

City of Lake Forest Park
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Summary
February 28, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 P.M.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tyler Dittman, Richie Allen, Alice Pedersen, Josh Rosenau, Amy Hanegan, Eric Zhang

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:

Cory Roche – Environmental & Sustainability Specialist

Councilmember Lorri Bodi

Laura James – ShoreLake Arts Managing Director

Nancy Malek – ShoreLake Arts Board Co-President

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:

Roz Bird

Tracy Furutani - Councilmember

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Alice motioned to approve the agenda, Josh seconded the motion to approve, the agenda was approved unanimously.

REVIEW/APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Josh motioned to approve the January Special Meeting Minutes, Alice seconded the motion to approve, meeting minutes approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roz Bird introduced herself, noted she has lived in LFP for 48 years and was part of the previous Community Service Commission. She has been involved with the ShoreLake Arts group for many years and worked for the City of Shoreline. Currently she is the Chair of Garden Tour Committee, this year's event will take place June 15. The Garden Tour has been saving funds from the Garden Tour for a few years now and would like to do an Art project/installation in LFP to spend their raised funding. The group would like to do this project at Horizon View Park, it's a bigger LFP park and there is not much art around this area. The Garden Tour will put together a call for artist, they will see how the park is used and what is there, the artist will decide what the type of art fits for the

project. For a call for artist, the garden tour will decide the artist, not the art. Artist does the installation but would most likely need help from Public Works prepping the site. Josh wondered what the normal timeline is for ribbon cutting. Roz mentioned it can be around a year, sometime more or sometimes less, all depends on the time needed for installation and when the call for artist is put out. The Garden Tour Group would like to put the call out this spring/summer, after the Garden Tour this June.

DISCUSSION WITH SHORELAKE ARTS

Nancy and Lara introduced themselves, Nancy is a ShoreLake Art Board Co-President and Laura is the fill-in Manager Director while ShoreLake Arts looks for a new Executive Director. They started the discussion off letting the Park Board know previously they have done Battle of the Bands but with staff changes, they are not able to make this event happen this year. They do want to keep the event relevant and look to bring back next year, maybe with a different one day set up instead of three. The ShoreLake Arts group does want to make sure they do enough events in LFP with the Shoreline programming. This year, they are proposing a Saturday, August 10th a smaller event, along with two concerts in the parks that will take place June 26 and July 31.

The group had a good discussion of what they would like to see and partner with this summer and future events. All thought family friendly, one event with a beer garden as one Board member mentioned it was great mingling with neighbors and families in a different atmosphere right here in LFP. Adding multicultural component or music to one of these events was also an important component they would like to add. Possibly bringing in some sort of interactive dancing would be a great community event as well or a play like Shakespeare/Theater in the park.

The ShoreLake Arts group will take this information back and reconvene and provide an update when schedule and ideas/opportunities have been finalized.

OLD BUSINESS

• 2024 PRAB Work Plan

The Board went through the Work Plan and ideas they have for the year. All agreed the 2024 Work Plan will reflect their goals for the year.

Alice moved to approve the 2024 PRAB Work Plan, Richie second, the Work Plan was approved unanimously.

• Lakefront Park Project Concept Design Recommendation

The PRAB Recommendation to Council of the Lakefront Park Concept Alternatives:

A note on community input: The PRAB found the survey responses to be very helpful in identifying what is important to the residents of the city. We read all of them and discussed themes and concerns. While we cannot address every comment raised, we really appreciate the time and effort that respondents took to share their views.

1. Parking

We would like to begin by recognizing that parking is a huge issue for this park. Based on the park size and location, no design scenario will provide adequate parking within the park for the busiest days. The city will need to rely on the parking spaces available near City Hall as the primary parking. Another aspect of this project is to improve the pedestrian experience on the walk between that parking area and the park, including sidewalks, curbs, and signage.

The park will need some on-site parking spots, but we suggest those be kept to a minimum:

- Accessible parking spaces to accommodate our park users with such needs (and to comply with state law).
- Several short-term load/unload sites, to allow for loading of people, picnic supplies, human powered watercraft, etc., and to minimize the need to carry such things across Bothell Way.
- A few permitted spaces for building users, which may include city or police staff, program/service providers, etc.

Another design option included a few more long-term, non-permitted parking spaces by removing green space and one of the smaller cabins. After much discussion, the PRAB does not recommend that option. On balance, we expect the presence of such “general use” parking spaces will increase traffic circulation through the park as drivers look for parking. That could lead to unwanted parking on the neighborhood street of Beach Drive when the small number of spaces are full. We also want to be mindful of the increased vehicle traffic in the area with more park users visiting the park.

Community input leaned toward the “more parking” option, but on our review of the comments, we believe our suggestion of “minimal parking” plus dedicated accessible, loading, and permitted spaces will meet those needs. The PRAB also recommends this option to encourage and support alternative means of travel which connect with this park well, including bikes, transit, and walking.

2. Lyon Creek Preserve

Primary consideration is to do what is best for the health of the creek. Between the forested option and meadow option, we support both but have a preference for the meadow. Public opinion was evenly split on this question, but we believe the meadow option is an uncommon area for our current parks, while forested spaces are more common. For purposes of variety, the PRAB recommends the meadow option. The community input also leaned in favor of the meadow option.

3. Beach Options

The design options presented the choice between an “all beach” area or a smaller beach area with a separate, dedicated space for small boat (human powered) launching. The PRAB discussed both, but ultimately determined that an “all beach” option would better address the community’s needs. The community’s primary goal for this park is beach access, and we think that is important to provide. The dock option we recommend below provides ample watercraft launching, as does the beach area – though not separated from the swim area. We advise the city to monitor how the community uses the park with watercraft, and include appropriate signage to direct watercraft launching to the dock or edge of the beach area. If park usage shows heavy watercraft traffic on the beach that interferes with other beach use, we expect the city can alter this park design choice in the future. But until that is demonstrated, we suggest opting for more beach. This recommendation is also consistent with community input.

4. Lakefront Shelter Options

Community and PRAB input was aligned in not wanting the showpiece option. Community input was split between the other two options (simple or balanced design). The PRAB recommends that the “balanced design” option will meet the community’s needs by being useful all year.

5. Play Area Options

Community survey results and the PRAB recommendations are aligned that a “nature-inspired” play area will be a better fit than the other two options (big timbers or from nature). However, the

PRAB wants to make special mention of a consistent theme that this play area needs to be real and robust, with many activity areas and varying ways of play. Many community comments focused on the lack of “real” playgrounds in our city parks. We recommend a play area that children will want to use all year.

6. Community Dock Options

Community feedback was evenly split between the two proposed options: All-Activity Dock and Modest Dock. The PRAB discussed the options and community input, and we recommend the All-Activity Dock as meeting community needs at this time and into the future. A longer and larger dock will allow greater access to the water and views. It will also allow for easier watercraft launching, which supports the “all beach” design option above. Given the difficulty and expense of building a dock, the PRAB has the understanding that it will be difficult to start with a small dock and then add on later; better to build the dock we want all at once.

Tracy thanked the Parks Board for reading the survey and taking in all comments. Lorri agreed and thanked the Board for all of their hard work as well.

ADJOURN: 9:10 PM