

**CITY OF CORVALLIS
COUNCIL WORK SESSION**



AGENDA

**July 16, 2007
5:30 - 6:45 pm**

**Downtown Fire Station
400 NW Harrison Boulevard**

COUNCIL ACTION

- I. ROLL CALL

- II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Willamette Park Improvements
 - 1. Staff report
 - 2. Public comment
 - 3. Council discussion

- III. ADJOURNMENT

For the hearing impaired, a sign language interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Please call 766-6901 or TTD/TDD telephone 766-6477 to arrange for such service.

A LARGE PRINT AGENDA CAN BE AVAILABLE BY CALLING 766-6901

A Community That Honors Diversity

MEMORANDUM



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Julee M. Conway, Director
Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner
Date: July 16, 2007
Subject: Willamette Park Design Review

Issue: To review and recommend the final design for Willamette Park in order to apply for the Willamette River Greenway permit application.

Background: The Willamette Park Project # 675296, was adopted as a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) project in FY 05-06. This project required the preparation of an application to Community Development for a Willamette River Greenway (WRG) permit. In order to apply for a permit, a more comprehensive park master plan had to be completed. The criteria for the WRG permit application includes:

- ▶ Identification of community issues that may affect the design of the park
- ▶ Specific design elements of features that may be constructed within the Willamette River Greenway

In March 2006, staff hired the consultant team of Walker Macy, CH2MHill, and Winterood Planning to assist in the preparation of the Master Plan and the WRG application. In June 2006, with the City Council's guidance on committee composition, a diverse Stakeholder Committee was selected to best represent the community's goals for the site and advise staff and the consultant team on the types of issues that should be evaluated as part of the WRG application.

The Stakeholder Committee held four meetings: July 25, 2006; October 4, 2006; December 13, 2006 and March 14, 2007. At the first Stakeholder Meeting, opportunities and constraints for the site were established and used to develop the following set of site goals for consideration for the Master Plan:

- ▶ Natural areas/ bird watching
- ▶ Permanent picnic shelter
- ▶ Street and access improvements
- ▶ Disc golf area
- ▶ Fenced off-leash dog area
- ▶ Neighborhood park uses
- ▶ Structured play areas
- ▶ Passive recreation areas
- ▶ Active recreation areas
- ▶ Permanent restrooms
- ▶ Connection to the river
- ▶ Bank restoration/habitat enhancement
- ▶ Community garden

The consultant team prepared different design alternatives to incorporate the goals. Some of the goals were easily accommodated into the design while others were more challenging, due to site conditions or regulatory permitting requirements. Suggestions from public testimony,

as well as the Stakeholder Committee and staff were addressed in two preferred design alternatives. The plans were identical except one alternative showed a fenced dog area and the other did not.

At the final Stakeholder Committee meeting, the Committee members recommended its preferred park master plan. This recommendation was forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on May 1, 2007 for review and approval.

Discussion:

Public Outreach

In addition to the Stakeholder Committee, there were three articles published in the City Newsletter, and a separate neighborhood meeting was scheduled to solicit public comment. Meeting announcements were published in the Gazette Times and an e-mail list of interested parties was compiled as the project progressed. Meeting notices were sent to the interested parties for each meeting. The beginning and end of each stakeholder meeting had scheduled time for visitor propositions. A project notification summary is attached.

Design Schematics/Refinements

At its March 14, 2007 meeting, the Stakeholder Committee endorsed Scheme B, the design alternative without the fenced dog area, as the preferred design and made additional recommendations for design refinements. The two design alternatives, as well as the refinements recommended by the Committee were presented to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) at its May 1, 2007 meeting. The Board endorsed the final Willamette Park Master Plan, which is attached. Minutes of all the meetings are attached.

The Board supported the recommendation of the Stakeholder Committee of Scheme B with additional design refinements:

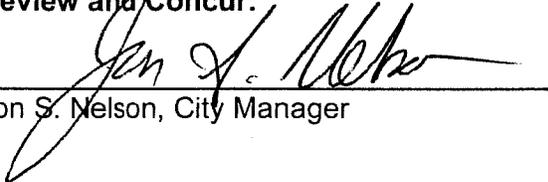
1. Relocating the playground and picnic shelter at the west end of the park to allow for the future expansion of the proposed community garden,
2. Minor adjustment to the pedestrian path at the northwest corner of the park to allow easier access to the park.

Next Steps

Once the conceptual design is approved, the consultants will move forward on preparing the detailed drawings and information to be included in the Willamette River Greenway permit application. Once the WGP is approved through the land use process, the project will be incorporated into the Park and Recreation Department CIP process for future implementation.

Recommendation: To review and comment on the proposed final Willamette Park Master Plan.

