

City of Camas
Parks and Recreation Commission
2016 Annual Report

Commission Members:

Randy Curtis, Chairperson
Steve Lorenz, Vice Chair
Eunice Abrahamsen
Juli Bradley
Cassi Marshall
David Gast
Sean Vergillo

On behalf of the Park and Recreation Commission members, we are pleased to submit the Commission's annual report of activities and goals pursuant to chapter 2.28.060 of the City Municipal Code. The Commission's role includes reviewing applications for park development, fee and rental schedules, providing input on park master plans, recommending signage and rule changes, reviewing budgets, listening to complaints and/or mediating disputes on matters relating to park and recreational programs.

Starting In January of 2015, we reviewed our duties and responsibilities as set forth in the City Municipal Code, chapter 2.28. This review process resulted in the Commission becoming more proactive in the "early stages" of planning, design and development of our park and recreational programs. One of the greatest benefits of this process has been to create a stronger relationship and understanding with city staff. We also deeply appreciate the on-going attendance and interaction with Council members Tim Hazen and Melissa Smith.

The following is a list of our major accomplishments for 2016 and our Goals/Work Plan for 2017.

Accomplishments in Parks and Recreation (2016)

Enhance Park and Recreation Commission presence in City decision making	A revitalized commission has engaged in key decisions in 2016, many of which are listed as separate accomplishments below. The involvement and presence of staff at Commission meetings has been both useful and appreciated.
Fallen Leaf Lake Master Plan	Completed and endorsed by Council
City Volunteer Coordinator	As part of the transition (in progress) of transferring recreation programming to the School District, the City intends to create a volunteer coordinator position. Commission looks forward to working with staff to finalize implementation.
Forest Home Little League Building	Approved by Commission.
Annual retreat	The Commission held an annual retreat to consider the coming year and lay out both an annual report and work plan.
Parks Advocate Program	Distributed the parks among the Commissioners for regular check in and reporting.
Trail map	A paper map of the Camas trails has been updated and produced.
North Shore Lacamas Lake Conservation Vision Plan	Completed
Washougal Greenway Overlook	The project was formally dedicated in Oct. 2016
Coopers View Park	Completed
Cemetery Ordinance	Reviewed changes and updates and forwarded to Council for approval
Ad Hoc Committee on Park Development	Reviewed role of the ad hoc committee to help review developer plans for parks and trails. Notable success in the Green Mountain development plan. Commission recommended that city establish standards for park equipment.
Facility Reservation Policy	Commission recommended changing policy to give Camas residents priority in reserving Lacamas Lodge, Fallen Leaf Park and the Community Center. Approved by Council.

Parks and Recreation Commission Goals for 2017

Parks Advocate Program	Improve reporting of time spent, issues identified and resolutions. Expand the advocate program toward an adopt-a-park program with help from the volunteer coordinator
Engage in the finalization of the Community Education and Recreation discussion	This discussion is in-process and will be brought to the Commission for discussion before finalizing.
Annual Retreat	Continue to conduct an annual retreat to revisit the accomplishments, set goals and develop a work plan for the coming year. The ideal timing for this is in the fall in advance of the City Council retreat. Having an outside facilitator for the meeting is recommended.
Implement Ivy League Program	Support the efforts of Cassi Marshall to implement a volunteer based program to control and/or remove invasive species from our parks, open space and trails.
Pitts Property	Advise the City Council through a decision/recommendation process for this property which was donated to the City.
Community Center	<p>Advise City Council on the envisioned future for the Camas Community Center. This facility would require additional upgrades to continue to function as a rental space, funding that might be better used elsewhere in the system. The process could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying uses • Clarify the role of this facility in the system • Project the cost and use of the facility to determine return on investment • Recommend action to the City Council

Parks & Recreation Growth Assessment	<p>As part of a City-wide discussion relating to future growth challenges, the Commission would explore a range of unfunded projects, services and operational needs. The goal would be to prioritize these needs including cost estimates and identify funding options.</p> <p>Our proposed work plan to accomplish this task includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain support from City Council to proceed • Create ad hoc committee • *Define scope of work, schedule and needed resources • Data gathering (identify unfunded needs, costs, challenges and opportunities) • Establish cost estimates for each project and service • Identify cost and probability that need can be funded with existing resources • Conduct public forum to gain citizen input • Explore options for partnerships, grants, sponsorships and policy changes • Identify funding alternatives including voter approved options • Prepare final report for submission to City Council <p>*Commission requests that authorization be given to obtain outside consultant services</p>
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