

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS COMMITTEE MEETING**

November 3, 2011 minutes  
Meeting held at Fulton Park Community Center  
Chair: Kirky Doblle  
Arnold Creek:  
Ashcreek: Ester McGinnis  
Bridlemile: Steve Mullinax  
Collins View:  
Crestwood: Tony Hanson  
Far SW:  
Hayhurst:  
Hillsdale: Dan Jenkins  
Homestead:  
Maplewood: Jill Gaddis  
Markham:  
Marshall Park: Amy Steingrebe  
Multnomah: Shay Nofsinger  
S Burlingame:  
South Portland: Ken Love  
SWHRL:  
WPP: Sarah Jane Owens  
Visitors:  
Guests: Astrid Dragoy, Tim Hammock  
Staff: Leonard Gard

**Conversation with Astrid Dragoy**

PP&R's new director is Mike Abbate. He was already a PP&R employee, the capital assets manager. He has a background in urban design and has worked in both the private and public sectors, and is respected in both.

City Nature staff recently went to Hoyt Arboretum to do restoration work. They planted 140 trees. Mike was there and stated his vision—that PP&R be a leader in sustainability in all that is green, and to go further with parks design and management. But PP&R is also moving into uncertain times, with a new mayor, a new city council, and four straight years of budget cuts.

PP&R received the national gold medal award for excellence in park recreation management from the American Academy for Park & Recreation Management and from the National Recreation & Park Association. There will be a celebration on November 7, at 11:30 am, at City Hall.

The mayor has asked all bureaus to prepare 4, 5, and 8 percent cut packages. The Bureau Advisory Committee (BAC) for PP&R comprises members of the Parks Board and union staff. The first BAC meeting has just been held. The cut packages go to the mayor in February. Public

information goes out this coming Wednesday. An 8% cut would be \$3.7 million. There will be a library levy on the ballot at the next general elections. The levy does not increase taxes; but it will be an additional recipient of property tax revenue, so it will reduce revenues for all existing recipients, like the City of Portland, which will lose about \$4.1 million per year.

The River View Nature Area is amazing but there are challenges like invasive plants and rogue trails. But the site is being stabilized now. The right-of-way has been cleaned up and tree forts have been removed. Ivy is being removed and already more sunlight is getting in. Invasive trees have been cut. Committee members can enter the property; there are unmarked entrances along Palatine. There is a nice figure 8 loop. On November 25, CRIC crews will close the worst trails (about a ¼ mile in total length) with the trees that have been cut. PP&R hopes to establish a friends group for RVNA. Even though it is close to downtown, it is totally quiet in the RVNA.

More good news: PP&R recently acquired a .11 acre site, the Tarhuni property off the unimproved SW 47<sup>th</sup> right-of-way. It abuts Woods Park. The site will become part of the park; it is adjacent to Woods Creek. The sale price only \$20,000, way below fair market value.

No Ivy Day was on October 9. 123 volunteers cleaned six sites in SW Portland, clearing ivy and other invasives. They did 411 hours of work. Stewardship coordinator Maris Dorai conducts a program for low-income youth. Today was the kickoff of an art show to raise funds to for field trips.

### **Conversation with Tim Hammock**

This past August 16 was Tim's first day as FPCC director. He's also director of Hillside CC. He has been at PP&R for 17 years at various centers, including SWCC and Sellwood CC.

Before he arrived at FPCC, his predecessor Craig Vanderbout had changed the format to what it is today. During the day the facility is largely dedicated to four pre-schools, one operated by PP&R and the others private (including a German language and Montessori schools). FPCC, however, may add some day-time classes. Pre-schools operate 9 to 4, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 8:30 to 12:30, Tuesday and Thursday. Playpals is an after pre-school program with about 50 to 60 enrollees.

Last fiscal year, FPCC was \$45,000 short in meeting its budget revenues. This year, \$18,000 has been added with the pre-school programs and the hope to meet budget goals. Cuts in their current budget costs meant staff cuts. Staffing is the biggest expense. Tim is full-time at FPCC and Hillside. His pre-school specialist is almost full-time (38 hours a week). Pre-schools with 2-3 years are more costly because more supervision is needed for the very young pre-schoolers.

Every evening various groups rent space for events. Activities include tai chi, contra dancing, waltzing, martial arts, and a Jewish school. They've had 200 rentals since July.

FPCC did well over the summer, about the same as last summer (2010). But enrollment was down a little bit. The SWCC pre-school may be pulling a few pre-schoolers away from FPCC. The community garden is still open. The outdoor play equipment is well-used.

The FPCC building was built in 1917, and is generally in good condition. The dance floor is refurbished every year. There was some recent water damage in the bathroom.

### **Agenda and minutes**

November agenda and October minutes are approved.

### **Old business**

- Spring Garden Park: Leonard gives update. The demonstration project funded by the Umpqua Bank grant is nearly finished. The Friends of SGP plan to hold a press event in February and other events each month, April through July.
- PP&R budget: already covered above
- There will be a public meeting on the draft Portland Plan—on November 9 at the Multnomah Center, 7 to 8:30 pm.
- Committee action plan: We had a great plan last year but the SWNI executive committee wants us to use a new template. Kirky is working on it.

### **New business**

Terri Davis has invited us to submit ideas to her for southwest parks projects. She'll be our December guest. Ideas for projects from committee members:

- Ester last year proposed that a 10,000 sf lot in Ashcreek that PP&R owns should be sold, with the proceeds earmarked for Dickinson Park. But nothing has happened.
- Complete Dickinson Park master plan.
- Portable toilets and drinking fountains for all parks.
- Address dangerous crossings at Capitol Hwy at Holly Farm Park.
- Do planting at the marshy spot in Hamilton Park just north of the tennis court.
- In Albert Kelly Park, part of urban trail 1 was taken out because it was in a restoration area. That section of trail should be realigned outside the restoration area.
- Amy reports: PP&R has asked Marshall Park NA to officially propose a project in Marshall Park. So Amy sent a draft to their liaison. She is also considering applying for Nike and Metro grants. MPNA did a survey at its NNO event this summer. 80% of the respondents want a playground; they want a combination of nature play and conventional equipment.
- Dan reports: The ADA playground at \*\* Park was never finished. There are unfinished ramps. Dan has been looking at parks in SW Portland and has observed a trend of PP&R removing worn out playground equipment but never replacing it.
- Lots of parks do not have covered areas with picnic area. Such covered areas are good community gathering areas.

### **Correspondence**

- Kirky received an email from Terri Davis regarding Occupy Portland.
- The SWNI board is looking for a first vice president. Fran Laird is heading the nominating committee.
- We all got emails regarding the SWCC overview of activities, including free activities.

### **Announcements**

- Ester reports that Loaves & Fishes quilt raffle is going on now.

- PP&R is re-surfacing the tennis court in Hamilton Park.
- A new and expanded edition of the book Wild in the City is being published. The original came out ten years ago. It's a comprehensive guide to wild spaces in the Portland area.

End of meeting.