

AGENDA
PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS COMMITTEE MEETING

October 7, 2010 minutes
Meeting held at Fulton Park Community Center
Chair: Kirky Doblle
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
WPP:
Guests: Craig Vanderbout
Staff: Leonard Gard

Minutes and agenda

October agenda is approved.

Conversation with Craig Vanderbout

Craig is the director of both the Fulton Park and Hillside community centers. He reports:

- Lunches served in the playground program have increased by 6%.
- Pre-school programs for 2, 2 and a half, 3, and 4 year olds.
- Play Pals, an afternoon playgroup for 3 to 6 year olds.
- 12 students from Rieke are now attending an after-school program.

FPCC has been very successful getting evening rentals with some adult groups renting space for many years. The waltz dancers have been there for 16 years; contra dancers for 22 years. Israeli folk dancers are now renting. They're getting a lot of weddings. A German language immersion school rents a room nine months a year. They try to do a community event each season. They recently held a summer ice cream social and will have a Halloween carnival. They also provide children's activities at southwest summer concerts.

Craig summarizes his staffing. He has two benefitted staff: Craig Ward and Mandy Edwards. Part-timers help teach at pre-school, help with Play Pals and Lunch Bunch, and

help in the office. Craig has put in a CIP request for remodeling to consolidate two bathrooms in order to maximize space.

Agenda

Agenda is approved.

Old business and miscellaneous

No news on the Willamette Park Advisory Committee or the PCC-Sylvania smoking policy. PP&R has been seeking a citizen member for a budget advisory committee but the deadline to apply has probably passed. The committee meets for the first time on October 25 and ends in December. Ken reports the Water Bureau is forming a CAC to study the new pump station design. No news yet regarding a SWCC advisory committee.

Ester reports she saw a sign at the SWCC notifying the public of the use of a professional grade of Round-Up herbicide. She thinks that PP&R had a policy not to use such strong herbicides. Craig V says he'll ask Don McIntire about this.

Spring Garden Park: Kirky reports the SGP Friends met last week. Kirky thinks they should get the word out earlier when they need volunteers. They should post plans and progress so we know. Maybe they could use Facebook (notice gets to all friends) or the SWNI website.

PCC-Sylvania pool: April reports: She heard the pool was heavily programmed but she has seen only one event on as Saturday and none on Sundays.

PCC-Sylvania smoking policy: April reports: PCC has finally addressed neighbors' complaints. PCC workers closed an unauthorized trail and did re-vegetation work. Also, they have installed a cigarette butt receptacle on campus. But there is still a concern smokers will still be pushed to Lesser Park. April will invite Astrid to walk the Sylvania campus with her.

Motion made and approved unanimously the we write a letter to PCC and PP&R and other interested parties that the smoking policy is an issue that is impacting not just the school but nearby neighbors and that 1) we encourage the involved parties to talk and 2) we'd like a response from PCC.

SWNI Grants

Kirky: The October issue of the SWNI paper has an article about the SWNI grant program. Last year, several SWNI committees got grants. This year the grant application deadline is on November 15, with an orientation on October 20.

Discussion takes place and the ideas are mentioned for grant funding:

1. A survey of local residents regarding their use of parks. Maybe use a web tool like Survey Monkey.
2. A membership drive to attract new committee members.

3. A brochure about our committee that we could take to events and distribute to groups that we present to.
4. A one-time event to educate people about southwest Portland parks, e.g., a fair or barbeque with Parks Bureau employees informing people about park resources.
5. Education to residents on their own neighborhood parks.
6. A poster board with information about our committee and/or parks.
7. Group tours of parks in the summer.
8. Publication of a map of southwest Portland parks (possibly just a blow-up of the SW section of an existing Parks Bureau map).
9. Assistance to underserved or lower income populations about parks and parks services.
10. Representation on our committee from other groups.
11. An organized tour each month of one park.
12. Involvement of Parks Bureau public involvement specialist Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong.
13. Education and outreach to make parks more accessible.

One question that would guide us in choosing a project is: What problems do we want to solve? Steve notes we should try to stimulate people's interest beyond their own neighborhoods.

Kirky asks someone to attend the orientation meeting and Jill volunteers. Kirky proposes that a small subcommittee work further on a grant proposal. Steve volunteers.

Dickinson Park community garden

Jim Ure reports. Jim is a volunteer for work parties at Woods Park. He wants to establish a community garden in Dickinson Park. He has a plot at the Gabriel Park community garden. There is a master plan for Dickinson Park. A few years ago the local community successfully raised money for a playground structure at the park. There is a bit of money left over. The idea of a community garden came up and he is spearheading the effort. He has talked to Sylvia at SWNI regarding a grant. He is seeking public input and is considering an open house or survey. He has talked to the woman at PP&R who is in charge of the community garden program. She noted that it's important to address the master plan. The grant would be for planning only, not construction.

Ester moves that we write a letter supporting the community garden idea. It could open doors for the project. Motion is made and seconded that the committee supports a community garden planning effort and that we further discuss support of the project.

Motion is approved unanimously.

Announcements

Kirky received a notice from Nick Fish's office regarding cycling in Forest Park.

End of meeting.