AGENDA
PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS COMMITTEE MEETING

August 4, 2011 minutes
Meeting held at Albert Kelly Park
Chair: Kirky Doblie
Arnold Creek:
Ashcreek: Ester McGinnis
Bridlemile: Steve Mullinax
Collins View:
Crestwood: Jim Ure
Far SW:
Hayhurst:
Hillsdale:
Homestead:
Maplewood: Jill Gaddis
Markham:
Marshall Park:
Multnomah:
S Burlingame:
South Portland: Ken Love
SWHRL:
WPP: Sarah Jane Owen
Visitors: Japanese managers with host Justin Corn of PSU
Guests: Terri Davis
Staff: Leonard Gard

Conversation with Terri
For visitors from Japan, Terri describes her duties and the organizational structure of PP&R.

For the director's position, they received fewer than 100 applications. Seven reached the first round of interviews. They hope to have a new director hired by October.

Summer programs are going well, with more people who want to participate than they have space for. Poor weather, though, has had an effect. Pools did not open when weather was poor, but now pools are open and attendance is good. There have been no injury accidents. The inclusion program for youth with disabilities has gone well.

Starting August 15 Fulton Park CC will have a new director. Tim Hammock, now director at Mt. Scott, will swap positions with current FPCC director Craig Vanderbout.

The fall west zone guide will be out soon.

Don McTaggart's maintenance crew has already started work to spruce up Terwilliger Parkway in preparation for next year's centennial celebration.

PP&R has started a new park proposal process for community initiated projects. It provides a framework for proposing a wide spectrum of ideas to PP&R. The application form is online. There will be a single point of contact for the public. Steve notes that the application asks whether there is an identified source of funding. Terri says it's ok to submit a proposal w/o identified funding. The process applies to any program or project, including public involvement.

Summer concerts are going well. The Washington Park concert series starts tonight. Carmen plays tomorrow night. All concerts are in the amphitheater.

The Willamette Park bioswale was poorly managed in the past but is getting an upgrade now. The greenway trail now cuts through the project, but it will be moved to go through the parking lot. During construction temporary fencing will be installed and there will be no public access. Work will start after Labor Day and will take one week plus.

PP&R is one of three finalists for a national gold medal award from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). As part of the application, PP&R produced a short film to highlight its accomplishments. It's on Youtube and there's a link from the PP&R website.

Steve reports there is a need for porta-potties in parks like Hamilton. Porta-potties are in parks but they're locked. Terri says those locked porta-potties are paid for by sports leagues that make arrangements for them through the reservation center. They're expensive. It's possible Don McTaggart could pay for one from his budget.

Steve also asks about maintenance of tennis courts. The court at Hamilton Park needs to be refurbished. Terri recently took a tour to see the poor condition (cracked surfaces) of courts in Healy Heights. Maintenance of courts in Gabriel Park is paid out of Don's budget. One idea: get sponsors to pay for maintenance.

Minutes
July minutes are approved.

Old business
Friends of Spring Garden Park:
Kirky reports: The Friends met yesterday. A Playdate in the Park will be held on August 13, 9 am to noon. The Friends will also participate in the Multnomah Days parade. The Friends are making a presentation to the city's disabilities commission regarding the ideas for play equipment at the park. The Friends ideas include tall plantings, logs for forts and balance beams, a sand pit, mounds of earth, and boulders and stumps to climb and sit on.

Dickinson Park community garden:

Jim reports: There has been a setback. They held the open house and it went well. It was supposed to be the last event. 30 people showed up and there were lots of questions. Several people were vocal in their opposition. The main objection was the proposal to site the garden at the upper (east) end of the park. They held a straw poll and 27 or so supported the garden.

They thought they would begin moving to the planning stage. But the night before the July Crestwood NA meeting, they learned that a petition was going through the neighborhood. Ten or twelve people then came to the Crestwood meeting in opposition. They had circulated the petition and got 140 signatures. It surprised the board. Some were opposed to siting the garden at the top end of the park and some were opposed altogether. At the open house, PP&R made it clear that the top end is the only place they will consider for a garden. Opponents will go to the next Ashcreek meeting.

Jim asks for thoughts of committee members. Ideas:

- Consider another location.
- Look for possible compromises. Discussion takes place about possible reducing the size of the garden. PP&R has a minimum size.
- Re-start the outreach.

Committee members decide to meet at Dickinson Park in September.

New business

Hamilton Park sculpture:

Leonard reports that Don McTaggart contacted him regarding the abstract sculpture on the north edge of Hamilton Park. Holes have developed in it and it is a safety hazard. RACC knows nothing about it and doesn't care whether it's torn down. Don wants to know if anyone in the community knows the history or cares whether it's torn down.

Steve reports he remembers it being there when he moved into the neighborhood in 1997. Leonard has idea of putting photo in SWNI paper and asking if anyone know about it.

Future of Trails Committee:

Discussion takes place. Don Baack has resigned as Trails Committee chair and is organizing an independent trails organization. Jill moves that we keep the Trails Committee and get a new chair. That motion is not seconded. Ester moves we recommend to the Board that we look at the pieces of the committee and put some in other standing committees. Steve seconds that motion and it is approved 4 yes, 0 no.

Jill reports that PP&R reports there is no money for the April Hill Park management plan. She regrets that they did not pursue a grant.

Terwilliger Parkway centennial

Nothing new to report.

In order to conduct a tour of the park for Japanese visitors (led by Steve Mullinax), announcements are not covered, and the meeting is adjourned. Japanese visitors give gift of cookies to committee members, and we give gifts of trail/bike maps.