

DRAFT
CITY OF CORVALLIS
MINUTES OF THE PARKS, NATURAL AREAS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
JULY 16, 2015

Attendance

Lynda Wolfenbarger, Vice-Chair
 Ralph Alig
 Tatiana Dierwechter
 Simone Frei
 Phillip Hays
 Janice Rosenberg
 Jon Soule
 Anthony Stumbo
 Richard Sumner
 Marc Vomocil
 Joel Hirsch, City Council Liaison

Staff

Karen Emery, Director
 Jude Geist, Parks Operations Supervisor
 Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner
 Mark Lindgren, Recorder

Guests

Dean Codo
 Laura Duncan Allen

Absent/Excused

Kevin Bogotin, 509-J District Liaison

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

	Agenda Item	Summary of Recommendations
III.	Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2015	April 16, 2015 minutes approved as presented.
IV.	Visitors’ Propositions	
V.	Election of Chair & Vice-Chair	Vomocil was elected Vice-Chair and Wolfenbarger as Chair.
VI.	Illegal Camping & Behavior in Parks	
VII.	Using Forests & Parks in Support of the Corvallis Climate Action Plan	
VIII.	Bald Hill Natural Area	
IX.	Bicycle Polo Court Location at Linus Pauling Tennis Courts	
X.	Board Member Liability	
XI.	Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Recommendations	Motion passed to approve the CIP as presented and modified.
XII.	Goals Review	
X.	Board Member Reports	
X.	Staff Reports	
XI.	City Council Liaison Report	

XII.	Adjournment	The next regular meeting will be held August 20, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., at the Downtown Fire station meeting room.
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CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Vice-Chair Lynda Wolfenbarger called the meeting of the Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Board to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: April 16, 2015

Phil Hays moved and Anthony Stumbo seconded to approve the April 16, 2015 minutes as presented; motion passed.

IV. VISITORS' PROPOSITIONS.

Laura Duncan Allen stated she had been a member of the Dog subcommittee. When the group disbanded, the plan was to install new signage and review a new brochure, but she hasn't heard an update on them. The Crystal Lake boat ramp continues to be a problem, with dogs approaching boaters with no owner in sight, and when owners arrive, they tend not to take seriously requests to put their dog on a leash. At the previous Riverkeeper event last August, loose dogs jumped into canoes of senior participants. Jude Geist reported that new signs are underway; implementing them is a staffing issue, but there is an identified plan featuring a standardized style. At Bald Hill, he must coordinate with the County and the Greenbelt Land Trust.

He said we can put up temporary signs before the August 18 event; he cautioned that there was already a clearly marked No Dogs sign at the boat ramp, so dog owners should already know about policy. He reported that the brochure wouldn't be finished until there is more staff time available to finish it (probably after the summer rush), and the Dog committee will have a chance to review it and give feedback.

Director Emery asked if she had any suggestions for making the upcoming Riverkeeper event a success; Duncan-Allen suggested additional enforcement before the event. Participants will be camping on Crystal Lake Sports Field.

Dean Codo also highlighted loose dogs at the boat ramp, where he launches his canoe. He noted the sign faces south, but people often arrive from the south, so adding a facing sign could be helpful. He said he was a long-time volunteer with Riverkeeper, and loose dogs romping there have eaten off plates and disrupted classes during Paddle Oregon events. He noted that some dog owners still let dogs loose on the sports fields, despite seasonal signage prohibiting it. He suggested additional enforcement during the event.

V. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR.

Phil Hays moved and Ralph Alig seconded to nominate Marc Vomocil to serve as Vice-Chair, motion passed. Phil Hays moved and Anthony Stumbo seconded to nominate Lynda Wolfenbarger to serve as Chair; motion passed.

VI. ILLEGAL CAMPING & BEHAVIORS IN PARKS.

Officer Hendrickson was not present, so the item was postponed.

VII. USING FORESTS & PARKS IN SUPPORT OF CORVALLIS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Postponed to September.

