



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021 – 5:30 PM
Zoom Webinar

I. Call to Order at 5:32 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: Alex Beebe-Giudice, Edric Carrillo, Makayla Chappell, Ron Crenshaw, Kirk Duncan, Emily Haynes, Chris Mertl, Will Muldoon

Absent: Josh Anderson

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Michele Elfers, Deputy Director; Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager

II. Agenda Changes – C. Mertl adds welcome & thank you to board members under New Business and Master Plans Update under Information Items.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- A.** From June 1, 2021 – E. Carrillo moves to approve minutes; no objection. ***Minutes adopted.***
- B.** From July 6, 2021 – E. Carrillo moves to approve minutes; no objection. ***Minutes adopted.***
- C.** From September 7, 2021 – E. Carrillo moves to approve minutes; no objection. ***Minutes adopted.***

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None

V. New Business –

A. Welcome & Thank You

C. Mertl: Mr. Crenshaw resigned from PRAC due to time constraints. Thank you to Mr. Crenshaw for serving on PRAC as well as Mr. Bryson who was a great Assembly Liaison. Welcome to Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, our new Assembly Liaison.

B. Capital Improvement Program (FY23-29)

G. Schaaf: This is the third year that parks staff has brought our six-year CIP plan to the PRAC. It is an opportunity for the PRAC to see what staff has been working on, what projects we've identified as priorities for the park system, trails and our recreation facilities. We are grateful to get your input on this list and talk about what you think we might be missing.

M. Elfers: Typically, for the department, we have three funds: park & playground improvements, sports field & court repairs and then trails. Then we have some special request based on public interested and user interest.

W. Muldoon: Can you touch on parks & playground deferred maintenance and in specific, I am looking at what funding will be going towards Sigoowu Ye?

M. Elfers: That \$100,000 is a request to add to an existing CIP. Currently, it is pretty well funded since we have many bond projects. In this coming year, we are going into design into the Eagles Edge Playground at Lemon Creek. We will see how that project goes and if there, any remaining funds we could put it towards Sigoowu Ye.

W. Muldoon: Why is Sigoowu Ye not being prioritized again?

M. Elfers: It is a priority for us. That, S'it' Tuwan and Steelhead Park are all small neighborhood parks that need some work. We are working on getting to them.

A. Beebe-Giudice: Is there a specific site in mind for the public use cabin funds items?

M. Elfers: There is not a specific site as of now. We are starting the process of evaluating potential locations for another cabin.

E. Haynes: I have a question about item number nine, the block grant. It says design and construction will occur in 2022-2023. Has those funds already been appropriate for 2022?

M. Elfers: Not yet, we are just signing the memorandum of agreement with Western Federal Lands. They confirmed we could get FY22 federal funds. Once it is signed, it will be sent to the Assembly they will appropriate the funds and work should begin quickly.

C. Mertl: What has been pushed to FY24/25?

M. Elfers: The way we approached this years CIP list, which has a lot of bond funding projects right now, was a combination of capacity and what projects we can execute. We took this into account because there is a lot of work going on.

W. Muldoon: I move we amend the CIP priority list to strike #50 (Twin Lakes ice skating lights) and move all the items behind it up one.

C. Mertl: Would you like to speak to your motion?

W. Muldoon: I understand that this item (#50) has had some conservations recently and that there is some safety concerns. But these concerns are all equally valid for Sigoowu Ye Park which suffers from a lack of lighting. Since the mid-90's families have asked for lighting in this park. It does not make sense to me that the Department priorities adding new lighting when we have not added lighting at Sigoowu Ye.

C. Mertl: Are you trying to make a statement that Sigoowu Ye deserves the same recommendation or can we insert a line item that provides lighting for Sigoowu Ye that is equal or a higher priority item than Twin Lakes?

W. Muldoon: No, my intention is to jus strictly remove the Twin Lakes item.

E. Haynes: I would like to add that I support we add a new line item for Sigoowu Ye. Twin Lakes lighting is not proposed until FY26. There is not any reason why we cannot add another line item for Sigoowu Ye and prioritize it higher.

E. Carrillo: I'm in favor of what Ms. Haynes is suggesting.

C. Mertl: I would like to speak to the Twin Lakes lighting. When they were around they were an asset in the wintertime and they're sorely missed. I would be opposed to removing a line item but in favor of adding a line item.

M. Elfers: I want to speak about adding a line item for Sigoowu Ye. The park and playground CIP is dedicated to playground and park improvements. So this type of request could come out of that CIP. Instead of adding a line item, the PRAC could make a motion that states prioritizing Sigoowu Ye lightning.