Review and Concur:



Jon S. Nelson, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Willamette Park Conceptual Design
2. Stakeholder Committee Meeting Minutes
3. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting minutes - May 1, 2007
4. Public Notification Summary

**CITY OF CORVALLIS
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
WILLAMETTE PARK STAKEHOLDER MEETING MINUTES
JULY 25, 2006**

Attending

Mark Brown
Mary Buckman
Kathy Gager
Nance Keisling
Holly Peterson
Tom Powell

Staff

Julee Conway, Director
Mark Lindgren, Recorder
Jackie Rochefort, Planner
Matt Rouleau, Operations Specialist

Consultants

Colleen Wolfe
Mike Zilis

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

- I. Introductions.** Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department (CPRD) Director Julee Conway started the meeting at 5:40 p.m. She introduced Mike Zilis and Colleen Wolfe of Walker-Macy Landscape Architects and Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner, who is the project manager.

Matt Rouleau is a Park Operations Specialist at the CPRD. Mark Brown is with the Bureau of Land Management. Holly Peterson represents the Riverfront Commission. Kathy Gager is with the City of Corvallis Planning Department. Mary Buckman serves on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Nance Keisling represents Willamette Dogs. Tom Powell is Chair of the South Corvallis Neighborhood Association.

- II. Scope of Work.** Director Conway explained that Walker-Macy will be working with Winterbrook Planning to prepare the Willamette River Greenway Permit applications for both Willamette Park and North Riverfront projects in tandem, in order to be more efficient. A variety of improvements have been done at the park; most recently, in June 2005, a multimodal path was completed. She related that based on the land development code, the Corvallis Community Development Department have advised the CPRD that the next project at the park will trigger a refined master plan for the park, as well as a Willamette River Greenway Permit (WRGP) for the entire site. Therefore, any future improvements at the site will have to be comprehensively reviewed.

The scope of the project done by the Willamette Park stakeholder group, along with the City Council, will help define how the City can use and improve Willamette Park. There will be consideration of the campground area, which has been there for many years. Part of the work will be to complete a more thorough master plan. While there was a Master Plan done in 1999, it was not done in as much depth as is needed for completion of a WRGP. It is time to reevaluate the document, with the community's help to look at the entire facility. Once the Greenway Permit is completed, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board can start deciding what projects are priority at the site for future implementation.

- III. Project Goals.** Director Conway stated that amenities at the site include a temporary picnic shelter (replacing one that was vandalized in the early 2000's); the City would like to evaluate replacing it. The campground is antiquated and the community needs to look at the use of it; as there may be a better use for the campground site. Also, the community may want to include other features in this plan, as well, and Walker-Macy will help in that process. Whatever program elements on the site are decided on would be implemented through the Capital Improvements Plan, a five-year, rolling planning document.

Mike Zilis of Walker-Macy clarified that the process is only tasked with dealing with a portion of Willamette Park. Consultants so far have focused on physical characteristics, regulatory aspects and have compiled a list of improvements that have been discussed by the community for the site. After today, they will consolidate the groups' comments and will look at what the program components would require to be constructed and maintained and come up with two or three alternatives that incorporate those elements on the site. Additional input is needed from the local residents. They would present this initial thinking at the next stakeholder meeting. Following that, they will refine it to a single, updated master plan that would be the basis of a future Greenway Permit application.

- IV. What is a Willamette River Greenway Permit?** Zilis stated that the Willamette Greenway resulted from legislation now thirty years old that regulates the use and access to the Willamette River. Every jurisdiction in the state through which the river passes must conduct permitting for the greenway. In addition, the City adopted and may soon implement an additional set of guidelines for development along the river.

Kathy Gager noted that the part of the park that is within the County is highly protected floodplain; that part that is owned by the City is partially protected floodplain. The guidelines allow some development in the latter area but will regulate how it occurs. There is a 120' riparian corridor that is protected, measured from the top of the bank. While the trail could be in that area, locating other facilities in this area may be limited.

There is protection for some of the vegetation under the proposed new rules and some protection for remaining vegetation under current rules. A careful analysis of vegetation will be needed in order to design a project. The new City rules cover flooding, slopes and a few wetlands along streams. Gager cautioned that while the site may appear large, it is actually quite constrained in terms of development; much is designed to be a natural park area and not a developed park. She noted that most of the currently developed area (e.g., the Crystal Lake Sports Field) is located

within the County; and therefore county planning requirement would apply. Rochefort added that the area under consideration by this group is not the Crystal Lake Sports Field, rather, it includes the more southern portion known as Willamette Park.

Director Conway stated that before the next meeting, she would distribute the maps of the area that Gager was using to describe the different areas.

V. Description of Existing Conditions.

a. Opportunities and Constraints. Consultant Mike Zilis showed on a map the portion of the site that the group is tasked with considering, which includes the Goodnight Avenue access road (which needs improvement), the campground, the soccer field, the multimodal trail, restrooms, a cul-de-sac and the existing picnic shelter.

In considering the site in terms of regulations, the campground use needs to be reevaluated. The access to the site needs improvement. A natural zone needs to remain in place or be improved. He cited a significant desire by users to have visual access to the river; the site is seen as a natural place.

b. Natural Features. Zilis stated the intent was to keep and improve the tree canopy and to improve it where it adds wildlife value. He highlighted different slopes, high water levels and primary view areas on the site.

VI. Roles and Responsibilities. Rochefort outlined the stakeholder group's two main tasks to identify community issues that may affect the design of the parks and to recommend specific design elements and features that would be included in the Greenway Permit application. The consultants will take the groups' comments and begin to put a design program together for the park.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will then review the stakeholder group's recommendations in a public meeting. City Council will be appraised of the resulting recommendations. The Council is the final decision makers regarding the project.

