

Lakeview Advisory Group February 23, 2010 Meeting Notes

Members Present: Georgine Foster, Sally Mackle, Nina Peterson, Dick Skogerson, Melinda Skogerson, Karen Levenson, Jay Arnold, Shelley Kloba, Doug Waddell, Susan Thornes (left after joint meeting), Janice Soloff, Paul Stewart

Members Absent: John Kappler, Robert Style, Susan Thornes, Stephen Jackson.
Elsie Weber chaired the meeting with assistance from Janice Soloff.

Joint presentation with Central Houghton Advisory Group on Houghton History and Parks

A joint meeting with the Central Houghton Advisory Group was held in the Council Chambers. Loita Hawkinson with the Kirkland Heritage Society gave a presentation on the history of Houghton. Michael Cogle with the Parks Department gave a presentation on park planning in both neighborhoods.

Michael emphasized that it would be best if the Advisory Group not get too specific in the text of the Comprehensive Plan about designing a master plan for the parks, but rather give general guidance about what you'd like to see in the parks. Future redevelopment of any park would involve a master planning process with plenty of opportunity for public input from the neighborhoods. He said the "barrow pits" at Watershed Park are the result of excavation needed for the construction of I-405. He emphasized that for the waterfront parks they will be working toward shoreline restoration consistent with the newly adopted Shoreline Master Plan involving softening shoreline armoring with rocks, native plant species, and planting of trees.

Comments from the audience included:

- Waterfront parks should keep wide, expansive views of the Lake and not obstructed by trees. When trees are planned, the neighbors should be involved in the selection of tree variety and location to minimize view obstruction.
- Seek opportunities for more pocket parks at street ends along the shoreline. (the Parks Dept. would support this)

Both groups adjourned to their separate meeting agendas.

Parks and Open Space Policy Direction

1. Avoid or minimize view obstruction of Lake Washington at waterfront parks. When planting trees at waterfront parks a balance should be struck between ecological function and views. Surrounding neighbors should be involved with the Parks Dept. in the tree variety, height and location.
2. Acquire additional land for parks, street end parks and public access to the Lake when property becomes available for sale.
3. Choose appropriate recreational activities for each park (i.e. recreational or passive nature)
4. Waterfront parks should be a model for how private shoreline property owners can restore their shoreline. Hard armoring should be removed while ensuring erosion protection.
5. Support installation of east/west trails leading to and from Lake Washington Blvd to Watershed Park and Carillon Woods Parks.
6. Support development of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad right of way as a multi purpose trail with pedestrian access points along the corridor at street ends and other areas.

7. At Yarrow Bay Wetlands support removal of invasive species in water (milfoil) and on land and installation of nature boardwalk trails and boat access opportunities if ecological functions can be maintained. (see policy from Highlands)
8. Explore what the public utility facility is located near 4600 Lake Washington Blvd for a potential pocket park.
9. Waterfront park docks should have rescue equipment such as life rings

Natural Environment Direction

Group recognized it would be helpful to have input from a geotechnical expert on steep slopes and high hazard areas.

Public Services/Schools Direction

Schools- group questioned what the level of traffic impacts will be with redevelopment of the So. Kirkland Park and Ride project combined with Eastside Prep traffic.

Vision Follow Up

The Group looked at the results from the visioning exercise on January 26 and made the following recommendation.

Build on the vision statement concepts from the January 26th meeting and incorporate comments received from tonight's meeting for each subject area. Under the natural environment section combine all four statements into one statement.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

There were mixed reviews whether people could make the additional meeting dates of April 13, May 11, June 8. The group's preference is to start earlier at 6:30 rather than have additional meetings.

Next meeting is March 30th to begin discussing land uses in the neighborhood. Potential topics will be a presentation on conceptual plans for the South Kirkland Park and Ride Transit center and future plans for the Houghton Market center.

Action Items

Staff will research the vacant property/utility near 4600 and ownership.

A comment was made regarding missing signs for the waterfront access trails. If members see places where signs are missing contact Janice Soloff with the location.