

City of Oregon City
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting Thursday, (12/02/2021) at 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Members: Shawn Dachtler; Karin Morey; Troy Bolinger; Derick Cougle; Brent Haverkamp; Andy Crump

Absent: Tim Wuest

Staff: Kendall Reid, Parks and Recreation Director; Denise, Conrad, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Melissa Sebastian, Interim Aquatic and Recreation Manager; Jonathan Waverly, Parks and Cemetery Maintenance; Justin More, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Mike Mitchell, Monty Woods and Christine Lewis Oregon Metro Parks and Nature

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the (10/28/2021) PRAC Meeting

Troy Bolinger called for questions from PRAC Members regarding the approval of the October 28, 2021 PRAC Meeting Minutes. Shawn Dachtler questioned where the minutes are posted. Kendall Reid stated that the minutes are published in Municode along with the link to the agenda packet. The public can also access it through the website. Troy Bolinger asks for the link to be provided in the body of the email when the agenda is sent out. Karin Morey stated that the link does not open correctly on mobile devices, which reiterates Shawn's ask for the link to the minutes to be included in the email. Andy Crump stated to take the link directly from the website with the agenda packet and minutes attached. Karin Morey moved to approve the October 28 meeting minutes. Andy Crump seconded the motion.

All Approved: Karin Morey, Troy Bolinger, Derrick Cougle, Andy Crump, Shawn Dachtler, Brent Haverkamp

All Abstain: Shawn Dachtler

All Opposed: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Mitchell provided public comment regarding the condition of the dog park at Tyrone S. Woods Park. Mr. Mitchell stated that the problem with the dog park is not a maintenance issue, it is how it was built. He stated that there are 3 main issues; the cement pad is too small with the drainage located incorrectly, the valley in the dog park that drains towards the muddy area near the cement pad, and two drainage pipes near the south end of the park that pools water and generates water-borne illnesses. Mr. Mitchell said we need to ask two questions; How did it happen? How can we prevent it from happening again?

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations on the agenda.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Newell Creek Canyon Park Grand Opening Presentation

Christine Lewis presented on the upcoming Newell Creek Canyon Park Grand opening that is taking place on Monday. Ms. Lewis began the presentation by thanking the supporters and voters for their support and the Oregon City Watershed Council for their involvement in helping maintain the integrity of the environment through park construction. This park includes many native species of plants and animals along with 2.5 miles of walking trails and 2 miles of biking trails. One area to note is the continued effort with the homeless population through the local Police and Fire Departments. The park gate will open at dawn and close at dusk. The park will be closed at night. Anyone interested can access numerous park guides via oregonmetro.gov/newellcreek. Christine passed the presentation to Monty Woods to field questions from the PRAC Committee.

Shawn Dachtler began the discussion by commenting on it being one of the first public bike trails but expressed his displeasure with the project being over budget and completed years late. In the initial design, there was supposed to be a playground, but it was removed. He hopes that it comes back during another development phase of the park. Christine Lewis responded that it was removed due to a lack of outside/matching funding. Monty Woods also commented that a goal of the park is for it to be an immersive experience with something for everyone to enjoy. Brent Haverkamp provided additional comments by expressing his gratitude and stewardship towards money management but asked when the second phase of the park is taking place. Monty Woods responded with they are considering numerous projects right now, so there is no affirmative date at this time. Metro will have a physical presence at the park each day, at least 2-3 times a day.

Karin Morey proceeded with the next comment regarding the displacement of the homeless and if Monty and Jonathan Waverly have connected regarding this issue. Jonathan affirmed to Karin that they have connected and are actively working on this issue. Andy Crump expressed his excitement with Newell Creek being the first active trail in the Metro parks system. Mr. Crump asked about the logistics of the opening and Mr. Woods said to come and go as you please, they will be open from sunrise to sunset. Ms. Lewis added that Rangers will be there daily to help maintain the bathrooms and park safety. Troy Bolinger wanted to echo the comments earlier from Mr. Dachtler about the play structure and made sure to emphasize the need and want for the play structure in the next development phase. Mr. Bolinger also is concerned about the processes in how Metro plans on handling the homeless and leaving them alone; asks for further directive about how they will try to keep the homeless population out of the park. Mr. Woods responds by acknowledging the need for the play structure and that Metro will utilize social services to help get the homeless wrap-around services and will provide his contact information in case any of us see areas of concern.