Rochefort stated the Willamette River Greenway permit application would be heard by the Planning Commission; their decision can be appealed to the City Council. Gager added that the Council's decision could be appealed in court.

Stakeholder group members are asked to read any materials that are sent out in advance. If possible, (as part of the sustainability goal) mailings will be via email, to save paper. Rochefort added that North Riverfront Park materials will be sent to the Willamette Park stakeholder group and vice versa.

Members are asked to attend all meetings; if they cannot, they should let Rochefort know in advance. Substitute informed representatives may attend, if necessary. She encouraged members to send in additional comments. She will distribute any emailed comments sent to her via an email distribution list, so everyone can converse via email.

VII. Site Master Plan Description. Discussed in narrative elsewhere.

VIII. Design Elements Discussion. Zilis stated that there have been a number of previous discussions of what could happen on the site. He displayed a list of those elements, including:

1. Natural Areas and Bird Watching
2. Structured Parking
3. Improvement of the Goodnight Avenue Access Road
4. Disc Golf Course
5. Off-Leash Dog Area
6. Neighborhood Park Uses
7. Regional Park Uses
8. Structured Play Uses
9. Informal Passive Recreation Areas
10. Active Recreation Areas
11. Restrooms
12. Visual Connections to the River
13. Restoration of the Bank

Mark Brown stated that in terms of bank restoration, historically the river has a degree of sinuosity. He asked if there had been any discussion of softening the degree of revetment (riprap) now there. Rochefort replied that there hadn't been any conversation on that. However, park staff has asked that if the revetment is removed there, that consideration be given to how that would affect maintenance operations. There is also the issue of why it was placed there in the first place and if there is any obligation on the City's part to retain what is there. Brown suggested having a conversation on the matter with the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as discussing floodplain connectivity (this site is a prime area for which to re-examine that).

Gager added that there are also stream restoration opportunities: At the west side of the site, there are old river channels that are partially in place and could be re-opened.

Director Conway noted that pedestrian connectivity is not on the list, either for neighbors, from Goodnight or through the site. She related that some neighbors have stated they find it difficult to access the site due to conflicts from vehicles on the road. Tom Powell related that there used to be access to the park from a trail at the end of Alexander Avenue; it would be desirable to get something like that for neighbors to get into the middle of the park as neighbors now must enter the park from one end or the other.

Gager cited Park Avenue, next to the campgrounds. Director Conway related that Community Development has stated that the City will most likely need to do half-street improvements (asphalt, curb, storm water, gutter, sidewalk and bike lane) to the street when the City makes the next improvements to the park. Powell noted that many neighbors like the potholes, as they function as speed bumps. Director Conway replied that speed control alternatives, such as speed bumps, can be considered.

Brown related that he was given feedback by several community members that the park could become a regional exercise and jogging area, especially as the multimodal trail is lengthened over time. A jogging loop would be especially desirable. He and Mary Buckman advocated creating loops of different lengths.

Rocheftort added there has been discussion of extending the multimodal trail south to Kiger Island Road, but an intervening private property owner is so far not interested in selling land or an easement. Brown asked if there had been discussion of getting pedestrian access onto Kiger Island. Rocheftort replied that there had not been. Director Conway added that there have been discussions with the County. Also, the master plan shows a connection via crossing 99W and heading west on Rivergreen Avenue to Herbert and Caldwell open spaces. She added she has discussed with the Transportation Department creating a bike path on Kiger Island Drive, if negotiations are successful with the landowner. However, there is nothing in County or City capital plans to do bike lanes within Kiger Island, though there probably will be in the future, as the area is annexed. Rocheftort added that once there is a connection to the open spaces to the west, a bridge over the Mary's River is being considered to connect to Mary's River Natural Area.

Gager stated there is an opportunity for a several-mile internal walking loop within the park. (The park is the only walking opportunity in South Corvallis). Powell asked about the possibility of getting a trail through the Evanite site. Director Conway replied that there have been conversations with Evanite within the last six months on the matter. She expected to hear something from Evanite by the end of the year.

In regard to neighborhood uses, Powell observed that Willamette Park used more as a neighborhood park. However, as asphalt streets have been laid in the neighborhood, and when the soccer fields went in, it became more a regional park and less of a neighborhood park, with less informal use. Historically, the park has been a launching site for tube floats down to the OSU crew docks.

Director Conway asked Powell if he had heard any feedback by neighbors regarding playground equipment. He related hearing a desire for a water feature at Riverbend Park.

Buckman suggested including having safe access to the river for tube floaters (the riprap rocks are not safe to climb over). Nance Keisling related that it is difficult for tubers to cross the current to land at the Crystal Lake boat ramp. She tries to get out just upstream of the boat ramp. Brown echoed the sentiment for better water access in the park, which is a prime access point for the Willamette Water trail. The park could be a prime destination on the water trail, with an improved City campground. Powell noted that there is nowhere near the campground to get to the water safely.

