

CITY OF SHORELINE

SHORELINE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

July 6, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present

Chair Pam Sager
Vice Chair Julius Rwamashongye
Commissioner Leslie Brinson
Commissioner Janelle Callahan (online)
Commissioner Mei-shiou Lin
Commissioner Christopher Mosier

Staff Present

Andrew Bauer, Planning Manager
Nickolas Borer, Parks, Fleet and Facilities Manager
Jacob Bilbo, Parks Bond Project Manager
Tom Beckwith, FAICP, Beckwith Consulting Group
Carla Hoekzema, Planning Commission Clerk

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Andy Galuska (excused)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sager called the regular meeting of the Shoreline Planning Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Hoekzema called the roll.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 15, 2023 were accepted as presented.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no general public comments.

STUDY ITEM: 2024-2029 Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Art (PROSA) Plan & Comprehensive Plan Element Discussion

Jacob Bilbo, Parks Bond Project Manager introduced Nickolas Borer, Parks, Fleet and Facilities Manager and Tom Beckwith with Beckwith Consulting Group. Mr. Bilbo and Mr. Beckwith made the staff presentation regarding the PROSA Plan. They reviewed the project schedule, work done to date, population projections, social characteristics, and implications.

Mr. Bilbo reviewed Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies. These include the City’s commitment to anti-racism, equity, and social justice; the inclusion of public art; integration of two existing goals; and maintenance of five goals and associated policies (with removal of implementation steps). He highlighted new goals and policies and those with significant changes.

Mr. Beckwith reviewed PROSA map layers reflecting community need (disability median income, limited English, over age 60, population under 18, people of color, social equity composite), school and park locations, specific amenities, tree canopy/heat islands, walkability, and population density.

Commissioner Brinson asked if they are considering walksheds that cross over boundaries of neighboring jurisdictions. Mr. Beckwith discussed surrounding jurisdictions’ parks situations and summarized that he expects more people would be coming into Shoreline’s territories than would be going out from Shoreline to adjacent jurisdictions’ territories.

Commissioner Mosier asked if they would be producing the wrong kind of parks if they are producing for the current social composition rather than the anticipated (higher concentration of seniors) future composition. Mr. Bilbo commented that the City is looking at updating and running the data every two years or so which could help them make changes and adapt. Mr. Beckwith added that the plan is going to be both reactive and proactive. One of the changes that will impact Shoreline significantly is light rail. The decision of what kind of parks to put in those areas can either complement what they expect it to be or create the kind of opportunity they want it to be.

Commissioner Callahan asked how picnic areas are defined. Mr. Beckwith said they mapped both picnic tables and picnic shelters. When they finish there will be icons showing where both are. They will also be mapping indoor or covered facilities.

Commissioner Lin asked how this data will feed into the individual goals and policies. Mr. Bilbo explained the intention of the goals and policies is to be broad enough to encompass needs that they haven’t thought of yet or plans that are still in their infancy such as the connectivity plan. Mr. Beckwith explained that the Growth Management Act says you can’t pursue something that is not identified in either your plans or in your Capital Facilities Plan.

Commissioner Mosier referred to the arts goal and expressed concern about just providing objects to look at and not touch. He suggested crafting the verbiage so instead of the word “collections”, it would be something more functional, integrative, or engaging. Mr. Bilbo thought that “collections” might be referring to the City’s art collection which rotates around locations. He acknowledged Commissioner Mosier’s comments.

Vice Chair Rwamashongye asked if they had a chance to speak to public health experts to get a sense of how they can achieve the goal of accessibility in public health. Mr. Bilbo explained they had deferred to internal experts.

Vice Chair Rwamashongye asked how they share the limited resources such as athletic fields equitably. Mr. Borer explained that the challenge of equity with the fields is something they struggle with. They want to do their best to make things equitable to all citizens of Shoreline, not just the best teams. Regarding accessibility, they have money put aside and are working on putting a project together to do this. Vice Chair Rwamashongye agreed this is a challenge that can sometimes appear to be racist because of the way it works out. He noted that the City of Marysville sponsored teams of foreigners to make sure that those children had something to do as opposed to just being stuck in their homes doing nothing. He suggested implementing some ideas like that. He recommended making sure that the playfields have lighting to extend the use time.

