

**AGENDA**  
**PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 4, 2010 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:  
Markham:  
Marshall Park:  
Multnomah:  
S Burlingame:  
South Portland: Ken Love  
WPP:  
Guests: Astrid Dragoy, Terri Davis, Erica Askin  
Staff: Leonard Gard

**Minutes and agenda**

October and November minutes are approved. December agenda is approved.

**Conversation with Astrid Dragoy**

See the attached handout from Astrid (PDF accompanying Word version of minutes).  
Astrid thanks the committee for input on the new Marshall Park map. She notes that Gary Hillis is the urban forestry supervisor, one of three supervisors who report directly to her. Trimming trees for street light clearance is done per an interagency agreement with PBOT's maintenance division. Re environmental stewardship, Steve reports on the Bridlemile Creek Stewards' Blackberry Bowl stream restoration and maintenance event.

**Conversation with Terri Davis**

Terri reports that the PP&R budget has improved. Lisa Turpel's retirement has triggered a re-organization. Lisa's position will not be replaced and her Workforce and Communications department. The divisions of that department are being disbursed to Eileen Argentina in Park Services and to the Asst. Director. Also, an old position, asset manager, is being revived. The Asset Manager department will handle planning and strategy, design and construction, and central maintenance. Also, all public outreach will be consolidated into one group. The teen program will go to Park Services, with teen coordinators to be supervised at the community centers where they're based.

Athletics and field maintenance will stay in Park Services under Doug Brenner. Jeff Milkes will take over movies and concerts, and Terri will take over aquatics. Changes are effective this December.

The new director at the Parks Foundation is changing the focus of the foundation and is expressing interest in helping to fund the playground project at Spring Garden Park. She'll meet soon with Lori Howell.

More good news is that small community centers like Fulton and Hillside are no longer on the budget chopping block. The SWCC is selling gift certificates this holiday season. Certificates are sold in any amount. Now, during this time of holiday meals, it's a good time to start exercising at community centers. The focus at the center continues to be on sustainability. This holiday season the center will have a "giving sock" where people can give charitable donations. SWCC will target one social services organization to receive the donations.

The recent Vanity Fair event at the SWCC was not as successful as hoped. Ester was there; she reports that activities were scattered throughout the center, and that dispersed the participants. The year before, people were concentrated in one place, creating more of a sense of excitement.

Marshall Park playground equipment: Terri gives summary: Don McTaggart looked at the equipment with the hope of keeping it in place until it was replaced. But when he looked at it, he decided it needed to come out. Don confirms what Terri says and reports in more detail: He discovered lead paint with lead amounts that exceeds federal limits. The lead is open to the surface of the equipment; it is not encapsulated. It would be very expensive to clean the equipment and make safe as to lead. But the equipment is unsafe in another way: it is extensively corroded. So it has to come out now. The slide creates a head entrapment danger and at the top has a sharp edge that could cut fingers. It's also listing about five degrees. All the equipment is too close to the creek. When new equipment is installed, it will be at a higher elevation and will have a chip retention barrier. Discussion takes place about getting this information out the public. Ideas: put up information signs at the park, put an article in the SWNI paper, give reports at neighborhood associations.

Don continues: PP&R is working with the Water Bureau to get rid of lead hazards at all parks. Options are to remove the lead or encapsulate it, and they have decided to encapsulate at Albert Kelly and Washington parks. At Dewitt Park, they have pulled out a teeter totter that will be replaced later. At Hamilton Park, they will relocate some equipment.

Terri distributes a draft first year review of the Willamette Park parking program and reports that it has been a success. This fiscal year is half over, and they already have \$49,000 in revenue, enough to cover the expenses for the whole fiscal year. Cars without trailers (non-boaters) can park for \$1 per hour or can buy full-day tickets, which are \$6 in the school year and \$10 in the summer. Boaters park their vehicles and trailers year-

round for a full-day rate of \$5. They cannot park by the hour. Ken has two objections on behalf of SPNA: 1) It's more expensive to park cars than to park big pick-up trucks with boat trailers, and 2) Ken is seeing less soccer played at Willamette Park and attributes that to the new parking fees. Terri notes that an agreement with the State Marine Board to accommodate boaters is a factor in the setting of the parking fees.

Discussion takes place regarding the committee's SWNI grant application and the proposed tours of parks. Astrid says City Nature can help by providing a naturalist. She wants the tours to be consistent in presentation to the attendees.

Jim asks Terri how the budget situation improved: from a first projection of 6% cuts to 1.5% cuts. Terri answers that the mayor's office took the lead and concluded that the economy is getting a bit better and so cuts in the higher range were not needed. Still, this is the third consecutive fiscal year of cuts, so it's a challenge. It's hurting staff morale. Cuts in the higher range would mean that whole programs would be terminated. Cuts in the lower 1.5% range probably mean that programs would be trimmed but not terminated (thinning of the soup). A budget committee will meet on December 10 and will discuss these kinds of issues.

Erika Askin of the Laborers' Local 4813, Municipal Employees AFL-CIO, introduces herself. Local 483 represents PP&R employees. She notes that cuts even in the lower range are significant. Local 483 is trying to do outreach and connect workers' issues to the general public. Now they are doing some community forums about women in the workplace. She'd like a future meeting on strategizing a response to the PP&R budget problems.

### **Old business**

*SWNI grant application:* Copies of the grant application are distributed. Steve reports that Kirky is the listed project manager. Astrid has agreed to help as noted above. There will be a meeting on December 14, 7 pm, at the Watershed Resource Center, to discuss the grant and address the issues raised by Astrid. At our January meeting, we should discuss the specifics of the tours and define the preparatory work that needs to be done.

*Dickinson Park community garden:* Jim reports that he has submitted a grant application to SWNI for a community garden at Dickinson Park. One challenge is the existing park master plan. It's silent on the issue of community gardens. The focus is on playground equipment, which has been installed. A discussion takes place on whether the master plan needs to be amended.

Jim reports that PP&R has a public involvement policy which requires the community garden advocates to have a formal public involvement plan. A discussion takes place regarding potential issues, such as ADA requirements that would make the project more expensive. So far, Jim has heard estimate of about \$25,000 to install a garden. Discussion takes place regarding importance of public support to get things done in parks.

### **New business**

*Committee vice-chair:* Discussion takes place. Consensus is reached that we need to first define the duties of a vice-chair. Discussion will continue.

*Management of committee meetings and staying on time:* Discussion takes place on how to hold more effective meetings that don't run past 9 pm. Ideas include the following:

- We like the presence of Astrid and Terri at our meetings. Astrid's written report helps by shortening her oral report. We should ask Terri to also do written reports. Written reports do not have to be lengthy. They can be short outlines that shouldn't have to take a lot of time.
- We need to inform Astrid and Terri when we have issues we want discussed. Idea: Before reports are given, the chair can invite committee members to state any topics or questions they'd like Terri and Astrid to address.
- We can use Robert's Rules of Order to more quickly finish business. RRO allow the chair to approve minutes and agendas and to adjourn by just asking whether there are any objections.
- The chair has to keep track of time and keep us on time per the agenda.

End of meeting.