

Memorandum

Date: November 26, 2018

To: Chair Walvatne and Members of the West Linn Planning Commission

From: Ken Worcester, Parks and Recreation Director *KW*
John R. Williams, Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director *JRW*

Subject: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update

Purpose

To highlight and allow for review, recommended changes in the draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update (redline version attached).

Background

At a regularly scheduled meeting of May 16, 2018, the West Linn Planning Commission held a Public Hearing to review the draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. After the Hearing was closed, the Planning Commission voted 7-0 to

“...recommend approval of the City of West Linn’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update to City Council with the condition that the plan recognize the importance to the city of the local community centers as exemplified by the Sunset, Robinwood and Bolton community centers, which would include budgetary consideration.”

Discussion

Upon learning of the Planning Commission recommendation, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, which has led the broad community process to develop the Plan, discussed different methods and processes to address the Planning Commission recommendation, especially the last portion “...which would include budgetary consideration.”

Though the Parks Board previously had conducted its own analysis of available space and space needs for additional **community-wide** recreation programming (attached), including indoor sports and exercise, large group space and multiple classrooms etc., the Board ultimately decided there was not enough information available to include “budgetary consideration” for these local or satellite community centers, and passed the following motion to:

“...recommend the City commission an analysis of the financial investment required for all indoor recreational options to meet the needs of the community as expressed in the surveys to include; Sunset Fire Hall, Old Police Station, McLean House, old Bolton Fire station, Robinwood Station, a new facility or 11 small community centers (one for each neighborhood). Complete the analysis within a four month period.”

After further analysis of both motions, Staff returned to the Parks Advisory Board with a recommendation that the City prepare an update to the West Linn Community Facilities Plan (attached) which coincidentally was adopted concurrently with the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan in the summer of 1998. It was this facilities plan that laid the groundwork for a new City

Hall, the new TVF&R Fire Stations and the new Police Station that we all enjoy today. Similarly, a new Community Facilities Plan would provide an objective opportunity for the citizens of West Linn to weigh in on a wide range of facilities including Public Works Operations, the Old City Hall and City Fire Stations as Community Resource Centers, the Library and a Community Recreation Center etc., all in a context where upfront and long term costs and potential revenue off-sets, historical significance, neighborhood values etc., could become part of the conversation and decision making process.

The result of such a planning process is a tool that would enable the Council and community to evaluate the needs and begin proactive strategic prioritization of capital improvements.

To summarize, the proposed changes to the draft PROS Plan are intended to align this plan with the future update to the Community Facilities Plan by referring to current and future City-owned facilities as follows:

- Current Parks Department programmed facilities, e.g. Adult Community Center and Sunset Fire Hall, as current recreational assets.
- Current in-use facilities operated by local non-profits, e.g. Mclean House and Robinwood Station, as Community Resource Centers
- City buildings not in use, e.g. Bolton Fire Station, Robinwood Station, and old City Hall, as Community Resource Opportunities.

Specific changes to the Plan are highlighted and can be found on the following text pages of the plan: **Page 23**.

Specific changes to the Plan Appendices are highlighted and can be found on the following tables: **Appendix A – Table A-1 (pages A-2 and A-2), Appendix C – Table C-1 (pages C-2 and C-4), Appendix F –Page F-5, Appendix G – Table G-1 (pages G-6 and G-8)**

Options

The City Council has requested the Planning Commission review this approach and the redlined changes to ensure the Commission's recommendation is satisfied. Options available at this point appear to be:

1. Review these plan changes and the proposed plan of action for concurrence with the Planning Commission recommendation. Pass a motion reflecting this concurrence.
2. Schedule, notice and re-open the Public Hearing to provide some other clear recommendation and course of action. Since this is a legislative plan amendment process, any further discussion or changes to the Commission's recommendation would require a noticed Public Hearing.

Recommendation

Staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommend the first option as the most effective and efficient way to move this Plan and the future Community Facilities Plan forward.