

**City of Dundee
Parks Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2014**

Call to Order

Jeannette Adlong, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Meeting was convened in the conference room of the WWTP Lab/Operations Building,

Committee and Staff Attendance

Present: Jeannette Adlong, Nick Gilbert, Joyce Stalcup, and Kristin Judy. Staff members: Rob Daykin, City Administrator.

Public Attendance

Ted Crawford, Mayor, Mike Faha, Greenworks, and Jim McMaster, CPRD.

Introduction

Chair Adlong introduced and welcomed newly appointed committee member, Kristin Judy.

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Parks Advisory Committee Minutes, June 4, 2014. **The motion** passed unanimously.

Business

Nature Park Concepts Plan

Mike Faha, Greenworks, reprised the process that led to the development of the preferred alternate for the Nature Park Concept Plan. The Parks Advisory Committee conducted several meetings in 2010 to discuss overall goals of converting the former sewer lagoons into public use and reviewed recreation opportunities, habitat preservation strategies, and examples of specific park elements. Community outreach was not extensive at that time, although the Nature Park was subsequently incorporated in the 2011 Riverside District Master Plan. Faha stated the development of parks is very expensive and identifying realistic funding sources is vital to a successful construction plan. Daykin noted State Parks local government grant will reimburse up to 80% of the project costs for small city (less than 5,000 in population) applicants. Daykin confirmed Mike Faha's suggestion that sewer user fees could be used to help fund the improvements, although the rates are currently very high due to the recent construction of new wastewater treatment facilities.

Jim McMaster, CPRD, stated the park system development charges (SDCs) collected from new development in Dundee could also be used to help finance the construction of the nature park, although, these same funds would assist with the construction of neighborhood parks serving new development in the Riverside District. The City would have to prioritize the use of park SDC's collected in Dundee. Daykin added that if the SDC's collected by CPRD are not sufficient, the City could also establish a City specific park SDCs for the implementation of a park system capital improvement plan for the Riverside District. Daykin stated the riverside pathway through the nature park will connect future residential development to the south and north of the wastewater treatment plant; and that it could be added as a pedestrian/bike project in the Transportation System Plan and included in the development of a transportation system SDC.

Daykin explained DEQ required ripping out the bentonite liner in the decommissioning process for the lagoons, but he was uncertain on the rationale. The process allowed the City to decommission the lagoons without having to transport any of the accumulated sludge to an off-site disposal facility. Mike Faha suggested finding out if DEQ would allow the liner to remain intact, which could be reused for the nature park pond features. Jim McMaster noted that urban development will eventually occur next to the WWTP site and suggested that it may be easier to develop a nature park at another location where urban development is not practical, for example, near the river. This could be accomplished by trading or selling the lagoon property, and allowing it to be developed. Daykin stated there may still be an interest in retaining the lagoon property for future treatment facilities and the nature park would provide a buffer between the more intensive treatment facilities and residential development. It was noted that it would be preferred to have a separate access to the nature park to avoid having the general public driving by the sewer headworks facilities. Chair Adlong noted that limiting traffic near lagoon 4 would help reduce disturbances to the western and painted pond turtles. Also, play equipment for a future neighborhood park located next to the nature park could offset the need for similar features in the nature park, allowing for more of the property to be reserved for wildlife viewing and trails.

Mike Faha inquired if there are grants for park planning. Daykin confirmed State Parks does offer a limited program. Faha suggested additional planning to address the broader issues with the development of a nature park, followed by facility planning with detailed construction estimates. Also, it would be helpful to develop more public awareness of the proposed project. McMaster stated the National Park Service also offers technical planning services for local projects through a grant application process.

WWTP Site Tour

The Committee proceeded with a tour of the wastewater treatment site. Lagoon 2 was decommissioned last year and a berm was constructed to divide lagoon 1 with the intent of decommissioning the east half. However, it was too late in the season for the east half to dry sufficiently to allow work in the basin. Both halves of lagoon 1 were de-watered earlier this year and the east half is almost workable, but the west half still has standing water in part of the basin. It is expected that by mid-summer the lagoon will be sufficiently dry to work in. It was noted that the sides of the lagoon were fairly steep and that additional fill could provide a better slope for access and maintenance, and that the current top of the lagoon structure would be suitable for a path. Daykin noted that the flow of recycled water from the WWTP would begin at the southwest corner of lagoon 2 and continue to the east half of lagoon 1 flowing to the west end of lagoon 1 before being piped underground to lagoon 4. The flow would depend upon gravity and not require pumps. Nick Gilbert suggested allowing some limited passive recreation access around the lagoons while engaging the public in the planning process. Daykin explained the facultative sludge storage lagoons located between the MBR basins and decommissioned lagoon 2 uses a water cap for odor control and the accumulated sludge material will have to be removed every five years or so. The facultative storage lagoons and other WWTP facilities will have to be fenced from the proposed nature park area. Lagoon 4 is where temperature compliance of the effluent is measured prior to being release to the outfall. Also, the turtles bask on logs at the west end of lagoon 4, but use the east end for nesting sites. A control structure regulates the release of water through the earthen dam to the outfall swale, which leads down to the Willamette River. Lagoon 4 was previously a ravine and the storm water was diverted to a pipe under lagoon 4 to an outfall east of the dam. The water from the lagoon 4 and the storm water are not permitted to mix. The dam will be the route of a bike/pedestrian path connecting future residential neighborhoods to the north and to the south of the wastewater treatment plan property.

Jeannette Adlong stated construction of a path will need to accommodate migration of the turtles. Adlong also pointed out the platform for an osprey nest is not being used, probably needs some sticks placed on top to encourage its use.

The next Parks Advisory Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, September 3. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.


Jeanette Adlong, Chair

Attest:


Debra L. Manning, CMC
Assistant City Recorder