

City of McCleary
Planning Commission Meeting
March 18, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Acting Chair Evert Challstedt. Members present: Ben Ator, Paul Custis and Nancy Koeppen. Staff: Busse Nutley, City Administrator and Colin Mercer, Webmaster.

The minutes from the February 19, 2008 meeting were approved.

There were no members of the public present.

The Commission reviewed the results of the Park Facilities survey. They were pleased that they had received responses from 2.5% of the city populous, representing a population in their households of over 13% of the total population.

The City has received notice from the staff of the state Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) that they have recommended their board approve a grant to the City to improve the athletic fields at Beerbower Park. If the grant is approved at the end of March, then major improvements to the park will be made during 2008, and will meet many of the needs sought by survey respondents.

The Commission then specifically reviewed each facility and evaluated the responses. This resulted in a preliminary set of recommendations to be incorporated into the next draft of the Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall: provide improved and consistent maintenance, and provide enhanced security through a combination of security cameras and lighting.

Baseball and Soccer Fields: level fields, provide adequate drainage, protect the children's play area either by reconfiguring the park layout or by building a fence.

Park Kitchen: move the food bank to a new location, provide more tables and seating.

Basketball Court: level and repair the court, provide new backboards and hoops.

Tennis Court: improve or build a new court with a backboard .

Skateboard Park: current site is too small for skateboard park, look for another site and provide adequate facility for basic skateboarding needs, do not compete with larger, more elaborate facilities in other communities.

Playground at Beerbower Park: update and upgrade play equipment, add a merry-go-round, upgrade surface material with recycled tire material, move playground closer to restrooms or provide additional restrooms.

Playground at Community Center: update and upgrade play equipment, add shade trees, add restrooms and water fountain, add picnic tables, re-stripe parking lot to accommodate more cars, add crosswalk on Simpson Avenue.

Community Center: add sound-absorbing material to improve acoustics.

Cemetery: improve/add fencing, put up a sign, improve landscaping, add more parking (with Community Center).

Walkways, Paths and Trails: improve and add sidewalks, develop a pathway to/from the water reservoir, develop a pedestrian circulation plan.

Other: develop a new area for ball fields (possibly for tournaments), provide space and activities for youth and seniors, provide a covered play area.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2008 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The revised draft will be reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.