

**CITY OF CORVALLIS
MINUTES OF THE PARKS, NATURAL AREAS AND RECREATION BOARD
SEPTEMBER 16, 2010**

Attendance

Kent Daniels
Nick Todorovich
Lynda Wolfenbarger, Vice-Chair
Betty Griffiths, Greenbelt Land Trust
Alejandra Gonzalez
Mary Buckman, Chair
Jen de-Vries
Joel Hirsch, Council Liaison

Staff

Karen Emery, Director
David Neighbor, Parks Operations
Supervisor
Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner
Mark Lindgren, Recorder

Visitors

Absent/Excused

Randy Willard
Charles Fisher
Greg Lecuyer, 509-J District Rep.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

| Agenda Item | Information Only | Held for Further Review | Recommendations |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|---|
| II. Board Elections | | | Motion passed to elect Mary Buckman as Chair and Lynda Wolfenbarger as Vice Chair. |
| III. Approval of Minutes | X | | |
| IV. Visitors' Propositions | X | | |
| V. Revenue Idea Brainstorming | X | | |
| VI. Goals Update | X | | |
| VII. Staff Reports | X | | |
| VIII. Board Member/City Council Liaison Reports | X | | |
| IX. Adjournment | X | | The next regular Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., October 21, 2010 at the Downtown Fire Station Main Meeting Room. |

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair de-Vries called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. De-Vries added board elections to the agenda.
- II. **BOARD ELECTIONS.** De-Vries noted that she had to step down from the position, due to other commitments. **Griffiths moved and Buckman seconded to elect Mary Buckman as Chair and Lynda Wolfenbarger as Vice Chair; motion passed.**

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Lynda Wolfenbarger moved and Betty Griffiths seconded to accept the August 19, 2010 minutes as presented; motion passed.
- IV. VISITORS' PROPOSITIONS.** None.
- V. REVENUE IDEA BRAINSTORMING.** It was suggested to establish a Foundation. Rochefort suggested restaurant "dine-outs"; these net several hundred dollars each month for a small group she is involved with. Someone suggested discount cards for restaurants.

Todorovich asked about dog fundraisers; Emery noted that due to heightened interest in dogs, there was potential for more. Rochefort related that a citizen had suggested several activities for the dog park. Buckman asked whether there was any policy regarding renting the dog park; Emery replied that that could go to fee review. Rochefort highlighted the "parking meter" donation idea for the dog park; Hirsch suggested that they be erected around town. Rochefort suggested a contest for different, cool designs for using banged up old meters. Buckman suggested making the skatepark rentable.

De-Vries suggested silent or live auction events for donated sporting goods and outdoor gear. She suggested having businesses sponsor donations of large items, like a car, as a tax write-off to get raffled off, as a contribution.

Betty suggested adding a "Donate" button at the Parks and Recreation website; Emery noted the current park donation via the utility bill needed to be improved for those paying their bill electronically. Hirsch added that the City's system has been recently improved.

Keller suggested auctioning off naming or advertising rights for a bench for a specific time period, etc. Rochefort suggested sales of T-shirts and hats; Hirsch suggested water bottles. He also suggested having a Corvallis sales section on the City website. De-Vries suggested selling advertising space on the City website; Hirsch noted that that was not possible on a dot.gov website and Emery added that that was against City policy. Neighbor suggested redirecting web traffic to a different site. Rochefort suggested selling ad space at Osborn. Buckman suggested selling ads on 4' by 8' boards at ball games; Todorovich concurred. Rochefort noted that there was a concrete pad at Sunset Park with water and power.

Buckman emphasized that it must remain tasteful. She noted that some activities would have trouble breaking even unless they were done by volunteers. Emery stated that staff would look at low-hanging fruit and do a cost analysis. De-Vries said that some fundraising activities could be contracted out. Emery related that concessions are currently contracted out at the OAC, but staff feel that the existing 10% return is low, so taking that in-house could be an opportunity. The funds go back to Osborn. Buckman said there needed to be discussion whether money from fundraising went into the Parks general fund.

Emery said that program supporters may be willing to staff concessions at tournaments; Rochefort suggested having a component of sports teams pitching in to help. Emery said she would meet with the Finance Director soon to discuss using different funding sources. De-Vries asked about increasing tournaments in partnership with OSU; Emery highlighted a survey regarding the economic impact of tournaments. De-Vries related that an OSU was planning to bring in a consultant as their sports complex comes online; there are opportunities to share large tournaments. Neighbor added that Pioneer Park was close to OSU.

Gonzalez suggested a 5k run series with a final segment that finished in a park; Keller added that that could be a series. Neighbor encouraged members to send in any further ideas. Emery said that staff would bring back projects that they think the department should pursue first.

Emery related that she, Betty Griffiths and de-Vries would meet to further discuss the proposed foundation.

