10. Call to Order – The meeting began at 7:05 pm without a quorum present. A quorum was achieved at 7:15pm.

20. Roll Call

Boardmember Aldrich  Mayor Smith
Boardmember Bluford  Director Sordel
Boardmember Gilbertson  Interim Park Superintendent Peterson
Boardmember Megill  Administrative Assistant Flesher
Councilmember Goodwin  Councilmember AuBuchon


40. Written Communications – None.

50. Public Comments – None.

60. Comments from Boardmembers.

Boardmember Aldrich reported that he had seen kids running across 44th Avenue from the Recreation Center to the overflow parking lot. He suggested painting a crosswalk in that area. Director Sordel indicated that, during renovation of the Recreation Center, Public Works directed staff not to allow crossing at that area. There are signs directing patrons to cross at the light. Director Sordel will revisit the issue with Public Works. Boardmember Megill suggested signage in the Recreation Center reminding patrons to cross at the light.

Boardmember Aldrich reported visiting Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Mayor Smith thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet them. She mentioned that she has been shadowing each of the City’s departments to get a greater understanding of their work. Earlier in the day, she visited a few parks, the Senior Center and Recreation Center, visited several programs and talked with staff members. She is excited to work in alignment with the City Council, staff and the Boards and Commissions. She asked about the Boardmembers’ passion for parks and recreation.

Boardmember Megill indicated his passion is to help the City provide the best it can to improve the life of its citizens. He has been involved with the Scouts and values parks in the City.

Boardmember Aldrich indicated that he joined the Board in the 1990s. He enjoys parks and the outdoors; he and his wife have visited every state and national park in the Washington State.

Boardmember Bluford indicated that he learned about the Board while searching for an indoor basketball court. He has learned a lot about the City and likes being involved in the community.

Boardmember Gilbertson indicated that he has lived in Lynnwood for 28 years. He works for Seattle Parks & Recreation. He was involved in the Lynnwood Visioning process with other Boardmembers, and found it to be an engaging process. He believes that parks and recreation are a vital part of the fabric of the City. He is excited about the Verdant partnership and credits staff for their hard work and their ability to articulate the benefits of healthy communities. He believes Premier Golf will turn the Golf Course around. He suggested that acquisition of the Seabrook property is vital.
Boardmember Aldrich asked Mayor Smith how she saw her tenure affecting the department. She indicated that she is a big fan and a big user. She has heard from many residents who want a dog park in Lynnwood. She supports community events coming back to Lynnwood. She is also very supportive of bike trails.

Boardmember Aldrich noted that Snohomish County utilizes development impact fees to fund park projects. He suggested that Lynnwood consider something similar. Director Sordel indicated that a critical part of the Comprehensive Plan for the department will include funding recommendations, which will likely include impact fees. REET monies would also be a good source of infrastructure funding.

Boardmember Megill suggested that funding be dedicated to take care of existing facilities. Director Sordel indicated that he has a strong commitment to take care of what we have built, noting the recent improvements to the Spray Parks and the Boardwalk at Scriber Lake Park, and the upcoming renovation of the Amphitheater at Lynndale Park. The Mayor agreed that it will be important to build a rainy day fund to keep up with maintenance needs.

Boardmember Gilbertson indicated that it would be good to get a plan in place and work with Council for secure funding sources. South Snohomish County is going to grow significantly and we should be forward thinking about where we want to acquire open space and be able to apply for state funds. He thinks a Park Planner is a critical component of a parks and recreation department. It will be a challenge to engage the diversity of the City. The Mayor indicated that she feels strongly about diversity initiatives. She wants to bring diversity to our celebrations and Farmers Market. City Council has talked about doing a lot of good outreach this year. We will be budgeting towards outcomes this year. She is trying to open the communication lines and make sure priorities are in alignment and that we budget toward those priorities.

Boardmember Gilbertson asked how the City could build a strong relationship with Edmonds Community College. Mayor Smith indicated that it’s already happening. The College is committed to working with the City in a variety of ways. She is pushing the business community to start sponsoring great projects or events. The campus is looking into going tobacco-free and they had a forum regarding this initiative and she asked Director Sordel to attend and share his experiences at the City. She is familiar with the system and she understands the type of partnerships that could happen.

Boardmember Aldrich asked if Mayor Smith has opinions about environmental issues. Mayor Smith suggested that the College be a model for the City in these areas. Her office will be a model of sustainability.

Boardmember Aldrich noted that trails always seem to fall near the top of priorities in citizen surveys. He would like to see some emphasis on trails. Director Sordel indicated that Verdant’s funding of bicycle infrastructure in the community is a huge step in the right direction.

Boardmember Aldrich indicated that he would be interested in serving on any citizen sustainability panels that might be formed in the future.

Mayor Smith thanked the Boardmembers for their service and their passion.

70. Resolutions and Other Business – None.

80. Staff Reports.

80.1 Amphitheater Improvement Project. Director Sordel introduced Interim Park Superintendent Peterson, who reviewed the plans for the renovation of the Lynndale Park Amphitheater. Features of the renovation will include increased seating capacity, new
accessible trail access with railings, new and improved lighting, new planting areas and picnic tables, improved access to the stage and new signage.

The final drawings are ready and a bid award by City Council is anticipated in March. July 16 is the season’s first Shakespeare in the Park event, at which we will likely have a grand re-opening celebration.

80.2 Various Staff Reports:

- Director Sordel presented the Community Programs Report to the Board. This team is heavily engaged in the community in many different ways.
- Director Sordel indicated that the School District levy is on the ballot for February 11. If approved, it will include funding for renovation of Meadowdale Athletic Complex.
- Verdant recently funded Woodway High School field improvements. This is a fantastic precedent for future field projects.
- The Recreation Center brought in revenues of $2.8 million in 2013.
- The Golf Course had its best January in years.
- There were five responses to the RFP for the citizen survey consultant. Staff is reviewing proposals now and a consultant will be selected in March.
- There will likely be a joint meeting with the department’s other boards and commissions later in the year to present our proposed budget initiatives.

90. Messages from the City Council. Councilmember Goodwin indicated that, at the retreat Council held on Saturday, Councilmember Cotton suggested that each park should have a sign with a map of all the parks in Lynnwood – showing where you are in relation to all of the parks and how you can get to other parks. He has a five-year-old daughter and thought about people who are new to the area and how it would help people learn about other parks. Director Sordel suggested that this might be something we could address in the next biennium. Councilmember Goodwin suggested that this might be a good Eagle Scout Project. He suggested that such a sheet might also show what amenities are available at each park. Director Sordel suggested that we could have our park brochures available. Boardmember Gilbertson suggested a QR code that could link to the park brochure or to the website.

100. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.