AGENDA
PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS COMMITTEE MEETING

February 3, 2011 minutes
Meeting held at Multnomah Center
Chair:
Arnold Creek:
Ashcreek: Ester McGinnis
Bridlemile: Steve Mullinax
Collins View:
Crestwood: Jim Ure
Far SW: April Fong
Hayhurst:
Hillsdale:
Homestead:
Maplewood: Jill Gaddis
Markham:
Marshall Park:
Multnomah:
S Burlingame:
South Portland: Ken Love
SWHRL:
WPP:
Guests: Terri Davis
Guests at joint meeting: Art Hendricks, Officer Mitch Orellano, and Park Ranger Kurt Nelson
Staff: Leonard Gard

Joint meeting with Crime Prevention Committee
Conversation with Art Hendricks and Kurt Nelson: Art is the new security officer at PP&R. He formerly worked at ONI and PDC. He replaced Mark Warrington as of January 10. PP&R is usually not a first responder but they coordinate with other agencies. Responding to a question, he reports that PP&R does not have a complete disaster plan. In his job, he will coordinate with other PP&R staff, the public, and security partners like the Portland Police.

The Ranger program is seasonal, mainly active in the summer. He wants to better publicize the efforts of the program; it is almost invisible on the PP&R website.

Kurt reports that the Ranger program has a contract with BES to do dog enforcement that helps protect streams from fecal pollution and other damage from dogs. In addition to him there are four rangers, two on the BES contract and two for all other services. They at any one time are watching over ten parks, but the parks they are watching periodically rotates. Issues depend on the season but main issues are dogs, camping, permits, and parties. They work closely with the police and sometimes they do joint patrols. Contacts

with wrongdoers escalate in punishment as the number of contacts rise. A first contact results in a warning; a fourth in an exclusion.

Only animal control officers from the county can give tickets for dog violations. Rangers can only give warnings or exclusions so the owners. A big problem is aggressive dogs in dog off-leash areas. They drive owners of smaller dogs out of the off-leash areas, who take then release their dogs outside the off-leash areas. The City of Portland is one of the U.S. cities most advanced in the establishing off-leash areas. COP has 32 of them. A new off-leash area will have separate places for big and small dogs.

Discussion takes place regarding homeless camps. There are lots of camps between Terwilliger and Barbur. Some habitats are cabins, others are caves and holes dug in embankments. One person he knows sleeps under ivy.

Discussion takes place regarding off-leash dogs in parks. Art says both more education and enforcement are needed.

Minutes and agenda

February agenda with the addition of Dickinson Park community garden to old business. January minutes are approved.

Old business

Park cards, tours, future grant application:

We may go ahead with a small project now and in the future maybe seek a grant for a bigger project. Printing of cards will be the major expense. Jill suggests seeking a CWSP (community watershed stewardship program) grant from BES. Short discussion takes place regarding whether we could meet the CWSP criteria. Watershed education and tours of restoration areas could be part of our project. In that case we may be able to meet CWSP criteria. If SNAP seeks a CWSP grant, they'd have a parks card component.

Discussion takes place about getting the word out. Ideas include using the SWNI newspaper and website. Astrid has said that PP&R can produce a uniform brochure applying to all SW parks but that PP&R does not have enough money to produce individual brochures for each park. Steve reads from our grant application: we can't now print cards but could do it online.

Steve thinks Hamilton (because it's next to Bridlemile School) might be better than Albert Kelly for a parks tour.

Jill reports that April Hill Park will not be ready this summer for a tour. They are thinking of partnering with the Trails Committee. They will get a screen for the port-a-potty and they may be able to paint a mural on the screen.

Spring Garden Park Update

Leonard reports that the Friends of Spring Garden Park met on February 2. They are planning a plant sale for this spring.

Restoration at Hamilton Park
Steve reports about an upcoming planting at Hamilton Park. About 620 trees and shrubs will be planted in a quarter acre section.

Conversation with Terri Davis
Terri reports on the work of the public advisory committee for design and development of the new Fulton Park pump station in Willamette Park. Ken is involved. PAC members are looking at concept designs now. The station is larger and taller than Ken expected. It will be located at the edge of the park where the restrooms now are located.

Other issues:

- There is new leadership at the Parks Board. Members are younger. They want to focus on equity in the system. They are looking at public organizations like ours to play a more active role. They are looking to be a grass roots vehicle for support for a parks bond measure.
- Mora White resigned as director of the Parks Foundation. Elizabeth Whelan is the interim director. There are two staffers. The foundation is looking for an identity. The foundation still appears to be interested in Spring Garden Park; they are looking for a signature project.
- Elly Ryan and Eileen Argentina are working on a policy on community-initiated projects in parks. The policy will may require projects to serve the general public good and meet PP&R rules. Projects must enhance and respect the parks. They must have an identified source of funding and have a maintenance plan. There will be an application process.
- PP&R is finishing its proposed budget for the next fiscal year starting July 1. It is reduced by 1.5% from the current year, or $640,000.

City nature issues:

- PP&R has met with the Marshall Park NA regarding new play structures. There is no money yet for construction but they are talking about nature play equipment and activities. PP&R might start small. One idea: a fallen tree partially buried in a trench so it can't move. Children could climb on it, pee bark, etc. Plantings may also be done.
- The new Marshall Park brochure is done and soon will be distributed.
- PP&R is talking to RAC about a restoration in Willamette Park.
- PP&R and BES are talking about a bioswale in Willamette Park and water treatment near the dog off-leash area.
- Permitting will start for projects in the greenway. Walker Macy is doing design.
- Cutting and pruning to restore Council Crest views will start on February 10.
- The Connor trail bridge in Marquam Park will be replaced.

Dickinson Park community garden

Nick Fish has stated that by 2012 he'd like to see 1,000 community garden plots in Portland. Jim reports that Ashcreek and Crestwood got a SWNI grant to do community outreach regarding the proposed community garden in Dickinson Park. They're planning to do a survey and outreach to the Somali community. The survey will be on the PP&R website. An all-household postcard mailing is also planned. The garden will probably be sited at the upper end of the park close to the play equipment in order to limit impacts on the natural area to the south.

The public outreach will also include an open house. Discussion takes place regarding a speaker. April suggests having a master gardener speak. Terri thinks that local people should have a priority in getting plots. The community garden will increase traffic. They must be a minimum of 10,000 SF (about 20 plots). For fundraising, Shay suggests a tour of gardens at private homes.

End