

MINUTES
PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS COMMITTEE MEETING

September 1, 2011 minutes

Meeting held at Dickinson Park

Chair: Kirky Doblle

Arnold Creek:

Ashcreek: Ester McGinnis

Bridlemile: Steve Mullinax

Collins View:

Crestwood: Jim Ure

Far SW:

Hayhurst:

Hillsdale:

Homestead:

Maplewood: Jill Gaddis

Markham:

Marshall Park: Amy Steingrebe

Multnomah:

S Burlingame:

South Portland:

SWHRL:

WPP:

Visitors:

Guests: Tony Hanson, Astrid Dragoy

Staff: Leonard Gard

Agenda

Agenda is approved with changes to timing.

Conversation with Astrid

1) PP&R's environmental education program received an award from the Oregon Recreation & Park Association. Program staff will accept the award on September 19.

2) River View Natural Area: Astrid and James Allison will soon be meeting with local organizations like our committee, Lewis & Clark College, and n-hood associations. They will explain why the natural area is so special and talk about the plan for site stabilization, which will take about two years to implement. PP&R will be working closely with the BES reveg team.

Good news: existing uses on the site are low. Users currently are walkers and high-skill mountain bikers. In four-hour periods of observation they have never seen more than six people. There are 3.5 miles of existing trails. PP&R is now closing .5 mile of existing trails that are in high quality areas.

PP&R will review what uses will be appropriate. In deciding that they look at the purpose of the natural area, which is mainly habitat restoration. There is a secondary purpose to provide a place enjoyable for people, and that's why there will trail access. For a use to be responsible it must be safe, both to people and the habitat.

In doing planning, PP&R will first do a vegetation assessment, then identify desired future conditions, then do a gap analysis to gauge the gap between conditions now and desired future conditions, then establish a prescriptive plan, and finally implement the plan. They will also do a sustainable trail analysis which will consider issues like steepness and drainage patterns.

Minutes

August minutes are approved.

Conversation with Tony Hanson

Tony is the head of the Dickinson Park Stewards. He tells the committee about Dickinson Park, a place he calls magical. Sunsets are beautiful. After a ten-year effort, they finally got playground equipment installed. Tony gives a history of the park. PP&R acquired it from the school district.

The southern section of the park is a wooded greenspace; the south fork of Ash Creek runs through it. That section is adversely impacted by water runoff from the I-5 freeway. Flash runoffs scour out the stream. But his children did recently find a crawdad in the stream. To the east is the Ashcreek Natural Area.

The Stewards mainly remove ivy, and also do some plantings. They work closely with both PP&R and BES. They created a wetland area for a small stream in the middle of the park. It's fenced off and planted now. But lots of work still needs to be done in the park. Americorps a few years ago built a trail. Tony writes grant applications to get funding for restoration work. They are now showing summer movies in the park; there is a natural amphitheatre near the wetland area perfect for movies.

Old business

Dickinson Park community garden:

Jim reports: The garden project has been held up because of divided opinion in the neighborhood regarding the project. They asked PP&R to again consider a garden at the bottom of the park, but again PP&R said no. Jim thinks PP&R's expressed reasons for opposing a bottom location are not substantial. A next step would be to have PP&R come to talk to neighbors. Tony reports that the Stewards have not taken a position for or against the community garden, but he personally is against it because it is not in the Dickinson Park master plan. Others have expressed concerns about parking and traffic.

Friends of Spring Garden Park:

Kirky reports that the August 13 Playdate in the Park went. The Friends had an entry in the Multnomah Days parade and had a booth for the street fair.

Committee action

The SWNI Board is now requiring all standing committees to return to an action plan template.

Which parks have committee members visited this summer?

Committee members and staff recall visiting these parks: Woods, Marshall, Maricara, Stephenson, Ventura, Gabriel, Hamilton, April Hill, Willamette, Burlingame, Pendleton, Dickinson, Laurelhurst, Sylvania, Creston, and Lesser.

New business

Small grants:

Kirky reports that SWNI will again be giving small grants. A workshop will be on September 21. The deadline for applications is October 31. Grants are \$200 to \$2,000. We should decide whether we want to apply.

Announcements

The Portland Monthly had a special issue focusing on Forest Park. It included a big folding map

Jen Seamans at the Watershed Resource Center produced a Home & Habitat DVD on habitat restoration.

Big crowds have recently been going to Mock's Crest Park. Illegal selling of ice cream has been occurring in parks this summer. There is a historic gazebo in Dawson Park near Emmanuel Hospital. LCDC recently made an important ruling on reserve land within the urban growth boundary.

Standing committees need nine members present at a meeting to take autonomous action. Wilson pool will be open Labor Day weekend, then closed the next weekend, then open the next weekend.

Amy gives an update on playground equipment in Marshall Park, a hybrid park. They are working with both PP&R and BES. Residents at the Marshall Park National Night Out event reviewed mock up plans and 35 participated in a survey. Amy tallied the results and 33 wanted to replace the equipment removed earlier. Most wanted a mix of traditional and nature play equipment. Survey results will go to PP&R, and then they'll meet to talk about next steps, which will include applying for grants. Tony recommends being persistent and networking. Amy thinks it may be easier to get money for nature play equipment because it is trendier now. Maintenance is also an issue. Metro may have grants Marshall Park could apply for.

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