Brown observed that the park is fairly unique in being fairly flat, so it can be used by the physically challenged. ADA access could be incorporated into part of the jogging trail, including some picnic tables. Brown added that better boat access could clear up significant congestion at the boat ramp there. He suggested separating motorized and non-motorized use. He added that many non-motorized boat users use wheelies to carry their

boats significant distances to the water. He added that re-accessing the old river channel would have benefits for both wildlife and boat launching.

Gager noted that she is now limited in how far she can carry a boat; she suggested creating a situation in which partially fit people could get a boat to a launching area.

Gager asked how much support there was to doing something different with the campground. Matt Rouleau noted the site is used by a number of transients who have difficulty paying the rate. Director Conway stated she will get the figures to the committee but estimated that three to six campers use the campground per week in the summer. She related there have been some calls regarding alleged drug activity at the site. She noted that when the campground was originally developed, it was out in the country; however, that is no longer true, as the area urbanizes, as evidenced by the more than 400 lots at the nearby Willamette Landing subdivision.

Director Conway related that four years ago, there was a community process held with neighbors regarding improving the campground. Neighbors strongly stated that they did not want RV or improved sites put in at the campground and barely supported its presence as it was. At that point, the City backed off of its work with the County to apply for a state Opportunity Grant to improve the campground.

Rocheffort stated that the original, cursory 1999 Master Plan looked at an improved campground, with an RV site. Some supporters of the campground related that they had stayed there when they originally arrived in Corvallis and didn't want to deny others that opportunity. She related that in discussions with the consultants and staff, alternate possibilities for the campground site include creating a neighborhood park or overflow parking. There was also a CIP request for a fenced dog off-leash park; she added that this could also include an agility area, which could conceivably host tournaments. It could be an opportunity to work with dog obedience schools on dog training and education. Gager noted that there could be concern about barking dogs so close to neighbors, but other than that, it would be a very appropriate low-impact facility.

Gager stated that she lives nearby, but is afraid to pass the campground at night, as it is a magnet for unwanted activities. She added that there are now many vacancies in Corvallis trailer parks and the commercial RV park; also, there is an RV park at the fairgrounds.

Brown asked if the campground is removed, whether the City has any other plans for any other campground in a park in Corvallis. Director Conway replied that there are no such plans. A study done about four years ago assessed camping facility needs in Corvallis. Camping has not been identified as one of the priorities for Corvallis Parks and Recreation to provide that need, which is now being provided by KOA, Benton County Parks and the fairgrounds. This is the only CPRD site, other than Rock Creek (maintained on a special use basis) used for camping. There is not a high demand for camping at the site, related to the quality of the experience at the site; what campers want is much different than what is there.

Brown asked how it is known that the campground is not being used because it is not what it should be. Also, the fairgrounds can't really be considered a camping experience. Corvallis is very unique in having riverfront camping. The river is now gaining attention. If the campground is removed, then a future potential opportunity may be lost. As people use the river more, they could come into town and spend money. He stated he is not convinced that the City has taken a hard enough look at the campgrounds.

Powell asked whether there are enough spaces at the campground to make it economically viable; it seems too small for that. He advocated removing it. If it were to stay, he'd be hesitant for the city to make a large investment in a campground in that location. Rochefort added that a study done four years ago found that 26 RV spots and 10 tent spots could fit. Director Conway added that that configuration was chosen to try to capture the costs to capitalize the campground operations. Also, camping is not a city core function; the County is the expert in camping and camping facilities.

Buckman observed that the campground is not near the riverfront; it is set far back from the river. There are much better spots to camp along the river trail. There are also other spots that are equally or more suitable for driving camping. Brown responded that if the campground is removed, and nothing is written or a plan put in place regarding finding a site somewhere else, his concern is that it will not be do-able in ten years.

Buckman replied that Berg Park or another park could be more appropriate for a water trail campsite; others concurred. Rochefort added that the department just received a CIP request to do a full restoration of Berg Park. Director Conway clarified that the former MLK Jr. Park would not be developed with structures or amenities such as softball fields. Based on the preliminary plan done ten years ago, it would seem that the site is more appropriate for development such as trails, river access, etc. During the recent Park SDC methodology update, there were discussions about whether system development charges would be used to develop either the Berg or the former MLK Parks. Whatever happens there would have to be very carefully planned, mostly because of the two sites being in a floodplain and having transportation access limitations. Park SDC's may not be likely to be used for those sites for the next five to ten years because of those restrictions.

Peterson related she has had a number of community members ask whether there was a possibility for the multimodal path to form a loop at the site. Rochefort replied that a looped path was originally in the 1999 plan. Since then, the popularity of disc golf intervened. It was ultimately decided to try to minimize conflicts between disc golf players and path users by aligning the multimodal path along the river. Director Conway added that it is worth exploring, but cautioned that hazards from adjacent flying discs would have to be avoided.

Rochefort related that staff discussion pointed out that there formerly was a loop road in the park that has been closed for several years. It could be re-opened, not as a loop, but would end at the cul-de-sac. This would provide a way to get more parking into the park, which Community Development has stated would be needed if the picnic shelter were rebuilt. Parking could be along the road and at the cul-de-sac, so that uses could be

distributed around the park better. However, this could require re-designing the disc golf course to avoid conflicts.

