

AGENDA
PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS COMMITTEE MEETING

January 6, 2011 minutes
Meeting held at Multnomah Center
Chair: Kirky Doblle
Arnold Creek:
Ashcreek: Ester McGinnis
Bridlemile: Steve Mullinax
Collins View:
Crestwood: Jim Ure
Far SW: April Fong
Hayhurst:
Hillsdale: Dan Jenkins
Homestead:
Maplewood: Jill Gaddis
Markham:
Marshall Park:
Multnomah:
S Burlingame:
South Portland: Ken Love
SWHRL: Don Livingstone
WPP: Sara Jean Owens
Guests: Astrid Dragoy, Rob Crouch
Staff: Leonard Gard

Minutes and agenda

January agenda and December minutes are approved.

Conversation with Astrid Dragoy

Council Crest viewpoints

Rob Crouch joins Astrid for a discussion regarding view improvements at Council Crest Park. Rob and Astrid make following points: Relevant policy documents recognize the importance of viewpoints. Trees are now blocking important views at Council Crest from the designated viewing area with the patio and low wall, and markers pointing to mountains. Other bureaus approve of reopening views and Commissioner Fish also approves. Some citizens have been aggressively pushing for reopening views.

So in about the next 45 days PP&R will cut the trees they need to cut to reopen the views. They will put up placards notifying the public of the project, and have an article in the SWNI paper. Trees on the west and east sides will be cut, including ten Douglas firs on the east side. One big fir framing Mt. St. Helens will be preserved. Five big firs that are lower down on the slope but just starting to block the view will be cut. They do not expect the cutting to undermine slope stability. They will probably leave one or more snags and may do some limbing. They will probably leave the trees on the ground where they fall. Most are a distance from roads and dragging them out would do damage.

Don reports the SWHRL board has pushed for opening views.

Marshall Park playground equipment

Kirky gives background report on the decision to remove playground equipment at Marshall Park. Astrid then reports: The cost to replace the equipment will be about \$100,000. PP&R is looking at putting in nature-play equipment. Sue Thomas at PP&R is leading this project. Soon PP&R staff will go to a Marshall Park NA meeting to discuss the matter. Ideas for nature-play equipment include:

- slide down to the park from 12th Drive;
- balance beams from natural wood;
- planting species of trees that are amenable to play; such as trees with low branches that children can run under, that generate petals that fall, and “tickle” trees;
- water access;
- digging in approved areas, although may not be do-able because it might attract feral cats;
- swings from trees.

Examples of nature-playgrounds are a park in Sherwood and Car Creek Park in Seattle. Astrid thinks that children don't need instruction on how to use nature-play facilities—when children are in such an environment they just make up play.

Miscellaneous

Two big projects are coming up: 1) PP&R has Metro local share money to proceed with permitting for a trail network on the Lakeman-Orkney property south of OHSU. So of trails envisioned in the original plan will not be done because they are too difficult and expensive to build. 2) Last year, the Youth Conservation Corps did work on the west side of Stephens Creek Park. This summer they will do work on the east side.

Next year will be the 100 year anniversary of establishment of the Terwilliger Parkway. Planning for a celebration is starting now. Ideas include a parade, dog walk, hikes, and music.

Good news. Astrid heard from us that we'd like to see more nature camps on the west side and has responded: PP&R this coming summer will offer a nature camp at Marshall Park.

Questions and comments for Astrid from committee members: Steve is seeing a very systematic pattern of grass killing at Hamilton Park. Grass has been killed in long strips. Astrid will investigate. Jill reports that erosion is taking place in April Hill Park at Logan St.

Old business

Neighborhood grants:

Kirky reports: The Parks Committee got a letter from the SWNI office that its grant application was denied. Kirky talked to Payal who said that SWNI received 16 grant applications (one was later retracted). Payal explained the selection process—the selection committee first read the applications and ranked them into top, middle, and bottom ranks. All five in the top rank got funded. Our application was in the middle rank. The selection committee was harder on big budget applications and placed some emphasis on education. One problem with our application was that we didn't show a way by which we could measure success. We weren't able to show a need because we didn't do a pre-application survey. But they generally liked the idea because they believed that not a lot of people visit their own community parks.

An alternative for us is the Pepsi grants programs, a national program with grants from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Applications are done online at www.refresheverything.com. April is critical of program. Grants are approved based on popularity, as reflected in a public voting process. So grant applicants have to work to build voting support.

We could also apply again for SWNI grant in the next round. Kirky thanks those who worked on our application: Steve, Jill, and April.

Steve proposes that we draw on resources and try again with a pilot project. Jill says Friends of April Hill Park are still interested. Jim thinks Friends of Woods Park are still interested. April thinks friends of SNAP are still interested, and that SNAP in particular is an example of a park that local people don't know about.

Kirky reports that Payal suggested that parks cards be in several languages. Steve thinks Hamilton Park may be a good candidate for our card/tour project because it is adjacent to a school. So it's a good place to have an educational component. Steve suggests that we consider going ahead with a project without a grant. We could cut out the components that cost money, and work with Astrid on the tour component. April says our project could also be part of a CWSP grant. **Motion is unanimously approved that the committee continue to explore the park card/tours idea.** Kirky will contact Astrid and ask her to help us think out how this could be done.

Spring Garden Park:

Lori has had one meeting with the Park Foundation director, and on January 18 she will make a presentation to the foundation. There has been some vandalism at the park, with burn marks on signs. Friends of Spring Garden Park plan to set up their own website and got a SWNI grant for signs. Other ideas they're considering: a banner and a calendar.

Fulton Park pump station:

It appears that PP&R wants to form an advisory committee of address the issue of how to spend money in Willamette Park. The money comes from the Water Bureau to compensate PP&R for siting of the Fulton Park pump station in Willamette Park. They ask that we announce at NA meetings that members are needed, or that we ourselves apply. Contact Terri Davis of Elizabeth Kennedy Wong if you're interested. The Water

Bureau seeks to establish its own advisory committee to address aesthetic issues related to the new pump station.

SWCC advisory committee:

Leonard will get latest information.

Committee vice chair:

Short discussion takes place regarding purpose of the position and the duties of the position. Leonard reports that only the Parks Committee has had vice-chairs. Ester remembers that the board encouraged each committee to have a vice-chair, and that one purpose was to groom people to take over as chair. This should be on the agenda next month for ten minutes of brainstorming.

New business

Brief discussion takes place regarding meeting in February with Crime Prevention Committee. Idea: Just meet jointly for the Art Hendricks agenda item.

Correspondence & announcements

- The winter issue of the west zone guidebook has a good article about Maricara Park. The map on the back has an error: Far SW parks are not numbered.
- Wilson HS students are doing different projects at local middle and elementary schools.
- The new issue of the Metro Greenscene is just out.

End of meeting.