VIII. BALD HILL NATURAL AREA.

Ralph Alig highlighted the group Trees Eat Carbon, which advocates that forests should be an option in how Corvallis meets its climate goals. One way is to plant various trees and restore riparian area at Bald Hill. Vomocil said the County and GLT must coordinate at Bald Hill. Alig said there wasn't a master plan for Bald Hill. Emery said the City owns the majority of Bald Hill, with GLT owning about 583 acres just west; there will be a coordinated effort to look at that area. Hays said the area under consideration was east of the parking lot.

IX. BICYCLE POLO COURT LOCATION AT LINUS PAULING TENNIS COURTS.

Jude Geist related that there was a proposal from a user group that currently unofficially uses Linus Pauling and Lincoln School tennis courts (and has done so for the last decade or so). They have an opportunity for GamePlex plastic boards to be donated to ring a court. They proposed setting one up, taking one court out of service from tennis. The City manages three courts- at Cloverland Park, Linus Pauling School and Lincoln School. Staff felt the best option was at Linus Pauling, with a concrete surface, which is more durable; the other two are more easily damaged from sticks and bikes. The Linus Pauling court is the least used and with the fewest neighbors, so having the least impact. While one approach would be to have a removable tennis net, staff preferred taking one court out of service, instead. It is school property, and the department manages the court, so staff must check with the school district. The courts are lit, and turn off at 10 p.m, when the park closes.

Richard Sumner asked about usage; Geist said that currently bike polo is split between Linus Pauling and Lincoln courts. Alig asked if the fad goes away, whether the court could be restored. Geist replied that it has been underway for a decade, but it could also be used for other sports like roller hockey, or restored to tennis standards.

Dean Codo added that the group regularly plays Tuesdays at Lincoln, preferring the surface. They also have Thursday events and some weekends; the sport seems to be growing. Geist said the wall surface is currently stored in Eugene and could be brought here, and proponents seek to raise funds to install that and possibly add an acrylic court surface. He said the group prefers Lincoln, but would be thrilled to have a dedicated area (currently all tennis courts are signed as "tennis only", though it is not enforced). Director Emery noted that the tennis courts were just resurfaced for tennis at Lincoln, so due to staff concerns regarding damage from polo, staff would prefer players use a dedicated Linus Pauling court. Players have indicated willingness to teach kids the sport, so that could eventually become a Recreation program. Dean Codo added that bike polo players prefer the basketball courts below the overpass during winter; they bring LED lights, but would like installed lights there.

Hays asked whether a tennis court had been converted to pickle ball. Emery replied that two tennis courts were converted to eight pickle balls courts behind Adams School, with improvements funded by a private donor. A pickle ball tournament is scheduled for August, with 150 participants from all around the state already registered. The game is suitable to all ages. Hays noted that tennis was not a big request in the survey. Emery said the department has sought

to maintain two courts in South Corvallis and one in Central Corvallis. Corvallis High School allows the public to use its courts after school hours and weekends; Hays added that OSU also allows some public use. Rochefort noted that the pickle ball courts were resurfaced and were different from tennis court surfaces. Council Liaison Joel Hirsch said this would be a great use of an underutilized court in his ward. Geist said a formal motion was not needed; staff will follow up with the school district.

X. BOARD MEMBER LIABILITY.

Director Emery reported that she'd discussed the issue of board member liability with the City Attorney after a member raised the issue. As long as a member's role is advising City staff and Council, there is no liability. Liability is only incurred when an individual board member changes their role. Hays asked what members can do during elections. Emery replied that in the case of an upcoming levy, for example, she will update the board well ahead of time.

XI. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) RECOMMENDATIONS.

Parks Planner Jackie Rochefort distributed an updated projects list; it is a five-year plan for projects. Projects must have a value of over \$25,000 and a life span of more than ten years. The board also previously added criteria beyond these to try to respond to a large number of requests. The list is updated annually. In spring the public is solicited for project suggestions; department staff are also queried. A CIP subcommittee evaluates projects. This year, there were no suggestions from the community that were not already in the CIP in one form or another, so the committee did not meet.

Staff looked at repairing deteriorating facilities, projects that produce revenue, ADA accessibility, and safety. More projects are included than can be reasonably completed, but this approach allows taking advantage of funding opportunities that come forward.

All Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 projects were either completed or were moved into FY15-16. All FY16-17 projects must have an identified funding source; if not, they would be moved out a year. Land acquisitions were moved into the future, since there is no capacity.

Wolfenbarger said the board had agreed to look at the feasibility of assisting a North Corvallis group seeking to buy land or corridor easements there. Rochefort said that \$50,000 was usually kept available to buy an easement or a purchase option. Emery stated that there were appropriations and SDC's for FY16-17 that were available; the question is whether the board wants to recommend investigating the feasibility of purchasing the property around Chip Ross for FY15-16 or FY16-17. Rochefort noted that the \$90,000 Chip Ross Fund is carried over from year to year; it is dedicated to buying south-facing land or trail easements near Chip Ross Park. Emery said the staff recommended waiting a year to look at it but welcomed the board's input. The City owns a patchwork of properties in the area and would look at connecting acreage or trail connections identified in the Master Plan.

Rochefort said a number of development plans are coming forward in the Timberhill area (beyond just the HUB development proposal), so there may be more open space and connections opportunities. Vomocil advocated that the board and staff should *always* be keeping their eyes open for land acquisitions; Hays concurred.

Rochefort noted that we are now in FY 15-16, so we are looking at revisions to FY16-17; we have a placeholder in the adopted Plan to acquire land in FY15-16 if the opportunity comes forward. Emery added that if the board agrees, criteria could be added to earmark funding for acquisition of land as standard in every fiscal year, and not ask the question annually. Rochefort noted that that was the process that was in place for a time, so we would be going back to that. Soule said that made a lot of sense.

Alig asked if there was database of land; some land may come open near MLK Jr. Park. Emery said there was no database of that kind, but that Planner Rochefort is part of a Development Review Team, which reviews developments as they are planned, which can take years in some cases. Rochefort said she has heard of development plans in areas around Chip Ross Park, Timberhill Park and MLK Jr. Park. The updated 2013 Master Park Plan maps are helpful in showing developers the need for a trail, park, or natural area. Rochefort added that staff also have special projects that are *below* the \$25,000 minimum CIP threshold level which are run out of a different account.

The Osborn Aquatic Center climbing wall was moved to FY15-16; it has already been purchased and engineering details are being worked out for installation. Walnut Barn renovations were just completed, replacing rotted beams and posts, and adding new steps (in preparation for other Walnut Barn and MLK Jr. Park upgrades). Staff have recently learned that the State *will* make a grant for further renovations. Owens Farm homestead projects were moved out to FY15-16, which should be an ongoing item unless windfall funding comes forward.

The Senior Center expansion project is undergoing preliminary work (there is some funding available through the Chandler Trust, but the funds must be spent before a deadline). Staff got direction from the Council for the facility to stay in the existing site rather than further exploring a new location.

While not quite ready to open, staff found \$35,000 funding at the end of the year for the Willamette Park community garden project to plumb irrigation for all 55 beds, a garden shed, fences and gates. Staff will be seeking a volunteer garden manager to help get it up and running. The Master Plan requires that gardeners must agree to donate sweat equity and perhaps funding. In the future, elevated beds with paths could provide ADA compliant access. Rosenberg asked if there was a possibility of expanding it; Rochefort replied that the Park Master Plan for that area also includes several other amenities, such as a neighborhood scale playground, a picnic shelter and sand volleyball, but there is some room to expand it. There has been some interest in a "food forest"- a combination of garden beds and trees with edible crops, and there are materials available to build a couple demonstration raised beds. The garden was planned to be 200' long, but there is some room beyond that.

Regarding Willamette Park improvements, the Rotary Picnic Shelter will eventually have a permanent restroom associated with it. Once the park's Phase I is completed, then curb, gutter, and sidewalk street improvements will be required on Heronview Avenue as it enters the park. Arnold Park play area and ADA surfacing construction are underway.

The Franklin Park playground is listed for FY15-16; staff are awaiting to hear regarding a possible state grant by September. Stumbo noted that neighbors were anxious for completion of the project. Planner Rochefort replied that there had been several meetings with neighbors to get a sense of what they want, and if the grant is awarded, then staff will bring several design options back to neighbors. If the award is received, construction would begin next spring or summer. She

explained that the project had mistakenly not been listed in the spreadsheet, though it was carried over in the CIP document.