Keisling stated she liked the idea of the off-leash dog area, including an agility course, which is growing in popularity. She stated that some would likely pay a yearly fee for use of the facility. Fencing a dog-park could make passersby more comfortable. She preferred that use, or that of a neighborhood park, at the current campgrounds site to the idea of placing overflow parking there. Rochefort noted the nearest dog agility site is in Monmouth. Peterson suggested the dog park could share access to a loop trail. Keisling noted that dog owners do not want to lose the off-leash dog policy in the park.

Keisling related that she had attended the neighborhood meetings regarding the campgrounds there and neighbors had expressed vigorous opposition to improving the campsite; currently, it is an attractive nuisance. She emphasized her strong support for providing neighborhood access to the middle of the park from a path at the end of Alexander Avenue.

Keisling stated it is important to have a place for dogs to have access to play in the river. She cautioned that the riverbanks have changed, sometimes radically, from year to year. Brown concurred, noting that rivers are dynamic in nature. He added that an advantage of re-connecting an old river channel there is that apart from improving wildlife habitat, it would provide good non-motorized boat access that will probably not be affected by the river's changes.

Buckman stated there seemed to be consensus that the group was not excited about keeping the campground.

- IX. Public Comment Period.** None. Director Conway related that a number of members of the public had contacted her about the park, but they were not present today. They will likely attend future meetings, though, to provide comment.
- X. Next Meeting.** Rochefort stated the next meeting will be in September/October, probably at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building; members will be notified. Director Conway encouraged members to ask staff for any information that they would like to be provided prior to meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

**CITY OF CORVALLIS
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
WILLAMETTE PARK STAKEHOLDER MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 4, 2006**

Attendance

Janine Belleque
Mark Brown
Mary Buckman
Kathy Gager
Holly Peterson
Jay Sexton
Jeff Smith
Matt Rouleau, Leadworker

Consultants

Colleen Wolfe
Paul Wroblewski
Mike Zilis

Visitors

Don Barstad

Staff

Julee Conway, Director
Jackie Rochefort, Planner

Terry Nix, Recorder

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. **Visitor Propositions:** None.

II. **Introductions**

Park Planner Rochefort opened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. and led self-introductions by staff, consultants, and attendees. Director Conway drew attention to notebooks at stakeholders' places, provided to assist in organizing the provided information. She asked that any changes to the roster be submitted to staff.

III. **Recap of July 25, 2006 Stakeholder Meeting**

Planner Rochefort briefly reviewed portions of the July 25, 2006 meeting minutes, including discussions regarding the scope of work, project goals, the Willamette River Greenway Permit, site conditions, opportunities and constraints, roles and responsibilities, and design elements.

Planner Rochefort reported on a neighborhood meeting held Monday, October 2, 2006, attended by a very engaged group, who reviewed the maps and considered potential features. Discussion was largely focused on pedestrian access and circulation, a desire to separate vehicle access from pedestrian access, and the desire for a neighborhood feel to the park. Additional discussion included desired amenities, including playground equipment, a smaller picnic shelter, boating and river access, sand volleyball, horseshoe pits, etc. Director Conway added that neighborhood participants will receive minutes from these stakeholder meetings, will be invited to attend

stakeholder meetings, and will be advised when a recommendation is to be considered by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board. She noted that Willamette Park has served as a neighborhood facility as housing has developed around the park. The adopted 2000 Park and Recreation Facilities Plan identifies the facility as a large urban park, and it also continues to serve a neighborhood need.

Director Conway advised that the 2004-05 state survey on Willamette River access will be made available electronically, and she invited participants to request any additional resources that they feel would be helpful to the group.

Kathy Gager initiated discussion about the water trail plan that indicates access points along the river. Director Conway said the Crystal Lake boat launch is the only developed access within the City of Corvallis, at this time. Mark Brown encouraged the group to consider the water trail plan in its planning efforts. Staff agreed to provide the maps at the next meeting.

In response to an inquiry from Jay Sexton, Planner Rochefort reviewed the process from this point. The consultants will take the input from this group and the neighbors and develop design alternatives. A recommendation will be forwarded from this group to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, which will then forward a recommendation to the Planning Commission as part of the Willamette River Greenway application. The Planning Commission's decision could be referred to City Council, only if it is appealed.

IV. Summary of Site Conditions; Review Opportunities and Constraints

Colleen Wolfe briefly reviewed the existing conditions and the opportunities and constraints identified at the last meeting, as well as the range of design features, as noted in the minutes of that meeting.

V. Program Elements - Stakeholders and Public Feedback

Ms. Wolfe reviewed the following list of development design elements, based on comments received at the last meeting:

- River Access
- Natural Area Restoration/Enhancement
- Campground Closure
- Sports Fields
- Disk Golf Course
- Off-Leash Dog Park/Agility Area
- Fitness Loop
- Picnic Shelter
- Play Structure
- Restroom Facilities
- Parking

- Access Road

In response to inquiry, she said the list is not prioritized. Discussion followed regarding the potential to close the campground in order to redevelop the area with neighborhood park amenities.

