

City of Oregon City  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER**

*Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm*

**INTRODUCTIONS**

**Members:** *Tim Wuest; Andy Crump; Brent Haverkamp; Shawn Dachtler; Karin Morey; Troy Bolinger*

**Staff:** *Kendall Reid, Parks and Recreation Director; Denise Conrad, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Kathy Wiseman, Senior Center Supervisor; Rochelle Anderholm-Parsch, Aquatic and Recreation Manager; Jonathan Waverly, Parks and Cemetery Maintenance*

**Guests:** *Jon Blasher, Director for Metro's Parks and Nature Department; Christine Lewis, District 2 Metro Councilor; Dan Moeller, Conservation Program Director for Metro's Parks and Nature Department; Dan Hanes, Oregon City Police Department Homeless Liaison Officer*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of the January 28, 2021 PRAC Meeting**

*Karin Morey moved to approve the minutes; Shawn Dachtler seconded.*

*All in Favor: Tim Wuest; Karin Morey; Troy Bolinger; Andy Crump; Shawn Dachtler; Brent Haverkamp*

*All opposed: none*

*Motion passed*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*There were no citizen comments.*

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**2. Newell Creek Canyon Project**

*The representatives from Metro introduced themselves; Jon Blasher, Director for Metro's Parks and Nature Department; Christine Lewis, District 2 Metro Councilor; and Dan Moeller, Conservation Program Director for Metro's Parks and Nature Department. Mr. Moeller began a presentation that summarized the status of the Newell Creek Canyon Project. Mr. Moeller provided photos, maps, and descriptions of the three main areas: Day Use, Trail Network and Conservation Area. He noted that the Day Use area is complete, but Metro will hold off on the grand opening until the Trail Network is complete and safe, with an anticipated completion date in October 2021. Mr. Moeller then*

*answered questions from members regarding a volunteer program, the presence of nearby campers, recent tree damage, the status of the land swap proposal with the City, the features of the off-road cycle path. Mr. Dachtler expressed his disappointment with the lack of a play area, as this was a feature that had been at the forefront of public discussions for this project. Mr. Moeller explained that the budget for the project will not allow for any additional amenities at this time. Mr. Bolinger suggested aligning the park operating hours with City Parks for consistency.*

### **3. Homeless Outreach Efforts by Oregon City Police Department**

*Officer Dan Hanes, Oregon City Police Department Homeless Liaison, provided information in a presentation on Homelessness in Oregon City, noting that homelessness is a growing concern in the City. Officer Hanes explained his role, available resources, enforcement methods and cleanup efforts. He highlighted that from April 2020 – Jan. 2021, he, and Homeless Advocate Kevin Dahlgren, in partnership with The Father's Heart, have helped 77 individuals find housing, either shelter/transitional, with family or permanent. Officer Hanes' presentation included before and after photos of areas that were cleaned. Members expressed their appreciation and support of Office Hanes and asked questions about individuals who were resistant to receiving assistance, the homeless impacts on public parks and expanding the ability to enforce rules in areas out of jurisdiction.*

### **4. Update on Oregon City Parks and Recreation Cost Recovery Analysis and Work**

*Rochelle Anderholm-Parsch, Aquatic and Recreation Manager, presented an update on the Cost Recovery project, reviewing the project timeline, the phased approach, the data & software tool, and next steps. Ms. Anderholm-Parsch provided examples of the "insights" report and demonstrated some features of the software. She revealed the final product, the Financial Support and Sustainability Strategy 2021-2023. She explained that the strategy as presented provides targets, some quite ambitious, and discussion has taken place on how to incrementally reach these targets. Ms. Anderholm-Parsch reported that the next steps are to create a draft Financial Support and Sustainability Strategy Policy for PRAC and then City Commission for review, comments, and codification. The goal is for the new policy to become effective on July 1, 2021. Ms. Anderholm-Parsch & Mr. Reid fielded questions regarding the effect on the budget, capacity to split the fine line between sustainable and cost-prohibitive pricing, capabilities of the software and distribution of scholarship funds.*