Regarding paving pathways for accessibility, they have been lumped under smaller special projects, since most cost less than the minimum \$25,000. Geist highlighted paths built this year- a concrete path to the restroom at Cloverland to make it ADA accessible; concrete slabs at Starker Arts to create two ADA accessible parking spaces; 15 ADA picnic tables throughout the system; and a sidewalk to the pickle ball courts.

Rocheftort stated that Riverfront interpretive signs were removed from the CIP. Skate park lighting is moved out each year so that staff can work with the Skateboard Alliance in order to be ready when funding comes through. Boardwalk trail sections are included as a placeholder; if development occurs in the Timberhill area, some trail sections must be implemented as elevated sections over drainage ways. The multimodal path from Crystal Lake to downtown was moved to Public Works, since it is outside the parks.

Regarding trail surface improvements, she and Supervisor Geist work together to ensure trails are safe. The extension of Shooting Star trail will be triggered by development. Marys River boardwalk construction is being stalled by extensive permit requirements- a HEC-RAS model and a geo-tech report have been completed; a plant study is underway; and an archeological survey is planned. Staff update FEMA frequently, and will likely soon submit a third request for a timeline extension; FEMA are providing about 70% of funding.

She highlighted a FY15-16 placeholder for a neighborhood park if an opportunity comes available, based on the Master Plan. The Pioneer Park restroom was moved out, since it is a tough project: connections to needed services are far away, making it challenging and expensive. Working with the users group, the scoreboard there has been ordered and should arrive in August. The Starker Arts band shelter improvements (to mitigate strong wind gusts) remain unfunded.

An MLK Jr. Park restroom is listed in FY15-16. A pump track project was added- it was walked into the Budget Commission for FY15-16; a strong advocacy group will raise funding and there is a good location. At Herbert Farm and Natural Area, there is a plan to install trails; Geist is working with the Institute for Applied Ecology for best locations for trails there.

She outlined “out year” projects, including land acquisitions; upgrading pool filters; installing a permanent cover over a playground to allow winter use; irrigation system upgrades in various locations throughout the system; parking lot lighting and paving at Woodland Meadows; Avery Park playground; Central Park improvements; the Ron Naasko Playground project; Starker Park improvements; paving the Willamette Park entrance; lighting for pickle ball courts (in FY16-17, though a donation through the Friends Group could make it happen faster); skate park improvements; the historic Gaylord House (a planning process would be useful); Timberhill trail sections along with development; and a placeholder for neighborhood parks.

The North Riverfront Park project (from Tyler Street north) was removed from the CIP, since ODOT, which is part of the patchwork of ownership of the site, unexpectedly changed its support for the park’s Master Plan just prior to Council review and now seems disinclined to give permission for it. The Plan, which included a boat ramp, a boathouse, an amphitheater, a trail, etc., can be re-inserted into the CIP when ODOT supports it.

Rochefort highlighted other “out year” projects, including Central Park improvements and a restroom at Village Green. Staff proposed a new project of replacing aging play structures at the Osborn Aquatic Center’s Otter Beach. Chepenafa Springs Park (at 29th Street and Daylily Avenue) was removed from the CIP, largely due to the large amount of wetland that would require a lot of permitting work and constraints. On the Pending Projects List, the Osborn Aquatic Center would like to remodel its lobby.

Stumbo asked about the status of the Owens Farm barn and house. Rochefort replied that grant funds paid for an assessment that provided a road map for what needs to be done there. There is grant money to fix the house roof this summer, which is badly leaking. In the next grant cycle, she will apply for additional funds for other renovations.

Soule suggested replacing an aging bulkhead for the 50 Meter pool at Osborn Aquatic Center at an estimated cost of \$200,000. Rochefort estimated that would only cost about \$100,000 and offered to get a closer figure if it was placed in the CIP. Vomocil proposed placing it in an out year. In response to a question about the Crystal Lake multimodal path, Rochefort replied that it was not funded, and didn’t know what year Public Works would allocate it to in its CIP; it may depend on granting opportunities.

