

MINUTES
PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS COMMITTEE MEETING

October 6, 2011 minutes
Meeting held at Multnomah Center
Chair: Kirky Doblle
Arnold Creek:
Ashcreek: Ester McGinnis
Bridlemile: Steve Mullinax
Collins View:
Crestwood:
Far SW:
Hayhurst:
Hillsdale:
Homestead:
Maplewood
Markham:
Marshall Park:
Multnomah:
S Burlingame:
South Portland: Ken Love
SWHRL:
WPP: Sarah Jane Owen
Visitors:
Guests: Terri Davis
Staff: Leonard Gard

Conversation with Terri Davis

Overall, summer programs went well in SW Portland. SWCC had some new programs. Number of participants went down a bit at Fulton Park CC. Leonard will receive an email with more information and will distribute it to committee members.

No final decision yet on the new PP&R director. Four finalists have been interviewed. There should be an announcement soon. The new director was originally scheduled to start work on November 14.

Betsy Shand contacted Terri regarding a property in South Burlingame with an overgrowth of vegetation. Some think it may belong to PP&R but Terri thinks PP&R may not own it.

Gabriel Park maintenance: Rose Florek, whose property abuts Gabriel Park, has complained to PP&R regarding lack of maintenance at the park. Terri reports that part of the problem is that the park is a hybrid park. The natural area and recreation people respect each other and cooperate but do have different philosophies. The natural area people let plants grow. When Rose complains, they do respond. Sometimes they conclude the complaints are valid, sometimes not. She has complained about moles. They have trapped 13 moles, knocked down holes, and re-seeded and

watered, but moles are a perennial problem. She doesn't like the Rugosa roses. There has been some creep of nature area vegetation into the developed area but not to the extent that Rose has said. Trails will get trimmed back.

PP&R budget: They are going into their "fall bump" when they make adjustments. The one-time 1.2% cut has been made permanent, so in this fall's bump process they are doing cut packages to respond to that permanent cut. Worse yet, in the 2012/13 budget they may have to take 4, 6, or 8% cuts to their general discretionary funding. Also, there may be a ballot measure for a library levy. If that passes, it could mean further cuts at PP&R. The new proposed budget for 2012/13 goes public in January. Cutting now means closing facilities. Staff, especially in recreation, are stressed out. It is time to make difficult decisions within the current recreation model, or maybe there are radical changes that could be done to create a different model. They will be talking about a "recreation revolution" that might bring major change, maybe streamlining to do work with fewer people, or maybe standardizing programs so all centers offer the same exercise classes. Downside of standardizing could be loss of creativity and loss of response to local needs.

Chart House property: Some bad landscaping was recently done at this property. PP&R took over responsibility and made significant improvements.

Willamette Park: Much has been going on this park. It's a big park with many uses and components: pump station, greenway trail, parking lot bioswale, boat launch. BES wants to lay back the riverbank. So a master plan will be done, paid half by BES and half by PP&R. Discussion takes place regarding realignment of the trail when the new Sellwood bridge is built. Ken is concerned and questions who is on the regional trail committee that has been making decisions. Terri notes that Powers Marine will be a natural area; no vehicles will be allowed.

Agenda and minutes

October agenda and September minutes are approved

Old business

- Committee action plan: Marianne Fitzgerald wants the committees to use a new template. Kirky will prepare a new action plan following the template and send it out to committee members by email.
- Addition to Dickinson Park: A land use case has just been filed that will partition the property just to the west of the park. The owner will keep part of the property as a residential lot. The other part will be a natural area tract that will join Dickinson Park.
- Dickinson Park community garden: It looks like proponents of the community garden may give up in face of opposition. The master plan for the park may be about ten years old now, and perhaps should be reviewed. Tony Hanson is now Crestwood's VP, and he may become the rep to this committee. If the garden process goes forward, it would have to be with more people involved.
- Riverview natural area: Kirky reports: There were stakeholder meetings in South Burlingame and Collins View on September 7 and 8. Attendees at the CV meeting expressed concern about parking. A mild herbicide is being used to kill ivy. It will take 12 to 18 months to stabilize the land in the natural area, after which the public will have opportunities to enter the area. PP&R will not construct any buildings in the natural area. Lewis & Clark College

wants to use the area for forest research. PP&R's staff is limited. Only eight employees manage 40 natural area properties (about 6,000 acres).

- Spring Garden Park: The friends held a recent successful ice cream social in the park. Bad news: PP&R focus on E205 projects (see below) may delay installation of the demonstration project playground to next spring.
- SWNI grants: Discussion takes place whether the committee should seek a SWNI grant in this current round. Concerns expressed that we may not have the energy to do it now. Two members have recently left the committee. Shay has reported she can't work on a project now. **Motion is unanimously approved** that we not apply for a grant in this current round. Ester calls on an effort to reach out to the neighborhoods to get more NA representatives on the committee.
- Steve reports that on October 22, Bridlemile NA, as part of the No Ivy Day event, will have a work party doing invasive removal in Albert Kelly Park.

Correspondence

- Kirky had correspondence with Terri regarding the South Burlingame property and maintenance policy at Gabriel Park.
- Commissioner Fish distributed an email reporting the Portland won a contest as America's most natural city. Safeway sponsored it. PP&R received \$20,000, which will be spent on E205 projects. E205 is a PP&R program to do small improvements in existing parks east of I0205.

Announcements

- There was a successful depave project at Capitol Hill ES on September 22. Volunteers removed 5,000 square feet of pavement.
- SWNI holds its annual community police reception on October 24.
- On October 12, Friends of Forest Park are holding a benefit at McMenamin's Mission Theater. There will be readings from the book Wild Woods.
- Jen Seamans issued a report on the work of the Watershed Resource Center. The WRC led a restoration project at St. Luke's church
- The Tryon Creek Watershed Council will hold its annual plant sale on October 8 at the SWCC.
- No Ivy Day is on October 22.
- There will be an Octoberfest event on October 1 at Grant Park.
- A memory garden in recognition those suffering from Alzheimer's disease has been installed at Ed Benedict park.
- Domesticated ducks were rounded up at Westmoreland Park. They'll be moved to farms.
- A playground has been installed at Arbor Lodge park.