VI. Present and Discuss Design Schemes

Mike Zilis of Walker Macy said it is his understanding that the campground is to be closed, due to campground incompatibility with neighborhood livability. He referred to previous discussions about potential riverbank restoration, or rip-rap "greening" and advised that the City has elected at this time to recommend rip-rap bank reinforcement. He reviewed an overall site plan for the park, noting circulation around the disk golf area, proposed access points, trail locations, and the concept to improve the Crystal Lake boat launch.

Mr. Zilis reviewed options Scheme A and Scheme B, noting that each variation contains the identified design elements. He reviewed the proposed road improvements, the open space areas at the current campground, a neighborhood-size play area, a small restroom, and a fenced off-leash dog area. The lower reach includes a paved parking area that would accommodate 40 delineated parking spaces, a generous turnaround, a launch point for the various trails, a play area, seating, picnic areas, and a restroom. He reviewed the proposed plantings, overlooks, trail system, and circulation.

Mary Buckman referred to the comment that the City has elected to keep the rip-rap and she asked if there are any options there. Planner Rochefort said the decision was made based on input from the Corps of Engineers. Director Conway said it would be appropriate to include a statement in the stakeholder committee's final recommendation to advise greening of the rip-rap, or other alternatives, if the Committee so desires.

Kathy Gager said she is not a fan of rip-rap, but once it is in place it is troublesome to remove. She said she likes the proposed vegetation and the overlooks and, because it could be considered a water-related feature, there may be an opportunity to extend one of the overlooks to provide the sense of being over the water. She said there may also be a future opportunity to recreate an old channel and she would like to see that explored. Brief discussion followed and Mr. Zilis agreed to look into that further.

Mark Brown said he would like to have more discussion about options regarding the revetment. He said there are amazing technologies and funding opportunities available, and the shore can be softened considerably and still maintain function. He said this could really enhance the atmosphere of this park.

Mary Buckman said she was amazed at the variety of revetment when she floated the river, noting that it is not all big rock walls. She added that there is a need for access to the river within the park for floaters. She reviewed discussion at the neighborhood meeting regarding the need for bike access to the park, noting that a narrow street without a bike trail may be unfriendly for pedestrians, and support for eliminating the skidding and dust associated with the gravel. Mr. Zilis said the concept is that the road would have speed bumps and that bikes and automobiles would share the roadway, with a separate pedestrian access.

Jay Sexton said it is important to provide a place where people can easily touch the river. Brief discussion followed regarding potential optimum access points to the river.

Kath Gager stated that, as a resident, she is thrilled that the campground is planned for de-commissioning and that there will be a neighborhood park features at the site. She said there may be conflicts associated with having a dog facility so close to the residential areas and neighborhood park; perhaps it should be placed further into the park. Planner Rochefort stated there was discussion at the neighborhood meeting about possible alternate sites for an off-leash area and that the consultants will take those comments into consideration. Jay Sexton expressed concern about intermingling the place where dogs are unloaded and areas with small children. He suggested that the parking might be separated, with one area closer to the dog area and another area closer to the playground. Mr. Zilis noted that dog owners are responsible for having their dogs on a leash until they reach the off-leash area. Director Conway said it has been observed by staff at Crystal Lakes Sports Fields facility parking lot that dogs are allowed to run out when they are unloaded from vehicles and may or may not be under the owner's control. She said staff is hearing that there should be adequate separation from other uses. Kathy Gager reiterated that the proposed location near the outer edge of the park may cause conflicts. Holly Peterson expressed agreement and suggested that there may be a more suitable off-leash area, perhaps to the north.

Kathy Gager said she likes the idea of a big picnic area. Director Conway stated that, if the small picnic area is retained, it would likely be a first-come, first-served facility; the larger area would be reservable. She said the small picnic area would only be retained if it is compatible with the Greenway permit. Gager suggested the possibility of making one of the lookouts into a covered shelter, rather than putting the smaller picnic area back in its current location. Planner Rochefort added that staff would like to see a small shelter in the neighborhood park area (the current campground area), as is typical for neighborhood parks.

Jay Sexton asked if the current 40 spaces of parking is adequate. Planner Rochefort said staff received a couple of calls shortly after the area was striped, but she is not aware of any complaints after that first month. In response to inquiry, Director Conway said discussion about parking at the site has been folded into this process. She added that, as uses change, support uses such as parking also have to be considered through the design review process.

Mark Brown spoke about the possibility of using newer technologies to help to reduce impervious surface on the trail from the parking lot to the overlook. He noted that the 120' setback is a minimum guideline and that efforts to further reduce runoff impacts could help the community to more fully embrace the concept. Brief discussion followed. Planner Rochefort noted that the new technologies are now considered in all projects.

Jay Sexton said it is important that the existing abandoned service road not be made sacred. He said it is not a very good trail and it is an underutilized part of the park. He does not want to be forced into an alignment just because that abandoned road exists. Director Conway said she appreciates efforts to look beyond what is currently there.

