

# **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**JANUARY 15, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Russ Jones, Cathy Dwertman, Kalyn Humble, John Marshall, John Howard, Rowland Seymour (1 vacancy)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clerk Patterson, Henk Berbee, Robert Berbee

## **REORGANIZATION:**

- Elect Chairman - Ms. Dwertman nominated Russ Jones. Nominations closed. Mr. Jones elected Chairman.
- Elect Vice-Chairman – Mr. Howard nominated Cathy Dwertman. Nominations closed. Ms. Dwertman elected Vice Chairman.
- Appoint Project Document Director - Cathy Dwertman was appointed Project Document Director for the next two years.
- Review Rules of Procedure – No changes were recommended.

New Business was moved up on the agenda to accommodate outside guests.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Tree Memorials

Mr. Henk Berbee addressed the Commission. Mr. Bob Berbee was also in attendance. Mr. Berbee is the owner of Dutchmill Greenhouse and Berbee Bulb Company. On occasion he has been asked to plant a tree in memory of someone and have done so in various places. After asking around, he found City of Marysville did not have such a program in place. He said Marysville has a history with regards to trees and parks & recreation. He gave a brief overview of the history of Marysville.

Mr. Berbee proposed this program for one area of Marysville, the Simmons Trail, specifically between Schwartzkopf and along Mill Creek, all the way going under the bridge into the new Mill Valley area. He passed out a

brochure about the Jim Simmons Memorial Trail. The tree memorial can be in memory of someone or in honor of someone.

Mr. Berbee said the City of Sidney has had a Memorial Tree Planting for about 20 years. Throughout those 20 years, people have donated well over 300 trees in the name of someone. The trees are recognized with a plaque, the same type plaque for all memorials.

Ms. Dwertman commented that she lives along the trail where the planting is being proposed. Her house is closest to the soccer field and the new shelter house. The residents along there all paid \$10,000 more for their house for the view. She would not like to see a tree planted, which would block her view.

Mr. Berbee said they have discussed this with Lane Stillings, who would supervise this project. They would limit this program to Rt. 33 and back to Maple. Ms. Dwertman asked if it would be guaranteed to limit the plantings to that area. Mr. Marshall said that would be up to the Parks & Rec Commission to decide.

The program would start out offering four or five different trees and possibly later expanding to offer eight or nine different trees. There are some areas along the trail that are more prone to flooding than other areas. The types of trees would depend on the area in which it's to be planted. Another idea for a memorial is a park bench.

Mr. Howard asked if trees could be planted in other areas of Marysville besides the Simmons Trail. He suggested planting at Legion Park to replace some of the trees that have been cut down for various reasons. Mr. Berbee said that would be Mr. Stilling's decision.

As for promoting this program, brochures would be placed at the cemetery and funeral homes, and the program could be put on the City's website. Orders would be taken throughout the year. Since there is no watering program for trees in the City of Marysville, trees will be planted only in September. The tree will be warranted for one year by the nursery.

Mr. Marshall questioned the City being able to work with only one vendor for this program. Mr. Berbee said the Sidney program has three vendors in

which to purchase the tree. The City takes the responsibility for the plaque itself. They order the plaque and maintain the plaque.

The Commission asked Clerk Patterson to call Sidney to see how their program is administered. Does it go thru a legislative process, etc. She will also ask the Law Director for his guidance.

Consensus of the Commission was that the program is a good idea.

This agenda item was tabled until further information could be obtained. Will discuss at the next Parks & Recreation meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There being no additions or corrections, the minutes for the meeting on September 18, 2007 were approved as distributed.

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION** – No report.

**REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS & RECREATION** – No report.

**COMMISSIONER’S REPORT ON INDIVIDUAL PARKS:**

- Mr. Seymour said there has been no activity at Schwartzkopf Park.
- Mr. Howard reported that the Frozen Nose Race was held on the Jim Simmons Trail. Received comments that the trail was wonderful. Mr. Howard was contacted by Lane Stillings and told that another tree needs to be cut down. He informed the Legion and they agreed. Other than that, the park is fine.
- Mr. Marshall said people continue to play Frisbee golf even in the winter weather.
- Ms. Humble reported that Trinity Park looks good.
- Ms. Dwertman reported that McCloud is fine. Lewis Park was okay in December when she last checked.
- Mr. Jones reported people continue to eat their lunch at the park. No report on Eljers Park.

**CITIZENS’ COMMENTS NON-AGENDA ITEMS** - No comments.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**COMMENTS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS –** No comments.

**COMMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONERS:** Mr. Seymour said Greenwood Park needs to be recognized as a park and should be assigned to a Commission member. Ms. Humble lives in that area and was assigned Greenwood Park. Mr. Seymour said people use the walking trail early in the morning and late at night. Would like to see a couple of lights installed in the park; one at the intersection and one back where you enter the woods. Also wants to see a sign posted stating pets must be on a leash. He also wants the trail to be blacktopped as soon as possible.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before Parks & Recreation, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.