In discussing the pump track location, Rochefort related that proponents preferred placing it near the skate park. However, permitting work there involves volumetric exchange and ODOT right-of-way and approval issues; also, a Master Plan is needed for the area. It is in the Willamette River Greenway, so bundling area projects into a single Shawala Point Master Plan would reduce permitting and staff costs.

Vomocil asked about access at Herbert Natural Area. Geist replied that the existing lot at the kiosk accommodates about five cars, but many users park further along, near the gate, which accommodates about four cars. Gravel parking lot expansion would require Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife approval.

Alig asked about a meeting hosted by neighbors regarding Washington Park; Rochefort related that there was poor attendance but there was discussion on what they would like to see in the park, regarding the playground, the open field and historic Gaylord House. Emery added that neighbors were interested in a path in the open area; Rochefort said paths could be done via special projects and volunteer work.

Emery highlighted Council-funded safety projects; Geist explained that they included a waterline repair to Marys River House in Avery Park; matching funds for the Franklin playground; and playground fall surfacing at Lilly Park and Washington Park (he said staff would evaluate facilities to see if there was one with a higher need). Emery added that the Council one-time funding included replacing high-risk natatorium lights at Osborn Aquatic Center.

Rochefort noted that if projects are associated with new growth and help meet capacity, then they may be eligible for funding by System Development Charges (SDC’s); the governing concept is that “growth pays for growth”. Older and pre-existing projects, including playgrounds and surfacing, are not eligible for SDC’s and are harder to find funding for. Citizen proposed projects are usually asked to find their own funding, through donations.

Hays asked about trails at Bald Hill and Chip Ross. Geist replied that volunteers and Rotary Club were currently working on alternate access on the southeast slope at Bald Hill. Initial layout and

brushing out for the trail is underway. Regarding Chip Ross trails, once oak release fir removal is complete in summer 2016, the road surface should be re-graded properly. Hays said the survey found the very highest public request was for trails, but that is not being funded commensurately.

Vomocil moved to approve the CIP as presented and modified; Hays seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Director Emery said the CIP will be taken to the CIP Commission. The Public Participation Task Force recommendation was to sunset the CIP Commission; however, the Council has not yet acted upon that. Rochefort added that the CIP is are presented to the Planning Commission, the Budget Commission and the City Council for review and approval.

XII. GOALS REVIEW.

Director Emery suggested holding a meeting to discuss new goals in fall, given the new board members. The board could review existing goals and propose goals to the City Council for the next two years. Members concurred. Dierwechter suggested tying into Council adopted goals and other processes, and inviting the co-chairs of the 2020 Visioning process. Emery agreed the department's work could easily complement two Council Goals.

XIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS.

Vomocil said the Red, White and Blues Festival could not happen without the help of staff and the Youth Volunteer Corps, and extended his thanks. Wolfenbarger highlighted an upcoming Dial-A-Bus appreciation event at the Whiteside Theatre. Dierwechter highlighted the Transportation planning process underway, saying that it is an opportunity to get transit to trailheads in the system plan. On July 23, Benton County will be holding a discussion to inventory outdoor education and recreation program opportunities.

XIV. STAFF REPORTS.

Rochefort related that the Nigel Rose Weber play area project construction was about to start; a Native American ceremony is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on August 4.

XV. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT.

City Council Liaison Joel Hirsch highlighted the brushy area near the BMX track that is being used as a restroom, and that citizens were requesting that Parks clear its property to discourage such use. Geist replied that he had to check on ownership for the area; it could actually be owned by ODOT or the adjacent business.

Hirsch added that a citizen was irate at use of Roundup herbicide at Washington Park. Geist said it was used, and was the least toxic one available. It is not used in playgrounds, but is used in ball field infields in off-seasons. Staff were investigating using a vinegar-based spray that is a possibility for post-emergence for repeated use. Hirsch said spraying is of high concern to many. Geist emphasized that herbicides chosen are the least toxic, applied at the lowest doses and only when absolutely needed.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.