Bolinger also asks about what safety means to Metro and the measure they are taking against the homeless and patron safety. Mr. Woods responded with overnight use not being allowed and enforcing Title X. He also reiterated a continuous park presence from Rangers. Troy also asks why they won't give authorization to the OCPD to remove the homeless. Monty stated that it becomes a jurisdiction issue between OCPD and Clackamas County Sheriff as you go further into the trail. Karin Morey provided additional comments about the jurisdictions and providing a play structure for the economically deprived neighborhood. Christine Lewis responded by saying she will make sure that when capital funding comes around in the spring, the playground will be emphasized. Ms. Lewis said that ODOT is also part of the jurisdictions on the west side.

3. Tyrone S. Woods Memorial Park

Jonathan Waverly presented on Tyrone S. Woods Memorial Park, specifically the dog park and landscaping that wilted during the extreme weather we experience this past winter and summer. Mr. Waverly's recommendation is to work with the contractors on the wilted landscape while strengthening turf establishment and minimizing weed formation. Jonathan says that the three biggest factors for an off-leash dog park are maintenance, maintenance, maintenance. He also stated that there must be a need to commit resources for maintenance for dog parks in the future. The majority of the community response has been positive. Mr. Waverly outlined some issues with the park being turf establishment (dogs digging holes/general wear and tear), did not design the park to be sectioned off in order for one side of the park to heal, and trouble with the drainage of the turf. Jonathan states that the next steps are to monitor and

repair the park accordingly, which in result, may mean that part of the park will be closed to allow it to heal.

Troy Bolinger turned to Mike Mitchell for public comment (see above).

Andy Crump asked Jonathan that in Bend, they use woodchips which is less maintenance, and was curious if that was a viable option. Jonathan stated that they did consider woodchips and all other viable options, but the annual to biannual maintenance is what steered the City away from the chips. He also said that the Bend is in a desert climate containing sandy soils whereas Oregon City is in the Willamette Valley we have clay that does not drain as well. Brett Haverkamp asked about the cost of turf maintenance. Mr. Waverly responded by saying the City does not know yet as the park has not been open for a year yet so it is hard to tell. There has been additional drainage added along with fertilizer for the turf to heal. Brent also said that a park in Lake Oswego has dirt with no turf while having no mud issues. This could be a solution to turf maintenance costs. Shawn Dachtler asked Jonathan if the dog park is too small for a temporary fence that would allow closure for a section of the dog park. Mr. Waverly said that they have looked into putting a temporary orange fence in but dogs may not always respect the orange fence. Mr. Dachtler said to look into using the SDC fund to see if we can put up a cyclone fence. Shawn's second concern was over the amount of clover versus grass at the dog park. Jonathan said that the clover/grass mixture is a blend as the clover is a nitrogen fixer which allows the grass to grow better. Denise Conrad added that the original mixture was not available, so a substitution was approved and used.

Karin Morey provided an additional comment saying that she like the use of the clover and we have to prepare for the next 10-15 years as we are in a drought. She also expressed her gratitude for Jonathan and his staff. Jonathan thanks Karin for the kind words and says there are a lot of elements to go into the dog park. Brent Haverkamp continued the discussion with who are the subject experts regarding the turf and Jonathan responded by saying it is the landscape architects and next time a park is completed, they will assess with PRAC about what went right and wrong and what can be done to improve for the next park. Troy Bolinger added his thoughts regarding Jonathan being composed and not complaining but also that he does not want PRAC to be just "another step in the process", he wants staff and outside agencies to take it seriously and use the committee's advice.

4. Filbert Run Park Naming Committee Update

Brent Haverkamp provided an update on Filbert Run Park. Brent reported to City Commission on Wednesday and the name of Hazel Grove Park has been adopted by the City of Oregon City and is the new name of the formally known

park, Filbert Run Park. Kendall Reid commented on Brent's job in presenting to the City Commission as well as the head of this project. He also thanked him for his work and leadership. Brent added that he went to the park earlier this week and said he hopes we don't have the same issues with turf as we do now but thinks the park will serve that community well.