Vice Chair Rwamashongye encouraged the City to utilize creativity and partner with schools so that school play fields can be safely and responsibly used by the community outside of school hours. Mr. Bilbo noted that those are the sort of things they can call out in a strategic action initiative in the plan because they are so specific. Mr. Beckwith commented that different cities and school districts have different cooperative agreements. He is most familiar with Bellevue. Bellevue Parks Department and Bellevue School District did some joint agreements. He explained some issues and challenges associated with this. Mr. Borer explained that Shoreline does have a joint use agreement with the school district but it is somewhat limited. He welcomed ideas for how to target and reach underrepresented communities.

Commissioner Brinson asked if the outreach work for the Comprehensive Plan and the work for the PROSA plan have been aligned because there was a lot of discussion already about outreach. Planning Manager Bauer confirmed that they worked in tandem with the PROSA team to procure and bring on board the consultants for outreach.

Commissioner Brinson asked for more information about the slide that talked about utilizing an equity-based framework. Mr. Beckwith explained that the composite maps are one way of doing this. He also explained how the data from the online survey was very useful for gathering equity data.

Chair Sager referred to goal 1.3 which talks about defined metrics. What is this referring to? Mr. Bilbo explained it refers to the equity maps and using that framework to make decisions.

Chair Sager asked about public restrooms in park spaces, playgrounds, etc. Mr. Beckwith explained one of the amenities they mapped is restrooms, and it scored highest in walkability of all the amenities. That doesn't mean they are all in the same quality or same condition. Chair Sager agreed and noted this goes back to some public health and safety issues. Mr. Bilbo commented that they are adding several new restroom facilities as part of the parks bond.

Chair Sager added that she likes murals and thinks part of the art needs to be murals.

Vice Chair Rwamashongye suggested doing community art in the intersections in lieu of traffic circles. It has been shown to slow down traffic as effectively as a traffic circle. Mr. Beckwith noted that one of the new park definitions is about gathering places, particularly in the higher density areas. These would be places where activities could occur like art demonstrations, theater, art that changes, etc. This would be a more urban type of park.

Commissioner Lin referred to a goal to increase the usage of existing facilities. She is happy to see this because it will allow the City to assess how to maintain and maximize the existing facilities to increase the possibility of use. This piece is very important for equitable outreach and needs an increase in funding. Mr. Beckwith explained there are three ways to increase capacity of fields – lighting, synthetic turf, and how you schedule or make things available. Mr. Borer explained they are considering ways they can improve existing fields, but there are conflicting priorities and limited funds. Fields that are lit and have artificial turf are in high demand. Mr. Bilbo commented that improving existing facilities is something they saw quite a bit in the public engagement responses. As a result, this will be called out as a strategic action initiative in the next six years. They have not had a consultant analyze this on a park-by-park basis but this is something they could do as part of that initiative.

Commissioner Brinson said she loved the idea of gathering spaces, especially as Shoreline is growing in density. She stressed the need for shade in these gathering spaces – either from trees or manufactured shade. She also recommended really engaging folks in the design of any spaces. Mr. Borer concurred. Mr. Bilbo agreed and explained that as they work with the Parks Board, one of the things they will include in the PROSA plan is defining park types and levels of amenities required at each type of parks.

Vice Chair Rwamashongye expressed appreciation to the Parks Department for the hard work they do to provide the resources they do.

Chair Sager thanked staff for the wonderful presentation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

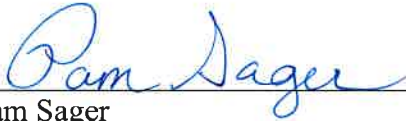
Commissioner Callahan said she attended the Undoing Racism workshop on June 16 and 17 by the People’s Institute, and she thought it was excellent. She congratulated and thanked everyone who worked on the federal RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant to help complete vital transportation projects. The bicycle-pedestrian bridge across I-5 is very important.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Staff reviewed the agenda for the next meeting on July 20, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Pam Sager
Chair, Planning Commission



Carla Hoekzema
Clerk, Planning Commission