to expand on making removal of invasive species a priority. Dave Dewey brought up current issues about Pickleball courts. Marshall stated that she definitely has an interest in Baz Park and doesn't want to lose focus on the park improvements they've been promised in return for the pump station project. She also suggested a list of Eagle Scout project ideas for when the city gets approached by Eagle Scouts. Lorenz stated that the cemetery needs to be revisited since they are the Cemetery Board.

#### E. Conclusion and Next Steps

Curtis shared the recommendations that he wants to share with City Council regarding the Community Pool process. Irving suggested a defined schedule for this project and Dewey suggested a financial plan and a business plan. Discussion ensued on town size comparisons and financial options for this project.

Lorenz stated that he is definitely interested in Legacy Lands and he would like to revisit the Crown Park project. Dewey stated that he has interest in trails and the Legacy Lands project. Williams stated that he has interest in Legacy Lands, the pool and communications with the city. Marshall stated that she would like to see more progress with the skate park this year. Daane stated that she would like to see the recreational needs of different age groups get met, and used the adult fitness areas within parks as an example. Irving wants to help maintain the health

of our open spaces. Mottau stated that the role of the Parks Commissioners and their involvement is important on all of the projects they spoke about tonight.

**V. PROJECT UPDATES**

**VI. OTHER ITEMS**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Parks Retreat adjourned at 8:00 pm.