

The Community Services Committee of the City Council for the City of Junction City met on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon.

PRESENT: Chair Andrea Ceniga, Councilor Rob Stott, and Councilor Sandie Thomas; City Administrator, Jason Knope; HR/Admin Services Manager, Stephanie Moran; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

1. Call to Order

Chair Ceniga called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Parks Master Plan Review

Administrator Knope presented the 2010 Parks Master Plan and Resolution No. 1018, which established Parks System Development Charges (SDCs). The resolution appendix referenced the Parks Master Plan projects of the Raintree Park Project (18a1/a2) for \$2 million dollars to develop the 10 acres and the Reserve Park Project (18b1/b2) for \$1 million dollars to develop playgrounds, amphitheater, trails, restrooms, parking, basketball courts, and a soccer field.

Administrator Knope noted that there was currently \$530,000 in the Parks System Development Fund, which was not nearly enough to fund these projects. He asked if the Committee was interested in going through the process to update the Parks Master Plan to see if projects were still relevant and reflected what the community wanted. He noted that plans like these were typically reviewed every 5 to 10 years.

Discussion followed and included:

- An updated Parks Master Plan could include new subdivision parks plans, such as the Rolling Meadows Subdivision south of the Reserve, which called for 330 homes and at least two open spaces for parks.
- It seemed like people had expressed more interested in having smaller parks in their neighborhoods, rather than big regional parks.
- By definition, Founders, Tequendama, Toftdahl, and Oak Meadows were considered pocket parks. Bergstrom, Laurel, Lyle Day, Bailey, and Washburn fell under the neighborhood park definition.
- Concerns were expressed on how parking and traffic for larger regional parks would impact local residents.
- It was noted that the Raintree 10-acre park land was currently outside of the City limits and could not be developed until it was brought into the City limits. The idea for that area had included developing a sports complex.
- Updating the Parks Master Plan would include receiving a lot of community input.

CONSENSUS: The Committee consensus was to review and update the Parks Master Plan.

Administrator Knope stated that he would bring back a Request for Proposal and scope of work for Committee review.

4. Reserve Parks Options Discussion

Administrator Knope reviewed that the City had purchased two lots and built a smaller pocket park in Raintree, to address getting some playground equipment and basic park amenities in that subdivision, while the City continued to work through its longer-term project with the 10-acre parcel.

Administrator Knope noted that a similar concept could possibly be done in the Reserve to develop a pocket or neighborhood park on a small section of the 11-acre parcel. Staff was pulling up information from SHPO (State Historical Preservation Office) to double check, but based on the information that SHPO has provided to the developer for the Reserve Phase II, staff believed there could be a smaller area of the 11 acre parcel that could be developed with a pocket or neighborhood park. In the upcoming budget there would be \$270,000 set aside in Parks SDCs that could be used for that park development. There could also be an opportunity to do some park development in the new Rolling Meadows Subdivision to the south as well, where the developer was donating park land as part of the development.

It was noted that building a pocket park with basketball courts, playground equipment, benches, and sidewalks could cost anywhere between \$35,000 to \$50,000, depending on what was installed.

Administrator Knope continued that if the Committee wanted to move forward with this idea, staff would pull up the plans for Raintree and bring back for Committee review. Staff would also meet with the Homeowners Association (HOA) at the Reserve to get their input and feedback and would invite residents to a Committee meeting to finish review of a concept plan.

Administrator Knope stated that in addition, staff would like to develop a base core design for neighborhood or pocket parks, so that equipment parts and pricing could be readily available and then different components to specific parks could be added, such as frisbee golf, dog runs, walking paths, etc.

CONSENSUS: The Committee consensus was in favor of looking into building the pocket/neighborhood park at the Reserve.

Administrator Knope stated that if everything lined up, this would be a project that could possibly be accomplished this summer and would give the City some time to address the remainder of the 11 acres.

Ms. Jackie Pendergrass, resident of the Reserve and HOA Board member, expressed concerns with the amphitheater in the Master Parks Plan creating a lot of traffic and noise in the area, as well as being very expensive. She and many of the residents were wanting more of a pocket park concept right now that included basketball hoops, a play structure, benches, and picnic tables. She noted that there would be an HOA meeting on Thursday night.

Administrator Knope stated that if the Committee desired, he could attend the HOA meeting and provide information and answer questions.

CONSENSUS: The Committee consensus was in favor of Administrator Knope attending the HOA meeting.

Mr. Darin Olson asked if it would be possible to put a walking path around the Raintree 10-acre parcel.

Administrator Knope responded that idea would fit in with the bigger trail system that Public Works was looking at developing. He added that before the City could do anything with that parcel, it would need to be brought into the City. When the City tried to annex the 10 acre parcel a few years ago, some of the residents expressed concerns that the area not be annexed in until they had more input on what was going to be developed on the parcel. At that point, the Council chose not to proceed with the annexation.

5. Other Business

Chair Ceniga asked if the City could look at putting dog waste stations at the parks.

Administrator Knope responded that there were some dog waste stations at some parks, but it had often been hard to keep them stocked. He noted that Public Works was working on installing these at all the parks and he would follow up with them on the status of that project.

6. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kitty Vodrup
City Recorder