

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

November 4, 2010 minutes  
Meeting held at Multnomah Center  
Chair: Kirky Doblle  
Arnold Creek:  
Ashcreek: Ester McGinnis  
Bridlemile: Steve Mullinax  
Collins View: Deanne Troutman  
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  
WPP:  
Guests:  
Staff: Leonard Gard

**Minutes and agenda**

November agenda is approved with one change: switch positions of grant application and review of PCC-Sylvania letter.

**Conversation with Astrid Dragoy**

Astrid gives the City Nature West update. There were lots of work parties in October. The big event was No Ivy Day on October 9. It was very successful. There were six No Ivy Day projects in SW Portland: at Terwilliger Wildlands Nature Park, Gabriel Park, SW Thomas and 53<sup>rd</sup>, Governor's Park, Sylvania Area Nature Park, and Albert Kelly Park.

Other October work parties were held at Marshall Park, Woods Park, Sylvania Area Nature Park, and Marquam Park. Also, in October was the opening and celebration of the new trail network in Maricara Park.

Upcoming work parties in November and December are: Maricara on November 20 and Marshall on December 18. Comment is made that we need to get work party notices into the SWNI newsletter.

There has been a confusion regarding the names of the three natural areas that are close together: Marshall Park and the Jensen and Foley-Balmer natural areas. All three will now be known as the Marshall Park Natural Area.

Discussion takes place regarding the replacement for Dan Moeller. There was a hiring process but none of three finalists were selected. PP&R will start a new process, re-advertise and re-write the job description.

### **Conversation with Terri Davis**

She got an email today from Emily Roth. PP&R will remove the swing set at Marshall Park because it has lead paint on it. They do not plan to replace it with a new swing set. Discussion takes place. Deanne objects to removal.

Terri reports on the budget. PP&R has had two consecutive years of budget cuts and probably will have a third. They are facing significant service level cuts. The bureau advisory committee (BAC) is working on the budget. The BAC is composed of ten public and five PP&R members. They are looking at a possible 6% cut this coming fiscal year. The BAC is asking PP&R to provide options on cuts. City commissioners recently went on a retreat, and it now appears the cuts may not be so dire, maybe in the 2 to 3% range. Options for cuts in the Services section include the following: close six small community centers, including Fulton Park CC; significant reductions in turf and irrigation, meaning only sports fields would be maintained; eliminate all shrub bed maintenance; cut summer aquatics; and close the paint shop. Some money saved from closing small community centers could go to helping fund larger, surviving community centers.

Astrid reports on options for cuts in City Nature, which could be as high as eight percent: cut all environmental education; cut all outdoor recreation; cut three staff, including a curator, at Hoyt Arboretum; reduce natural area restoration work, cut one inspector; and cut horticultural production.

Terri reports that in two weeks city council will give directions on the percentage cut that is necessary by bureau. There will also be public meetings. In February, Zari will present PP&R's proposed budget to city council, and more public process will follow that.

### **Other news:**

- Lisa Turpel is retiring.
- Don McTaggart has a new buffalo blower (a powerful leaf blower).
- PP&R is still working with the contractor to get compliance on the Caruthers Park contract. Some 700 plants marked with pink flags need to be replaced.
- SW greenway: They're back on track and starting the development process.
- Willamette Park: The pump station project will have to go through design and zone change review. A CAC will work on design. Terri and Elizabeth Kennedy Wong tried to put together a CAC in the summer but there was not a lot of interest then. They'll try again starting in January.
- Spring Garden Park: The Parks Foundation may be able to help with fundraising.

- Fulton Park CC had a successful Halloween carnival. The preschool at the center is full.
- The SWCC has fully and successfully implemented its healthy food program. It took a while but they were able to find healthy choices Fair event will be on November 20 with a theme of “Evening in Paris.” NW impact is a partner.

Discussion takes place regarding Dickinson Park community garden project. Astrid reports she hasn't reviewed the proposal yet but has a concern about migration of invasive plants from the garden to the natural area abutting the park.

### **PCC smoking policy letter**

The draft letter is reviewed and with revisions is approved.

### **SWNI Grants**

Steve reports: He, Jill, and April recently met and agreed on a concept project for which we could seek a SWNI grant. The purpose would be to 1) let people know of parks resource and to get them to start using those resources and 2) outreach. The deliverables are 1) park cards, and 2) park card tours, with numbers for any given park depending on the involvement of the friends groups for that park, and 3) an improved SWNI website with copies of the cards and with better information, such as a link to Google maps. The benefits are building community and forming working relationships with friends groups. Jill: It's important to get involvement of friends groups. We need to know the cost of printing cards. Steve: We need collaboration with PP&R. Astrid wants to meet with the subcommittee. In answer to a question how this ties to helping the underserved, Jill notes that all communities have underserved residents. Steve notes we can do broad and inclusive outreach, including places like Robison Home and Neighborhood House. We can have tour volunteers at bus stops close to parks that are being toured, and we can publicize the locations of bus stops where people should get exit the bus.

Discussion takes place regarding next steps: We need to show leverage in the grant application. We need a project coordinator. April notes the subcommittee did its job of coming up with a project concept, and should not be expected to do more. Is it too late to pull this together? Would \$1,500 cover printing? Jim proposes a smaller pilot project that entails only three or so park tours. That perhaps could be done without a grant. April concurs that a very simple project with cheap cards could be done without a grant. But Steve notes that some money will be needed for printing of cards and any publicity materials, like stickers. Steve confirms that he will converse with Astrid and that he'll get back to everybody. Jill is willing to help with a card and tour for April Hill Park and Jim agrees to do so for Woods Park. No final decision is made on a grant application and no one agrees to act as project manager. April argues that the whole committee can act as a project manager.

End of meeting.