LYNNWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES ~ April 3, 2013

10. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

20. Roll Call

   Boardmember Aldrich        Director Sordel
   Boardmember Cheek          Economic Development Director Kleitsch
   Boardmember Gilbertson     Community Development Director Krauss
   Boardmember Hildebrandt    City Center Program Manager Lambert
   Boardmember Megill         Parks Planner Cowan
   Councilmember Smith        Administrative Assistant Flesher

30. Approval of Minutes – March 6, 2013 - Approved.

40. Written Communications – None.

50. Public Comments – None.

60. Comments from Boardmembers.

   60.1 Boardmember Cheek reported that he had presented the Board’s Golf Course recommendations to Council and thought it was well received.

   60.2 Boardmember Megill thanked Boardmember Cheek for making that presentation to Council. He reported that a volunteer clean-up day on will be held at Lynndale Park on April 13.

   60.3 Boardmember Gilbertson urged the Board to pay close attention to the Golf Course issue and suggested that Council solicit input from the Board.

70. Resolutions and Other Business.

   70.1 Lynnwood Link – Sound Transit Light Rail. Economic Development Director Kleitsch, Community Development Director Krauss and City Center Program Manager Lambert presented three conceptual alignments proposed by Sound Transit for the Lynnwood Link of the Light Rail system. There is potential for impacts to the community, including Scriber Creek Park and/or the Interurban Trail. Discussion included pros and cons of each proposed alignment.

   There will be an opportunity for environmental review and public comment. Sound Transit will be required to provide mitigation depending on the option that is chosen. Trains will likely be running by 2023, after property acquisition, environmental work, engineering and construction.

   Developers and property owners are expected to start making decisions based on the anticipation that light rail will be in place in 2023. The City has been an active player in light rail for several years, and wants to give citizens the tools to make educated decisions; the board will need to provide input to City Council within the next few months.

   Alternative C1 places a support column for the light rail line within Scriber Creek Park. Sound Transit has requested the City provide a “di minimus"
letter regarding the environmental implications of this alternative. The City requires further analysis of the alternative prior to a “di minimus” finding. A discussion ensued regarding sending a qualified letter requesting further environmental review and potential mitigations. This approach was considered appropriate due to the need for additional information.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement will be released publicly within the next two months. Sound Transit will get a volume of comments from various sources and will have to respond to each issue in writing.

Lynnwood’s interest is in establishing two-way flow and bringing people into the City Center and beyond when the line is extended to Everett.

70.2 Comprehensive Plan.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element of City-Wide Comprehensive Plan. Parks Planner Cowan reported that a major revision of the City’s Comprehensive Plan will be completed in 2015, as mandated by the State. She distributed a draft updated version of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space element of the 2013 plan. The suggested changes are minor. She asked to Board to review the draft and provide comments at the May meeting.

Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Parks Planner Cowan indicated that the last plan was completed in 1996. A new plan is now being developed and will guide the department through 2025. The first work effort is an inventory of existing facilities and programs. Staff will present this information to the Board throughout the year, and will solicit input from the public to identify needs to be incorporated into the plan. A community survey will go out next year to provide information upon which the plan will be built. Director Sordel noted that population and demographics have drastically changed since 1996. It is important to reconnect with the community to determine priorities for the future. This effort will require a team effort and is anticipated to take over two years to complete.

Boardmember Gilbertson asked how the Board could help with public open houses, assessing needs, etc. He suggested using Edmonds Community College students to help with the plan. He asked if there are any green space properties within city limits that could be purchased with a future levy for Parks and Recreation.

Parks Planner Cowan indicated that there will be a core team of City representatives, and a steering committee that will include one or more Boardmembers – with likely one meeting per month. Staff would also expect Boardmembers to attend public open houses and stakeholder workshops if possible.

Director Sordel noted that, if put together properly, this will be a strategic working document for the department.

Boardmember Gilbertson suggested a visual display in the lobby at the Recreation Center.
80. Staff Reports. Director Sordel reported that the Stadler Ridge Park dedication was a huge success. Neighbors also planted trees in the park in honor of Arbor Day.

90. Messages from the City Council. Councilmember Smith indicated that Council is considering contracting with an unbiased consultant to provide analysis and recommendations regarding the Golf Course, and to provide an opinion about the long-term sustainability of the business. He is in favor of using a consultant, and brought the idea forward.

He encouraged Boardmembers to call him, or any other Councilmember, with comments or concerns about park related issues.

Boardmember Gilbertson spoke about the benefits of the Golf Course. He believes the relationship with Edmonds Community College makes this very different from what other golf courses might face. The college needs to be involved in this process. He trusts Lynnwood’s staff, who are highly respected among park and recreation professionals, and doesn’t think a consultant will produce any different results. Seattle golf courses are run by Premier Golf, who turned the courses around to earn a profit.

100. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.