

CITY OF OREGON CITY
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
City Hall Commission Chambers
Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Ken Worcester called meeting to order at 6:00pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Members: Joyce Gifford, Ken Worcester (acting Chair), Tim Wuest (remote), Tim Lainhart, Steve Williams (remote), Erin McClellan (remote), Emily Lisborg (remote)

Staff: Kendall Reid, Parks and Recreation Director; Kori Buth, Administrative Assistant; Parks and Cemetery Manager, Tom Kissinger; Aquatics and Recreation Manager, Melissa Sebastian; Pioneer Community Center Manager, Cecily Rose

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of February 22nd, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Tim Lainhart motioned to approve minutes. Joyce Gifford seconded. Minutes approved via roll call.
2. Approval of December 22nd, 2022 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Joyce Gifford motioned to approve minutes. Tim Lainhart seconded. Minutes approved via roll call.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Four public comments were received in the form of letters, one addressing the relocation of the Clackamette RV Park and three addressing the pickleball courts/nets at Hillendale Park.

Tim Lainhart read the first letter from Kristina L Franklin regarding the Clackamette RV Park.

Emily Brault, Oregon City resident and Hillendale Pickleball Club secretary. Emily shared that the club currently has just over 200 members and supports Hillendale Park being used for multi-sport purposes. They welcome all players, from beginner to competitive levels. Emily spoke on the court repairs that are needed and shared that the Pickleball Club is glad to support those efforts however is needed.

Pat Wong, Oregon City/Redland resident for 30+ years, has played pickleball for about five years and spoke on the relationships that have been built. Pat supports what Emily Brault shared previously and he will become new Hillendale Pickleball Club president in 2024-2025 and emphasized the sense of community that the sport brings to the area. He also spoke about the court usage during

rainy seasons. The club would like to put their energy towards the needed repairs, first and foremost.

Kori Buth read the second letter from Robert Small and Rita Maynard, Hillendale Pickleball Club presidents regarding their statistics and opinion on repairs needed at the courts.

Kori Buth read the third letter from Hillendale Pickleball Club regarding their thoughts, statistics, details, repairs needed and opposition to permanent pickleball nets, at least until repairs are addressed, at Hillendale Park.

Joyce Gifford read the fourth letter from Davis Kile regarding their support for permanent pickleball nets at Hillendale Park.

Ken Worcester asked if there was an update that we can provide to people with public comment.

Tim Wuest confirmed that the installation of permanent nets would be nothing against the Hillendale Pickleball Club and is simply to promote the general public to be able to play pickleball in Oregon City and stated that the courts are often sitting empty. Tim mentions that Playtime Scheduler only shows five people utilizing the courts this Saturday when the weather is supposed to be nice.

Ken Worcester confirms that no action is being taken at this time. A community member asked to speak and Ken gave her permission to speak and then be sure to submit a public comment card.

Shery Phillips, an Oregon City resident and member of the Hillendale Pickleball Club, wanted to clarify that the Club does not require people to sign up on Playtime Scheduler, so when Tim Wuest mentions that the app only shows a small group of people playing, that is not an accurate representation of the number of players at the courts on any given day.

Another community member, Steven Baker, asked to make a comment and Ken gave him permission to speak and then be sure to submit a public comment card. Steven spoke on the social interactions that have meant so much to him and has played 21 times since January 15th, all at Hillendale Park, and he has never seen Tim Wuest at the courts. Steven has never noticed anyone playing tennis there yet, but feels that there is a way to put in two permanent pickleball nets and continue to offer multi-sport courts. Also spoke on cheaper portable pickleball nets or people using the tennis nets to learn pickleball. The Club has collaborated with the City to take on some of the facility costs and upkeep. Talked on inclusive play when it comes to skills and that the club welcomes all

levels. Steven mentioned the pickleball courts that were promised at TSW Park near the high school. Joyce Gifford mentioned that she doesn't recall pickleball courts being part of the TSW Master Plan.

Ken Worcester spoke on the Parks Master Plan, including the Capital Improvement Plans, and encouraged the community to stay involved.

Erin McClellan mentioned that at our last PRAC meeting the members did take a vote and asked for clarification and a reminder of what that vote was for. Tim Lainhart recalls that it was regarding receiving quotes for relocation of the basketball courts. Ken Worcester recalls it as supporting the forward movement of the public involvement aspect. It is confirmed that there is no further motion needed at this point.

PRESENTATIONS

Neelay Bhatt and Jason Elissalde, with Next Practice Partners, presented on the final draft of the Parks Master Plan.

Tim Lainhart mentioned that PRAC has seen the finding that contribute towards the final plan, but what is the timeline and will PRAC have the opportunity to review the final plan. Kendall confirmed that PRAC will have a chance to view that plan and spoke on the Capital Improvement Plan and how we hope to address some of the community feedback in that CIP project list. The conversation will then merge to talk about alternative funding and how we get there. Our next step will be bringing the Capital Improvement plan to PRAC and the City Commission in a joint work session and reviewing and discussing the project list together. We'll look at other jurisdictions to get an idea of what others are doing and provide a level of framework on projects and costs.