STAFF REPORTS

Kendall Reid started his report off with an update on the delayed equipment for Filbert Run Park has begun to come in. The goal is to open that park in January or February. Mr. Reid also mentioned an email that was sent to the committee and City Commission regarding the closure of the Clackamette Park Boat Ramp. The City is excited to begin the Clackamette Park Master Plan with Lango Hansen as a contract was just approved for them and the meeting will be happening at the beginning of the new year. Kendall stated that the RFQ for the WGNA went out and the contractor, Plan B, was chosen to help assist with the projects through some of the parks in the City. Karin Morey asked Kendall for the applications for the applicants who were chosen to fill the vacancies on the PRAC Committee. The interviews will be taking place on December 9th. Mr. Reid also updated the committee on the first round of interviews for the Aquatic and Recreation Manager. Brent Haverkamp asked Kendall if there was PRAC representation at the PRAC interviews for the current vacancies. There will be PRAC representation and introductions will take place at the next meeting. Shawn Dachtler asked for an update on the Sportscraft Landing negotiations and there are no updates at this time. The Clackamette Boat Closure has been sent to the public as well.

Melissa Sebastian began her staff report with winter swimming lesson registration opening on Friday, December 3rd. The pool is not at pre-pandemic levels, but the pool is continuing to lifeguard certification classes for the foreseeable future. The pool's staff levels are better than some in the area but are still in the process of trying to hire more staff. Winter break camps are still taking place on December 20th – 23rd and 27th – 31st. There is a full-day camp at the pool and a half-day camp at the Pioneer Center. December 18th, the pool is hosting a holiday craft event in the Community Room.

Kathy Wiseman reported that the Pioneer Center is doing great. They are receiving donations for the Veteran's Memorial and their appeal. The wreath sale was a huge success and are planning on putting gifts together for MOW clients. The end of the year is busy for the Pioneer Center as they are wrapping up their low-income energy assistance program and trying to get through the holiday times by providing transportation and back to the level of busyness that they are used to seeing this time of year.

Jonathan Waverly reported that on November 20th, the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council did an invasive weed removal, and the Friends of Tree event took place at Rivercrest Park. 3 trees were planted at Rivercrest, and 6 trees

were planted at Singer Creek Park. Another tree planting event will take place this spring. The ivy removal at Waterboard Park was completed by the Oregon City Parks Foundation. Leaf cleanup on the McLoughlin Promenade by the McLoughlin Association helped the crews with the leaf cleanup as it is a busy time of the year. Currently, the crew is transitioning to the Fir Street Building. One crew member will still be at the cemetery and the rest of them will operate out of the Fir Street Building. Following the ice storm last February, the Parks Crew tried to save as many trees as possible. The crew is currently flagging trees throughout the park's system to be inspected by a professional arborist.

Denise Conrad reported that the Fir Street Building is currently going through training with the staff about the processes with HVAC, maintenance, etc. One facilities person is on medical leave while one has just returned for all facilities. FEMA repairs are still ongoing at the cemetery and the roof at Parks Place. Currently, there is some mischief going on in our parks and the goal is to mitigate the cost of repairs due to the mischiefs and the team is currently looking into Patrols and other options to deter the vandalism. Karin Morey asks for an update on the roofs on the Mausoleums and Denise said quotes only last for 30 days and due to the rain, repairs won't take place until the spring.

MEMBER REPORTS

Shawn Dachtler began his member report by acknowledging that since the PRAC meeting has been moved to being remote, the agendas have gotten weaker each month. Says that he does not always want to go to 10 p.m. but also stated that we have to address the needs of the City. Shawn challenged the staff to tell Kendall about what is going on out there. He felt that the hot topics should be on the agenda, even if it is a 30 second agenda item. Shawn also challenged the current PRAC members to attend City Commission meetings and keep in communication with them as we should work together. He also felt that new members need to be taken on a tour around the city parks and being told about some of the main issues that the city is currently addressing within those parks. Shawn said that PRAC members are always able to reach out to him and challenges them to speak out if they question anything.

Brent Haverkamp reported on Park Place Park house development. The developer wanted to utilize the service road as a driveway to access their house. He reached out to Lisa Norvic who was on the planning committee and the last she heard was that they were negotiating with the neighboring property. Citizens wanted the City to buy the property to prevent development, but the citizen rescinded their request for development due to the slope of the property being greater than 25%. Kendall said he will follow up with Tony Konkol regarding the property and the topic will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

The remaining staff thanked Shawn for his commitment to PRAC.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Sears Farm Development

Parks and Recreation Funding

Clackamette Park Master Plan

WES Good Neighbor Funds

Joint Operations Center

Willamette Falls Legacy Project

Property Acquisition

The Cove

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – January 27th, 2022 at 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.