

AGENDA
PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 2, 2010

Marshall Park

7:00-9:00 pm

Note: For our September meeting, we'll be at Marshall Park. You might want to bring a blanket or camp chair to sit in. You'll take Taylors Ferry Road to get to Marshall Park. You can turn south off Taylors Ferry Road at SW 18th Place and reach a small parking lot at an entrance to the park. Or, farther east, turn east and south onto Taylors Ferry Court, which leads to SW 12th Drive, which dead-ends at the park.

7:00 Introductions, approve agenda

7:10 Conversations with PP&R guests:

1.

8:10 Approve August minutes

8:15 Old business

8:50 New Business

- Meeting place in September

8:55 Correspondence & Announcements

9:00 Adjourn

August 5, 2010 minutes

Meeting held at Terwilliger Parkway

Parks Committee Attendance:

Chair: Kirky Doblle

Arnold Creek:

Ashcreek: Ester McGinnis

Bridlemile: Steve Mullinax

Collins View: DeeAnn Troutman

Crestwood:

Far SW: April Fong

Hayhurst:

Hillsdale:

Homestead: Lenore Zenger

Maplewood:

Markham:

Marshall Park:

Multnomah:

S Burlingame:
South Portland:
WPP: Sara Jean Owens
Guests: Terri Davis, Astrid Dragoy, Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong
Staff: Leonard Gard

Minutes and agenda

July minutes and August agenda are approved.

Announcements: Terri attended the Misty River concert at Willamette Park. Great turnout and music.

Conversation with Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong

Elizabeth and Terri have been working to form a CAC to determine priorities for use of the mitigation money from the Water Bureau for siting of their pump station in Willamette Park. Public opinion studies showed that the public 1) wants a CAC to determine the priorities, and 2) wants the money to be used for Willamette Park. The Water Bureau, per an understanding with PP&R, will establish a separate CAC to address the exterior design of the new pump station, and Elizabeth will have a role in that, mainly making sure that the Water Bureau goes ahead with the CAC process.

Elizabeth distributes interest forms for prospective CAC members. She hopes to have a mix of people on the CAC: people who live close by, and stakeholders like boaters and organized groups that use the fields, like St. Mary's, which conducts lacrosse games there. Steve recommends adding fish and bird advocates to the list of stakeholders.

Elizabeth reports that PP&R already has a list of priorities for Willamette Park that have come from other public involvement efforts, from the Quercus report, and from the PP&R maintenance crew. She expects the CAC will start its work in September and issue final recommendations in March 2011. The CAC will probably meet in the OPB building. The staff role will be advisory; the CAC will make the decisions. Terri says she has a spreadsheet of all suggestions for Willamette Park improvements.

Elizabeth asks that our committee take on the responsibility of making sure that anyone who would be interested in joining the CAC finds about it. The CAC's responsibility does not cover issues pertaining to the site of the old pump station. She thinks further outreach may be unnecessary, and asks the committee's opinion. Leonard suggests she raise the issue with the CAC.

Conversation with Astrid Dragoy:

Astrid reports that Dan Moeller has resigned and is taking a job with Metro effective August 20. The process to hire his replacement is starting, and Astrid hopes to have the new person on board in late September or early October. They have hired Jeff Hough for their trails program. Greg Holly leads that program. Steve would like to invite Jeff to join him on regularly scheduled Thursday hikes in SW Portland parks.

Work parties have been continuing at George Himes parks, but Hillsdale NA and the Trails Committee have told PP&R that they no longer need to do work there (local groups can handle it). So, PP&R will turn to other SW Parks like Marshall and Maricara doing roving third Saturday work parties. PP&R is also working with BES on a 5-year restoration plan for Kerr Park. Steve recommends a clean-up at the 53rd & Thomas park. Work parties are also taking place at Dickinson, Marquam, and other parks.

Astrid cont.: Illegal trails continue to be a problem at Woods Park. PP&R is installing signs at trailheads and intersections to keep people on legal trails, and is closing illegal trails. PP&R is flagging trees at Albert Kelly Park that need to have low limbs cut. This triggers discussion with Steve about use of herbicides and pesticides, and PP&R's practice of careful use of such products. Steve asks about a corner of Hamilton Park where restoration appears to be taking place. Neighbors have questions. Astrid will give Steve a synopsis of what's happening there and also address the herbicide issue. Astrid notes that a lot of PP&R equipment is out of commission now, and that there is a recent doubling of cases of Dutch elm disease.