VI. GOALS UPDATE. Griffiths asked whether Goal #2 had been done regarding master plans development; Rochefort related that natural areas and parks were combined for the item. Neighbor highlighted #13; Rochefort related that the subcommittee has had trouble getting together. She said bringing on Gonzalez as a youth board member had accomplished Goal #1.

Griffiths related Phil Hayes had taken the lead on Goal #9 regarding creating a master trails plan for the city and the county. De-Vries distributed an update on the work.

De-Vries asked about the status of #7 regarding volunteerism; Buckman related that she was supposed to meet with Volunteer Coordinator Steve McGettigan. Emery said the department had the capacity for more volunteers in some areas. Todorovich asked whether there was a need for volunteers at all levels, or whether it should be better targeted; Emery replied the subcommittee needed to meet with staff to identify need and strategies for where to use volunteers within the department. She related there were some well-established volunteer groups, including at the Senior Center, for parks and trails, and the Youth Volunteer Corps. However, there are not well-defined recruitment plans; capacity is not well defined; and there are probably opportunities for using volunteers that have not been created. She cautioned that volunteers cannot be used to replace staff that are union members; that would be a violation of the contract. She said there were opportunities regarding "Adopt a Park", and maintenance of beautification and median strip areas. Todorovich added that volunteers could be used for concessions.

Griffiths asked if there were a way to track volunteers for whom the need was not immediate; Emery replied that there was not. Neighbor added that Steve McGettigan recorded names of volunteers. Griffiths related the Greenbelt Land Trust had a volunteer database that included the kinds of activities that volunteers were interested in; Emery agreed the system could be refined.

Keller asked why there was no Goal #11; De-Vries replied it had been moved to an ongoing goal and the number changed. It was noted that Goal #4 was completed. De-Vries suggested the list be reviewed; she noted a lot had been accomplished. Buckman said review could be put on a regular cycle; Emery stated that every November would be a good time.

Emery related that there had been some discussion about moving the location of the PNARB meetings to another location, such as the Avery Park conference room or the Madison Avenue Meeting Room (MAMR). She noted the Avery Park conference room was big enough for the board and staff but probably is not big enough to accommodate many visitors well. Buckman noted that the Fire Station was a little intimidating for visitors. Hirsch noted the board often had visitors; Buckman added that often the number of visitors is unpredictable. Griffiths suggested that the configuration of tables at the fire station could be somewhat altered. Todorovich said he liked the fire station. Buckman asked whether the fire station was expensive; Emery said it was a reasonable cost.

Rochefort related that during the Riverfront master plan process held at the Parks and Rec conference room there were complaints by visitors about it being too small. Emery noted that there was not a fee for the MAMR. Buckman noted that the Avery Park room would likely be too small when there were

presentations, which were not uncommon. Someone asked about using the Osborn meeting room; Emery replied that generally the department tried to avoid using facilities that it was trying to rent; also the seating was uncomfortable.

Emery said that she was getting a sense from the board that the Avery Park Admin conference room was too small. Keller recalled a meeting held at MAMR with a big crowd; it was very loud and hot, and he had trouble hearing. Recorder Lindgren concurred that that was a problem there; the Fire Station sound system produced great recordings and the sound system makes it easy for everyone to hear. Buckman suggested moving tables around at the Fire Station for board brainstorming sessions and other work; Emery said that the City Council moves the tables for its work sessions. Emery said it was not a good idea to change meeting locations from month to month. She summarized that the meeting location should probably be left as it is.

VII. STAFF REPORTS. Director Emery highlighted that the department now can do online registrations and reservations; the software has in-depth reporting features that will help in target marketing and giving a sense of who is participating in programs.

She related that Neighbor finished recruiting for a senior administrative specialist position. He also finished up the OSU football parking contracts with the Mary's River Lodge Masons; they've had the contract for three years. Lines were chalked out for parking spots; they cost \$15. It was formerly \$10; however, \$15 is the maximum that can be charged without incurring increased expectation and liability under State law. The department gets 75%. The department received \$22,000 last year from six games. Buckman asked whether the parking was usually full; Neighbor replied that it depended on how well the Beavers were doing. De-Vries asked what had happened to the proposal for game day parking at North Riverfront; Rochefort noted that the mixed ownership at the park needed to be investigated. De-Vries said there may be other untapped sites as well.

Emery reported the large pool at Osborn Aquatic Center was closed for facility maintenance. The Youth Advisory Board for the department got the Governor's Award for Outstanding Youth Group; they will go to Salem to receive the award in October. There will be a temporary graffiti exhibition at the skatepark this Saturday. The event will collect names of people seeking to reestablish a graffiti wall; a proponent, Tony Farley, will go before the Arts and Culture Commission next month with a proposal. It is not clear whether a graffiti wall would be on public or private property.