### **5. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Goals**

*Mr. Bolinger asked members to review the 2019-2020 Goals document he put on screen and to work off the format to set the new goals for 2021. He suggested a periodic review of the goals to revise, add updates, measure success and mark complete. Mr. Bolinger advised that they could keep,*

revise, drop and/or add new goals to this list. Ms. Morey pointed out three specific items that could not be addressed; the deferred maintenance & parks infrastructure item needed citizen input, the Clackamette Park Master Plan and Boat Ramp item was left with the City Commission, and the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan will require a consultant. She commented that they needed an interactive document for ideas and input, along with budget updates from Mr. Reid. Ms. Morey felt they were not in a place to update or address these items. Mr. Bolinger replied that goals should be continually updated, noting that some information gathering and updating was needed. He suggested taking what they know at the time and rework it every couple of months. Mr. Haverkamp agreed and stated that he liked the idea of working within the SMART goals format. Mr. Dachtler commented that in previous years they would labor over determining goals and often not even vote on them until April. He felt they should work on a two-year goal cycle to be in sync with the Commission retreat and the budget cycle. Mr. Dachtler suggested tabling the discussion until members could review and then come to the next meeting with suggestions, communicating via email between meetings. Mr. Wuest agreed with Mr. Dachtler and noted his support of having a dynamic document as mentioned by Ms. Morey. A brief discussion followed about the number and type of goals to include. Mr. Bolinger wrapped up the discussion by stating that he wanted to have the goals done, agreed upon and approved by the next meeting. To do this, Mr. Bolinger proposed that Mr. Dachtler and Mr. Haverkamp work together offline to create the framework around the goals, gather member suggestions and send out the document before the next meeting so in March everyone is prepared to vote, adding that Mr. Reid should be involved as well. Mr. Bolinger asked if all agreed. No members issued further comments.

## **MEMBER REPORTS**

*Mr. Haverkamp:*

*Spoke about the development near Park Place Park that would use the right of way service road through the park as a driveway. He noted his strong concerns about the access road's proximity to a playground and an off-leash dog area. Mr. Haverkamp requested that City Staff communicate to PRAC their position and provide details on the development of the property. He felt that PRAC should encourage Staff to look at all options to come up with alternative access to the property.*

*Mr. Reid responded that this is an ongoing conversation, and the property is nowhere near development. He added that it is on the radar of the City Commission, and the City Manager. Mr. Reid suggested giving Staff time to do their research and look at every possible option. He offered to provide a future report, or have Planning or Public Works provide one when more information is available.*

*No other members provided reports.*

## **STAFF REPORTS**

*Mr. Reid reported on the extensive damage caused by the recent ice storm, complimenting Staff, who has already been through so much, for doing a fantastic job responding to the crisis, doing triage, and responding to calls and reports from the community. He noted that they are focused on assessing the damage, responding to immediate concerns, and calling in additional vendors. He reported on the various sites, including Park Place Park and the Cemetery, where Staff sprang into action quickly. Mr. Reid stated that they are now doing an initial damage assessment to project the number of trees lost and to document with photographs the damage in each of the parks. He noted that they are considering closing Waterboard Park to the public until the hazards can be removed; Singer Creek Park and Clackamette Park are also in pretty bad shape. He added that recovery will be a huge project that will affect goals and the budget for quite some time. He asked for support, noting that it will take time and resources to address all the issues, and stated that they are doing their best to open the parks as soon as possible. He gave kudos to Staff including Jon Waverly, Parks and Cemetery Maintenance and his Staff; Denise Conrad, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Jinny King, Parks Office Specialist III; and to the Aquatics Staff working at the Cove site.*

*Mr. Waverly described the ice storm as “catastrophic” and noted that no trees had been removed yet, but some are just standing skeletons. He stated that they will do their best to save what they can. Mr. Waverly reported that they have called in boom trucks to assist with the big trees but may need to call in climbers to get the very tall trees. He added that assessing the tree damage is a long-term process that they will need to monitor, and he asked for patience and a little bit of grace.*

*Ms. Conrad emphasized that safety is their top concern and wanted to get the word out that parks are hazardous areas at this time and people needed to be careful.*

*Mr. Reid concluded with the good news that they had awarded the contract for the deferred maintenance assessment and capital improvement plan for all Oregon City facilities and parks. They will have their first meeting with the consultant on February 26 and should complete the project by the end of April, when they will have a plan which will be presented at multiple meetings including PRAC and the Commission. He also reported that they received 10 applications for the vacancies on PRAC. Kattie Riggs, City Recorder, is working to get him the applicant information, with more information coming out to PRAC members in the next several weeks to review applicants and schedule interviews.*

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*Mr. Bolinger summarized his notes for future agenda items including receiving information on the City-owned land within Newell Creek Canyon, Mr. Dachtler and Mr. Haverkamp starting the conversation on goals, and he noted that the road through Park Place Park should be added as a future agenda item without a specific date, just so it is on the radar. At Mr. Haverkamp's request, Ms. Morey clarified that she would like an update from Mr. Reid or from Planning on this item. Mr. Bolinger suggested that this just be a topic in Mr. Reid's next Staff Report. Mr. Reid agreed.*

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – March 25, 2021****ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm by Chair Troy Bolinger*