

MINUTES
PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS COMMITTEE MEETING

December 1, 2011 minutes
Meeting held at the Multnomah Center
Chair: Kirky Doblle
Arnold Creek:
Ashcreek: Ester McGinnis
Bridlemile: Steve Mullinax
Collins View:
Crestwood: Tony Hanson
Far SW:
Hayhurst:
Hillsdale:
Homestead:
Maplewood:
Markham:
Marshall Park: Amy Steingrebe
Multnomah: Shay Nofsinger
S Burlingame:
South Portland: Ken Love
SWHRL:
WPP:
Visitors: Marianne Fitzgerald
Guests: Terri Davis
Staff: Leonard Gard

Agenda

Agenda approved with following additions: to old business add a brief update on the River View Natural Area, and to new business add an update on the Portland Plan.

Conversation with Terri Davis

The new West Portland guide is out. At page 76 is a new map that shows the entire SWNI area; Far SW is no longer cut off. Major parks are shown on the map. On the back cover of the guide is a photo of the gold medal award the PPR won. The medal will be displayed at the five major community centers, including the SWCC.

Terri is happy to see our list—but all depends on the outcome of the budget deliberations. She wants to keep as much as possible of what PPR has now.

Occupy Portland:

Activities of the Occupy Portland movement have been very difficult to deal with. Bryan Aptekar has taken the lead for Terri in following developments. PP&R has tried to build relationships with OP representatives. Many are cooperative, but diverse groups like anarchists and drug users have been attracted to the movement. There have been four overdoses. Repair

costs to PPR will be about \$85,000. There may be more, so far undetected damage, like compression of roots.

OP is now meeting at Director Park, which is a programmed park, much like a community center. Soon there will be a menorah lighting event. The location is different in that it is surrounded by private property. Chapman and Lownsdale parks are surrounded by public property. Discussion takes place about the right to assemble and when permits are required. OP is arguing that people assemble as individuals and that therefore permits are not required. OP may move to O'Bryant Square. Terri's main hope is that no one gets hurt; all in PPR have worked hard to try to keep things peaceful.

PPR recently invested a lot of money in Director Park. On the upside, many people have volunteered to help PPR, including some OP participants. Umpqua Bank gave \$25,000.

Budget:

The PPR budget advisory committee met yesterday. It's comprised of Parks Board members and union employee representatives. The BAC has drafted 16 cut packages to reduce the PPR budget. A bundle of 11 packages meets a 4% reduction in the PPR budget. A bundle of 12 meets a 6% reduction. All 16 meet an 8% cut. Within each bundle, packages are ranked. The BAC used five guidelines for ranking:

1. Will the cut cause long-term damage to PPR's green infrastructure?
2. Will the cut cause long-term damage to PPR's built assets?
3. Will the cut harm PPR's ability to provide recreation programs within a reasonable distance for people to participate?
4. Will the cut harm PPR's ability to provide equitable access to facilities and services.
5. Is PPR the only one who can provide this service at a reasonable price.

There will be a public meeting on January 9. On January 30, draft budgets go to the Office of Management & Finance. Final budgets will be approved by City Council in April.

Closure of Fulton Park CC is the fourth cut package. It's possible it could be rented, but a closed FPCC would not be operated by PPR staff. Closure of Buckman pool is also a cut package. The pool is owned by PPS but staffed by PPR. It gets far lower attendance than other pools. Impacts on SW Portland could be two:

- 1) Reduction in garbage pickup (with garbage pickup focused on big, multi-use parks like Willamette.
- 2) Less money for natural areas.

Miscellaneous:

- New director Mike Abbate is following surgery. Eileen Argentina is the acting director.
- The demonstration play equipment has been installed at Spring Garden Park. KOIN television plans to do a feature.
- PPR is considering a "recreation revolution." It would mean looking at what they do, re-doing things to save money, and giving staff more opportunity to customize offerings to what they do best.

- Shay would like PPR to get involved in maintenance of the triangle park in the Multnomah Blvd right-of-way at the Capitol Hwy viaduct.

Committee list of projects:

Marshall Park NA submitted a proposal to PPR for installation of new play equipment in Marshall Park. PPR is giving it preliminary approval. They will ask the NA to provide more details. The big piece is finding money, but all like the idea.

Terri would like to take our project list and break it down between recreation and city nature projects, and then look at constraints and possibilities.

Minutes

November minutes are approved with one correction: on page 3, the unfinished ADA playground is at Maplewood School park.

Old business

Spring Garden Park: KOIN TV was scheduled to do a feature today at the park, but was sent to another location for “breaking news.” They will reschedule. See the color photo (page 10 in the winter West Portland guide) of Benjamin and friends playing on the new nature play equipment. Shay reports that Multnomah NA is excited about the new equipment. The Multnomah garden club gave a report to the NA. Day-lighting of the stream at the north end of the park will take place in summer 2012.

Fulton Park CC: Discussion takes place about the report above that FPCC is being considered for closure. Question arises whether rental of the facility after closure would be to a single tenant or could also mean rentals to multiple interest groups for dancing etc. **Ester moves that SWNI supports maintaining the unique attributes of Fulton Park CC that have served the community so well and continue to do so. Shays seconds and the motion passes unanimously.**

Dickinson community garden: Tony will champion the effort to get picnic tables in the community area. A community garden at the Methodist Church may lessen the need for a community garden in the park, although parishioners at the church get the first shot at available plots.

Action plan: **Ester moves the committee adopt the 2011-12 action plan and Amy seconds. The motion is unanimously approved.**

Marshall Park play equipment. Amy reports: She met with Lori Howell, who had good ideas for managing such projects. Amy contacted the Parks Board but hasn’t received a response yet. As we heard above, it’s good news the PPR has given the project a preliminary approval.

New business

Portland Plan: Kirky, Marianne, and others went a public meeting for a discussion of the Portland Plan draft. December 28 is the deadline for public comment. Discussion takes place with these points:

- The plan divides the city into 24 geographic subareas. Kirky opposes using the name Riverdale in the geographic area that includes Collins View.
- The draft plan shows deficiencies in SW Portland.

Announcements

- Steve reports on the new, updated *Wild in the City*. It's an essential guide that both lists places to visit and also explains the interconnections among natural assets.
- The Oregonian recently had an article about Don Baack and his trails work. There will be a Barbur Concept Plan open house on December 6, 5:30 to 7:30 pm.
- Powers Marine Park will soon be closed for four years. Both Butterfly and Powers Marine parks will become natural areas. RR tracks will soon be removed to create roadways for trucks involved in renovation work.
- On February 24 the Urban Ecology Research Consortium will hold a symposium at PSU, 8 am to 6 pm. Registration is \$35, \$40 at the door, \$15 for students. There will be keynote speakers and interesting, short, oral presentations.

End of meeting.