

Public Invited to Comment on McCormick Woods Park

By Chris Henry

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PORT ORCHARD — Planning for a 63.5-acre public park in the McCormick Woods-Sunnyslope area advanced Tuesday, when the Port Orchard City Council approved a contract with a Seattle architectural firm that will help citizens develop a master site plan for the park.

Money for park development, including professional consultant services, came to the city as a result of annexation of the McCormick Woods urban growth area last year. The county had collected \$643,732 in development impact fees to cover the planning and creation of the park, and the money was transferred to the city under an annexation inter-local agreement. The city now is responsible for developing and maintaining the park on Old Clifton Road.

Jones & Jones Architects and Landscape Consultants of Seattle will lead the planning process. A meeting with the McCormick Village Park subcommittee is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday at City Hall. The city will pay the award-winning firm \$40,000 for its services.

Among the questions Jones & Jones staff will ask: "What makes the acreage of the proposed park unique in terms of topography and history?" "Who will be using the park, and what uses will it serve?" "What method will the city use to create the park?"

All citizens of Port Orchard, not only those on the park committee or who live in the McCormick Woods area, are invited to weigh in, said development director James Weaver.

Park committee meetings, listed on the city's website, www.cityofportorchard.us, are open to the public. The committee will meet through September. The city will conduct public hearings about the committee's proposals through December and adopt the park plan before the end of the year. Construction on the park will likely begin in September 2011.

Information on the park can be found on the city's website or by calling the planning department at (360) 876-4991.