Planner Rochefort introduced Janine Belleque and Jeff Smith, Oregon State Marine Board, and asked them to talk about the Crystal Lake boat launch. Ms. Belleque said there is a unique opportunity at this site for an improved boat launch and dock that can be used by motorized craft. She said the ramp is very old and outdated and she would recommend that it be replaced with a two-lane ramp, taking new construction methods into consideration. Director Conway said staff is glad to receive this input. This is a heavily used access and is the only motorized access on this stretch of the river. Jeff Smith asked if the parking is adequate for vehicles and trailers associated with motorized boats and staff explained that the city-owned paved lot and the gravel Evanite-owned parking area has seemed to be adequate.

In discussion, Planner Rochefort advised that the Marine Board surveyed the informal boat launch near Michael's Landing and found that it is not appropriate for motorized craft. Planning can now move forward with that identified as a non-motorized craft launch. Mary Buckman reiterated that it is important to have some access at Willamette Park for non-motorized craft. Janine Belleque explained the term "human-powered craft" which encompasses kite boarders, sail boarders, inner tubers, etc. She said if these uses are not being seen yet, they surely will in the future.

Mr. Zilis expressed appreciation for the input received and said the goal is to return next time with a third scheme which encompasses all of the input to date. Kathy Gager said it would be helpful to see additional information on the trails, i.e. those that are intended to be pedestrian only versus those that are intended to be multi-modal. Director Conway invited participants to contact staff with additional questions or requests for information before the next meeting.

VII. Wrap Up/Schedule Next Meeting

Planner Rochefort said the next meeting will probably be held the first week in December; staff will advise the meeting date and time via email. Staff will also email the minutes from this meeting and the North Riverfront Stakeholder meeting, as well as, the presentation boards from Walker Macy.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

**CITY OF CORVALLIS
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
WILLAMETTE PARK STAKEHOLDER MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2006**

Attending

Mark Brown
Kathy Gager
Nance Kiesling
Holly Peterson
Tom Powell
Jay Sexton
Jeff Smith

Staff

Steve DeGhetto, Park Ops. Supervisor
Mark Lindgren, Recorder
Jackie Rochefort, Planner

Consultants

Colleen Wolfe
Mike Zilis

Visitors

George Grosch
Michael Molk, 1315 SW Park
Mark Schurman

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

Park Planner Jackie Rochefort stated that this is expected to be the last scheduled meeting of the group.

- I. VISITOR PROPOSITIONS. Michael Molk, 1315 SW Park, stated he has lived there since 1991 and his property fronts onto 700' of the park. He served on a similar committee twelve years ago. He related that at some time previously, hundreds of people signed a petition for a botanical garden at the park.

Molk stated that the site of the campground is on class AAA Chehalis loam, some of the best in the world. He proposed designating the campground into a community garden. He also supported the proposed fenced off-leash dog park on that site, as well.

He said that improving egress in and out of the park is a crucial issue. Every time the county fills the potholes where Park Avenue goes south to Goodnight Avenue, traffic speeds go up around that corner, and then there is no place for the hundreds of neighborhood pedestrians that use that bottleneck into the park to get away from traffic. He offered land from that corner of his property for improved pedestrian safety.

Mark Schurman concurred with Molk's suggestion for siting a community garden at the campground and his observation that the corner between Park and Goodnight Avenues is dangerous with the high volume of foot traffic. He noted that the nearest community garden, at Avery Park, is largely unused; a garden at Willamette Park would have more volunteers. He noted that horseshoe courts at Avery Park appear unused, so gardens should take priority at Willamette Park.

Schurman advocated that new picnic shelter incorporate a good stage for music performance, making sure the open side faces the right direction; it would be a major asset and more music venues are needed around town.

II. **RECAP OF OCTOBER 4, 2006 STAKEHOLDER MEETING.** Planner Rochefort noted that program elements discussed then included:

- River access
- Natural area restoration
- Campground closure
- Sports fields
- Disc golf area
- Dog off-leash fenced area
- Fitness loop
- Picnic shelter
- Play structure
- Restroom facilities
- Parking
- General access

The group seemed to feel that the campground should be closed, as it was incompatible with the neighborhood. The group looked at both Scheme A and Scheme B but focused on road improvements and open space areas.

She noted that the idea of removing riprap from the river bank was discussed at the Oct. 4 meeting. She related she followed up with an inquiry with Tom Penpraze, the City's Water and Utility Manager and found that both sides of the river in that stretch are part of the Hogue Water District, formed of about ten property owners, including the City, who are committed to not seeing anything done that would in any way change the character of the river there. Bringing a proposal to the district to remove the riprap would require presenting full engineered reports and full design schemes that show how removing the riprap would not affect what's going on with the river and would not affect the intakes at the City's water treatment plant. Therefore, it appears that proposing removal of the riprap in the park goes beyond the scope of the current project and beyond what is currently budgeted.

Rochefort related that there was discussion about access to the river, including enhancing the boat dock at Crystal Lake for motorized boat uses, as well as having opportunities for people who want to float on the river or simply want to get closer to it. There was discussion of bicycle access to the park and how the fenced off-leash park could best be designed so that it would have minimal impact to the neighborhood and sited to avoid intermingling of children, dogs and off-loading of cars. There was discussion about a small picnic shelter in the current campground area that would not be reserved and a larger shelter that would be reserved; parking; reducing impervious surfaces and how the existing service road that runs around the disc golf area might be utilized as a trail.

