Parks Manager's Notes for PAB: "What's Happening In Parks"

February 10, 2017

- Possible Land Donation or partial purchase purchase of 10 acres in North County off Gable Road NW of Lewisville Park. Meeting with Mark Phelps next Friday on-site who indicated his preference of having future Off-Leash Area on the property. Very preliminary.

- On Tuesday January 10th, the BOCC approved the staff report for the 6 acre property purchase in the amount of $1,110,000. PIF 5 acquisition funds were used. The property is located on the North side of NE 99th Street & approximately 132nd Ave – Austin Heritage subdivision. We'll need to finalize the purchase with the seller in the next few weeks.

- Pacific Community Park: The Vancouver Municipal Senior Softball Association is wrapping up the construction on the new softball field that they built using their own funding. As a condition of field development, they are required to expand the parking area to accommodate additional park use. They started construction of the new parking lot last month again at their own expense. This is a great example of a public/ private partnership.

- The Intertwine Alliance set up another Trails summit on January 19th to focus on the Lewis and Clark Trail. We received a technical service grant from the National Parks Service and this meeting served to kick-start the process. As a result of our grant award, Dan Miller with the Nation Parks Service will provide technical assistance on this project. Kelsey is helping with the project. Thank you Kelsey!

- I received a phone message from a lady who wishes to donate a property to parks. It borders the Curtain Creek property to the East. Approximately 1.65 acres. We'll work on feasibility and follow-up in the coming weeks.

- We have an opportunity to purchase a 5 acre parcel for a future NH Park. The property is located at 4316 NE 131st Street. The property is in PIF District 8 and we have $576,000 in the Acquisition account. Not enough to fund the purchase. The estimated appraisal amount is $1,200,000. If deemed feasible, we may need to delay the purchase until funding is available.

- I met with representatives from the Vancouver Timbers and the Rangers Hockey Team to discuss the feasibility of constructing an indoor arena at the Harmony Sports Complex. Funding and space accommodation will be important factors to consider.

- I'm working with Amanda on a legal opinion on requirements for property transfer as a part of the COV annexation. We have two properties in the annexation area, and one of them is identified as one of the 35 MPD promised Parks.

- Sean Guard, Mayor of Washougal, is asking if we would entertain the possibility of allowing a VA Retreat at Frenchman's Bar Regional Park. I plan to talk to Myra Barker, the Compliance Specialist w/ RCO about this potential project and impacts triggering conversion.

- A property owner on the West side of Hockinson Meadows Park is willing to sell us a small parcel of land or an easement to provide neighborhood walk/bike in access into the park. This connection will serve three subdivisions and reduce road trips to the park via the East entrance. The property is zoned AG 20 and they are looking into what they can do legally to accommodate our request. Berger ABAM is including the bridge crossing that will connect the two properties as a part of the type II app for the disc golf course which will also include a bridge and additional shelter.

- As a part of the re-organization of Public Works and as a result of the dissolution of the Environmental Services Department, Our Parks Division will be adding a new program to our team. Kevin Tyler is the Manager who oversees the vegetation Management program and he is directly responsible for: Vegetation Management (weed control), Forestry and Environmental Permitting. Last year we gained the Legacy Lands Program and Heritage Farm that Pat Lee Manages. Our new title will be The Parks and Lands Division. This added responsibility to parks may also add responsibility to the Parks Advisory Board where staff will be seeking PAB recommendations for projects and events related to these new programs. I'll see if I can have Kevin come to the next PAB meeting to give a presentation on his programs.