Ken Worcester asked if the plan will help to correlate adult health and fitness into the CIP and working that into both recreation and programs. Kendall responded with the hope to expand our programming. We are currently working collaboratively to expand our program options to address some of the community feedback. Ken confirmed that when we talk about programming, it doesn't mean it has to be a city-run program.

Tim Lainhart mentioned making sure that priorities match the budget. At what step do we make sure that those two things align; does that happen at the joint work session with City Commission. Kendall responded with the joint session being a space where reviewing the CIP together will provide an opportunity to talk on alternative funding and look into how SDC's can tie into those financials. Ken confirmed that SDC stands for System Development Charges, which is a fee that is attached to each new residential or commercial unit that is built.

Erin McClellan commented that she was impressed with the Parks 'n Play website and shared a kudos to those involved in creating that. Erin was also excited the desire for paved trails high up on the community's radar. Appreciates the balance of talking about programming but also nature and trails.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Melissa Sebastian shared a presentation on aquatic, recreation, and Ermatinger House events happening this Spring and Fall, including program opportunities, Concerts/Movies in the Park, cultural activities, field trips, youth camps, and holiday/seasonal events. Melissa recognized her staff for all their hard work in making sure these events and activities run smoothly.

Ken Worcester asked if the other splash pads at City parks open at the same time as the wading pool. Melissa responded with thinking that those typically open up after Memorial Day weekend, so they might be open a bit earlier than the pool, weather permitting.

Emily Lisborg asked for confirmation on the laser light show happening for the 4th of July event and if that meant there would not be a fireworks display. Melissa confirmed that this 15-minute laser lightshow will take the place of fireworks.

A community member asked a question (not picked up on a microphone) regarding the Farmers Market. Kendall confirmed that, while we do participate, we don't manage the Farmer's Market.

A community member then asked (not picked up on microphone) about the Silver & Fit program and pickleball was listed as one of the program options. Last summer we had a staff member who organized an opportunity for pool members to play pickleball at Hillendale Park one day per week. That program is not currently taking place.

Erin McClellan offers compliments on the variety of fun events coming up and thinks it's a great idea to hold off on the swim lesson registration until Trail News reaches people's mailboxes. Erin asked if Parks and Recreation ever partners with Downtown Oregon City Association. Melissa mentioned that some collaboration events have been talked about in the past, but it has never come to fruition. We do participate in the First City Celebration, put on by DOCA.

Cecily Rose shared a presentation on Pioneer Community Center updates, services, resources, programs, and statistics.

Ken Worcester commented on the importance of the 25-year intergovernmental contract with West Linn and is a good example of the government trying to make

use of limited money in the best way possible. Ken appreciates the efforts of Cecily and the Pioneer Center.

Tim Lainhart asked about the success of the added position of the Rentals and Events Coordinator. Cecily spoke on Taylor Miller's unique position working across the entire department and shadowing Melissa on the recreation events that she has managed for years. The transition period for Taylor continues as he learns about events for each season, such as Movies and Concerts in the Park. Activities, events, and programming at the Pioneer Center have seen creative growth because of Taylor's skillset and they've been able to add some of these new things without an added cost to the City.

Joyce Gifford commented on the Pioneer Center being so much more than just a senior center. Joyce is proud of the work that is done there.

STAFF REPORTS

Tom Kissinger highlighted some of this last month's projects, including the ball field renovation plan which improves the soil quality of the in-fields. Work has been completed at Chapin Park, in coordination with Oregon City Youth Sports. We incorporated Turface and it turned out great. Wesley Lynn fields are planned for next week, depending on weather. Planted about 40 native plants in the Pioneer Center's Peace Garden this week. Upcoming events for Arbor Day and Earth Month are happening April 6th at Chapin Park, in partnership with Friends of Trees, as well as an ivy pull event at Atkinson Park, in partnership with Greater Oregon City Watershed Council. We also have two events happening April 20th – the Singer Creek Fall ivy pull, hosted by Oregon City's Ivy League, as well as PGE, in partnership with SOLVE, doing an ivy pull at Canemah Park. Tom wanted to thank Emily Lisborg and Melissa Sebastian for meeting to talk about the pollinator garden at the Pool and Tom extended the invitation to the rest of PRAC if they were interested in a site visit. Looking into an enhancement project this Fall. Tom suggested to reach out via email if there was interest in visiting that location.

MEMBER REPORTS

Tim Lainhart talked about his experience with Spring Camp for his own son and how much fun he is having. What a great resource for the community! His son also had individual swim lessons with an awesome instructor and group swim lessons for Tim's 3-year old daughter – she never wants to leave the pool. Staff has been excellent. Tim went by the Pickleball courts a couple times – the club members that were there were very welcoming and it was fun to see the community thriving. Tim returned to the courts when the club wasn't there and did see people playing basketball and tennis.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Xerxes Presentation
Fenced Dog Park Proposals – Local Government Grant Program
Volunteer Opportunity Presentation
Tri-City Outfall Project
Deferred Maintenance

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – April 25th, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended about 8:00 pm