Rochefort reported the department was contacted by ODOT, which is proposing building frontage roads to the north and south of Highway 34 that would allow access to Berg and Orleans Parks. A master plan was done around 1980; it looked at wetlands restoration and a sports complex. The road is expected to be completed within two years and would also allow access by the Trysting Tree golf course. The road opens up many possibilities. Rochefort noted that the road would allow access to the viewing pond to the south of the highway. Emery emphasized that it is a significant change that opens up a lot of exciting possibilities. Rochefort added that it would involve working with Linn County.

Emery highlighted the removal of two cottonwood trees; it was an opportunity to educate the public on urban forestry and tree health. One of the logs was taken to Herbert Natural Area to become habitat. Keller noted that a thick standing rotten tree provided excellent habitat, but not adjacent to a sidewalk. Emery highlighted her presentation to the Council of the WaterWise/Pesticide Free projects.

She related Greenbelt Land Trust had purchased an option to buy 587 acres on the west side of Bald Hill. GLT Liaison Griffiths added the property was owned by Andrew Martin; the property was unrelated to Martin's Reservoir Road property and abutted Bald Hill Park. The site contains rare and

endangered species, trails, wetlands, and upland oak; the plan is to have a leaseholder to manage it as a working farm in a way that rotates grazing, so that farming practices blend in with ecological attributes and restoration of the site. She noted that the existing 99-year trail easements would remain. Rochefort highlighted the site's natural resources, diversity, beauty, connections between green spaces, a pivotal long-desired trail connection and it will have an exciting Polyface grazing demonstration program. Griffiths offered to give a tour to the board. Griffiths said the proposed grazing system involved removable fences and a progression of chickens following cows.

Emery said that the Gaylord House, the oldest house in the city, managed by the department, was being painted; the existing lead-based paint is flaking. The department is continuing to preserve the house until a plan for its use is forthcoming. Lighting in Central Park is being repaired.

Neighbor related that Park Operations cooperated with Public Works on an irrigation water use survey designed to sample use efficiency; early results are positive. Rochefort added the Public Works monitoring project was part of the City's sustainability core team.

A final draft of Herbert Farm and Natural Area management plan is nearing completion. Neighbor said there were successful ecological burns at Mary's River and Bald Hill Natural Areas in support of restoration projects. Neighbor related that the new Americorps staffer is Jenny Pough; she will work with the YVC. There are 26 teams registered for fall adult volleyball. There will be a longboard rally on October 2 from Bald Hill to Avery Park. He related that on-line registration accounted for about 60% of registration; it is working well and is a great service and convenience to the public. Wolfenbarger highlighted a room reservation glitch; Neighbor replied that a few problems were being ironed out. Wolfenbarger said it was a good process. Neighbor reported that the reservable time for facilities has now been extended to 18 months.

Rochefort highlighted the Creekside Center project, which was heard by the Planning Commission last night. It is located at 53rd and Philomath Boulevard. The Parks and Rec Facilities Plan shows a multiuse path going through the property. The Facilities Plan includes an interconnected trail system throughout the city; it occurs during development, in pieces. A large portion of the project is in wetlands; the best location for the path is through the wetlands, partly so that it would be enjoyable for users and serviceable for taking people to destinations.

She related that there was some discussion at the Planning Commission regarding the trail going through the middle of a significant wetland. She said that some think that a trail should never go through a wetland; the other approach is to bring people to a resource in a controlled way in order to preserve the resource. This is the approach used at Sunset Park and Mary's River Natural Area and seems to work well. Commissioners asked that it be built as an elevated boardwalk in order to preserve the wetlands. She said that the type of path and materials will be up to the Department of State Lands (DSL).

Developers agreed to 12,000 square feet for boardwalk for multiuse trails in exchange for more buildable land area. She related that the developer asked that a small section at the start of the path be bermed in order to reassure a neighbor concerned about flooding. The developer asked to prepay for the path, and the department would build it down the road. She noted that the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan was adopted before the Natural Features Inventory was done; many facilities are located in facilities that contain significant natural features. In some cases that is compatible; in other cases, when the site plan is updated, it may need to be reevaluated. Griffiths asked whether the path could have been relocated to the edge of the site; Rochefort replied that that would have prevented the developer from getting MADA credits needed in order to build a couple buildings. Rochefort reported

the project was approved as shown; commissioners strongly suggested the path be built as a boardwalk. Keller asked whether there was a creek on the site; Rochefort replied the path would be built further than the minimum 50' away from the creek. She noted that more such multiuse solutions would be common in the future.

She reported that department heads had reviewed the CIP and it would next go to the Finance Director and City Manager next month for review. She related that a donor would like to contribute benches and trees for the Central Park Plaza.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER/CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS. Buckman related that she, Kent Daniels, Michael Pope and several others met last week to discuss opportunities and planning for Jackson Frazier; members were given assignments and will meet again in about a month.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.