



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN GOALS

City to hold public input forum during Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Ephrata, WA – March 13, 2008 – During a special meeting to be held at 7:00 am on Tuesday, March 18, the City of Ephrata Parks and Recreation Commission is seeking public input for the purpose of formulating goals for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space element of the City-wide Comprehensive Plan. The meeting will be held in City Hall.

The Parks and Recreation Commission consists of seven people who must reside inside the Ephrata School District boundaries and are charged with advising the staff and City Council on matters related to parks, recreation facilities, programs, trails and open space. They are appointed by the mayor, confirmed by the council and meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 am in City Hall.

The Commission attempted to formulate a framework for the goals during their regular meeting Tuesday March 11, but with other items on the agenda, the Commission ran out of time. One member of the public did attend the meeting to share their input.

The goals will become the driving motivation for the Parks and Recreation Departments' daily operations. The goals will become part of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space element of the City's overall Comprehensive Plan. That plan is utilized in the formation of policies and procedures, from future growth and development regulations to recreation programs and facilities to meet the needs of the community.

The Comprehensive Plan is mandated by the State of Washington and is necessary to be eligible for various types of funding.

Any future parks and recreation facilities the City endeavors to plan, construct and program will be guided by these goals and last summer's survey results. The goal formation is very conceptual at this point.

The City completed a survey during 2007 with assistance from the University of Idaho Social Science Research Center. While the response rate for the survey is considered very high by industry standards and answered specific questions, attempting to understand the responses in greater detail would prove beneficial.

If anyone has questions regarding the plan, they can contact Ray Towry at 754-4601 extension 5.

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