At April Hill Park, two projects are moving forward:

1. Woods Creek restoration project. BES is doing modeling.
2. Trails. Kendra Peterson-Morgan is working with citizens regarding alignment.

The Youth Conservation Corps is removing invasive plants at several SW parks, including Sylvania, Governor, Lesser, and Gabriel. The Corps members are all at-risk high school students. In addition to work in the parks, the program offers Days of Enrichment education on life skills.

A new PP&R flyer will be out soon: Nuts about Nature—Outdoor Preschool Program.

Conversation with Terri Davis

Terri responds to questions and issues raised by the committee:

Bond measure: There may be a fire bond measure for the voters this November. A parks bond measure will someday go to the voters, but not this November. Maybe in 2011 or 2012. It's ready to go, but the timing is not right because of the poor economy.

Summer programs: The SWCC met registration attendance two weeks ago equal to last year's total attendance. The Pendleton Park program has limited hours. It's going fine but attendance numbers are not big. Markham attendance numbers are very big: 80 or more children a day. 66 a day was the average last year. The Parks Foundation, which funds the program, is having its own financial problems now. The Foundation has a new director.

Graffiti abatement: Graffiti is an on-going challenge. The most effective method of removal is sandblasting, but this is expensive. Another method requires dry weather. PP&R does welcome help from volunteer graffiti removers. Don McTaggart will provide logistical support to volunteers. But all volunteers have to sign up and go through a process with the PP&R volunteer coordinator Steve Pixley.

SWCC CAC: Terri reports that the SWCC tried twice in the past to establish a CAC, but there was not enough community interest. She has talked MaryAnn. Terri asks what we have in mind for a CAC.

Ester relates her experience and her thoughts about a CAC. A number of times SWCC users have approached her with complaints. She thinks there should be a CAC to deal with such complaints. Terri asks if such complaints have reached MaryAnn. She notes that the SWCC has a comment card process. Ester says cases that she knows of did not get a response. Ester gives one example of comment she had on the Vanity Fair event. She did not get a response at first trying to go through front desk staff. But with persistent calling she reached and got a response from MaryAnn.

Terri talks about how the SWCC has to keep evolving to remain successful, revamping its programs, dealing with cost recovery and other issues. Steve asks how the SWCC does decide to make changes to class offerings. Terri says they follow local and national trends, look at attendance numbers, and interview users, etc. Her vision is of a CAC that gives external support and input for change. Terri asks for information from us regarding who might be interested in joining a CAC. She'll get an interest form to us.

PCC Sylvania pool: Terri hasn't talked to Nancy Roth, who is on vacation, but did talk to Sue Cox and Andy Amada. In the past, before the SWCC opened, PP&R did conduct some lessons at PCC Sylvania. PCC did not then charge for the use. But when the SWCC opened, lesson attendance at PCC dropped. So, all lessons now are done at the SWCC. Also, PCC now charges for such use of its pool, so it's not cost-effective to conduct lessons there. Andy said that that the SWCC has added lessons on Sundays. He says that they have enough space at the SWCC pool but not enough instructors to meet demand. Terri notes that some good former instructors have lost their jobs in this economy, and the SWCC has been able to hire some of them.

Other news:

- The Caruthers Park grand opening is on August 19. They'll have free ice cream and Italian sodas. On the same day, Fulton Park is holding an ice cream social.
- There is now a draft of a PP&R/PPS agreement on joint use of properties. It will go out to the committee, the mayor, the Parks Board, and then to City Council and the PPS Board for final approval.
- PP&R is now facing another 5% budget cut.

Old business

- Spring Garden Park: Leonard give a report on preparations for the August 14 Playdate in the Park event.
- The committee will delay action on the issue of a SWCC CAC until we get input at the next meeting.

- April notes that the idea of using the PCC Sylvania pool was not just about its use for swim lessons but also its use for recreational swimming. April will do follow-up by talking to people at PCC, and then emailing Terri.
- Kirky notes that Nancy Hand, chair of SWNI's crime prevention committee, was not enthusiastic about a partnership with the Parks Committee to get a graffiti grant. Nancy says the grant is enough only for some equipment, not any graffiti removal. Consensus is to not pursue a grant.

End of meeting.