W. Muldoon: Why do we not just fold the Twin Lake lighting into the parks & playground CIP?

M. Elfers: For Twin Lakes Park, it is expensive to add this type of lighting. We have been shifting our CIP and how it is organized; instead of listing separate projects that are small, we have been grouping them into these three categories. Like I mentioned earlier, it is a priority and we have these three small neighborhood parks that need improvements.

K. Duncan: I would suggest we approve the FY23 CIP and addressing Mr. Muldoon's comments we can insert something about Sigoowu Ye.

C. Mertl: Mr. Muldoon has a motion before the PRAC striking item #50 (Twin Lakes lighting).

Yay: Muldoon

Nay: Beebe-Giudice, Carrillo, Chappell, Duncan, Haynes, Mertl

Motion fails.

K. Duncan: I move the PRAC recommends to the Assembly the adoption of the FY23 CIP and PRAC will submit with staff input future years scheduling.

E. Carrillo: I would like to add an amendment to the motion that the PRAC recommends that Sigoowu Ye Park lighting is prioritized as a project.

K. Duncan: I am concern by naming this one project will box us in.

C. Mertl: We will look into the FY24-29 CIP requests further in a CIP Subcommittee and will refine the list. Let us take a vote on Mr. Duncan's original motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

C. Legislative Priorities

Katie Koester (Director of Engineers & Public Works): Last year were asked by Senator Kiel to receive a list of state legislative priorities. I like to think of this list as more of a visioning document for some of those larger, more aspirational projects. We're asking committees to pick two projects from the existing list that was approved by the Assembly last year or propose a new project that is a high priority for the community.

C. Mertl: Can we get you these comments in January or do you need them today?

K. Koester: I actually need to present the list of projects to the Public Works & Facilities Committee at their January 5 meeting so I need comments today.

G. Schaaf: The Lemon Creek Multimodal Path is a project that the department has identified in supporting; the improved services to the Lemon Creek Area by connecting neighborhoods to parks and non-motorized access in the area.

E. Carrillo: This list is to benefit the whole community and I would suggest the Lemon Creek Multimodal Path, North Sate Office Parking and then the Civic Center. These are great projects that would get good community use.

C. Mertl: I agree on the Lemon Creek Multimodal Path, we know this is an underserved area. OHV park is also needed in this town, I would like to add it to the list. We can build off what Mr. Muldoon is asking, illumination of parks, all parks in town need lighting.

E. Hayes: From the CIP list, I like the Auke Lake/Montana Creek/Brotherhood Bridge trail

K. Duncan: The most used facility we have is trails. If we are asked to do something tonight, I would ask for \$5 million in trail development. I know it's aspirational but it is also vague enough it could encompass many aspects.

C. Mertl: Is everyone on PRAC in agreement that we would like to request \$5 million in trail improvements? *[Everyone agrees]* What is the second item we will ask?

K. Duncan: I think we should just put forth the one recommendation for the trails.
[Everyone on PRAC agrees]

VI. Unfinished Business – None

VII. Information Items –

A. Operations Update: Included in the Directors Report.

K. Duncan: What is the plan for AGB?

W. Muldoon: We are currently wrapping up the bid process; we are having some issues with funding due to the pause related to COVID.

G. Schaaf: Once the bid process ends, we will have a better understanding of the project budget and if it make sense to move forward with a complete project that will require more funding than we have available. That would have to go through the Assembly process.

B. Master Plan Updates

M. Elfers: Fish Creek Master Plan is moving along with a public meeting scheduled for December 16 to discuss conceptual options for the park that were developed. We are still working through the Montana Creek Master Plan; check out the website, which now includes a GIS map for the whole area. We are working on management information and a motorized use map across all land managements, which is one of the biggest questions from the survey. Then Capital Park Construction is currently in winter shutdown. We have a completion date for August 2022.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— None.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— The Assembly is aware of the AGB funding, I feel confident that additional funding will be received.

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: We already discussed the AGB renovations; just completed the Commercial Use regulations for the pools that passed unanimously.

YAB – J. Anderson: None

Eaglecrest – A. Beebe-Giudice: None

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— E. Carrillo: None

Lands, Economic Developing, Housing – C. Mertl: Lots of discussion on housing now.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: None

Treadwell Arena Board – K. Duncan: None

Trail Mix— E. Haynes: None

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None

Other Member Business – None

Adjournment – 7:18 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager 1/4/22