III. **PROGRAM ELEMENTS- WHAT WE HEARD FROM STAKEHOLDERS, PARK STAFF & PUBLIC.** (See II above).

- IV. **PRESENT & DISCUSS DESIGN SCHEMES.** Planner Rochefort stated that after the last meeting, and her phone conference with Walker Macy consultants Mike Zilis and Colleen Wolfe, they came up with a new scheme that incorporates previous comments and concerns, as much as possible.

Consultant Mike Zilis noted the scope of design does not include the entire park. He related the consultants looked at the circulation and discovered that Goodnight Avenue could be deemed a park road and therefore not necessarily having to be built to full city street standards, though it needs to be safe and well drained. He showed the program elements that Rochefort previously listed on an aerial photo of the entire park. Zilis said there will be a future review of the Crystal Lake boat ramp to accommodate more motorized boats. They looked at providing more direct access to the beach area at low water.

They propose rebuilding Park Avenue, providing some parallel parking and a sidewalk; continuing using the bridge over the drainage to the disc golf area and extending a walkway to connect to Park Avenue to improve pedestrian circulation and realigning streets in order to get a better connection between Park Avenue and the park entry drive. A two-lane, 20' wide park road with an adjacent 6' sidewalk separated by a curb is proposed.

Zilis said the consultants propose a new picnic shelter, horseshoe pit, a 0.8 acre fenced off-leash dog area and volleyball. The forty-space parking lot would be re-developed. The edge of the existing play area would be better defined. He stated he liked the idea of incorporating a stage into a new picnic shelter and that could easily be brought into the scheme. Consultants are proposing picnic tables with an adjacent low wall at some river overlook points, as well as grading a trail into the riprap to reach the river, if possible in two locations (he highlighted a photo of a similar example of what they did on a riprapped bank in Portland). Plantings of native plant material in the future should be done in such a way as to preserve the views at the overlooks.

The existing service road through the disc golf area could be part of the trail system. While there was discussion of narrowing it, it is actually already self-narrowing. Park Operations is also interested in maintaining the service road for an emergency route if converted to an expanded trail through the park. Shrubs and trees could be added along that trail.

Mark Brown suggested that the proposal for creating two graded trails down to the river on the riprapped bank could be a good pilot project for demonstrating to Hogue Water District members that there are several options between removing all the riprap and not taking any out.

Rochefort related that when she spoke to Tom Penpraze, he indicated that not a single rock could be removed without making a detailed presentation to the district for its approval, including fully engineered drawings to show the effect on the bank and the water intake. Therefore, even just

building those two trails down to the water is beyond the scope of this project now. She clarified that the idea was being shown because it was thought to be a good idea, but it could hold up approval of the project, however may be part of a future phase. Responding to Jay Sexton, she replied that it was her understanding that it would not be appropriate to convene a meeting of district members, unless there is a plan that includes studies from a hydrological engineer; that is not now in the project budget.

Kathy Gager added that the riprapped bank is at a particularly hydrologically sensitive pressure point on the bend in the river and so Hogue Water District members would likely be very wary of any changes there. It would perhaps make more sense to look at other places to the north that better lend themselves to hardscape access down to the river.

Gager noted that under the new Land Development Code that comes into effect December 31, 2006, inside Sensitive Vegetation areas that are Highly Protected, there is a section regarding fencing in order to allow small mammals to travel throughout those areas; therefore, the code should be consulted regarding the proposed fenced dog area. Also, while she likes the overlook proposal, under the new code they can only occur if they are a water dependent use.

Tom Powell asked whether it would be acceptable to plant vegetation such as willows in the riprap. Rochefort replied that she was told that if a plant's roots were to cause some of those rocks to move, then it would not be acceptable; this seemed too strict to her and perhaps she could demonstrate that it wouldn't have a catastrophic effect on the riprap. Brown opined that replacing the existing imported Himalayan blackberry now growing in the riprap with natives would be a big improvement. Maybe something could be done in that vein that would get the effort going where the group wants to go. Zilis stated that it could be argued that willow roots would better hold the soil. Brown added that riprap can be installed so that it has softer edges to it and so that it is more people-friendly to those in the river. Also, currently people clamber down the riprap in a haphazard way; if there were trails, it could be argued that focusing such use would better preserve the bank.

Nance Kiesling stated that if an overlook is desired but needs to be a water dependent use, perhaps they could be fishing platforms. She stated that she walks along the road through the disc golf almost every day and stated that no more plantings are needed there; indeed, they would block the view. She added that the ponderosa pines that have been planted between the multimodal trail and the river will block the view of the river. Rochefort replied that they were planted as a requirement of the Planning Commission. Gager added that reasons to plant trees along waterways include providing shading systems, runoff filtration, root stability, improving water quality and having a more naturalized system throughout the community. It is recognized that it may still be desirable to have areas where there are views.

Holly Peterson has also heard others express concern about having vegetation blocking views. Rochefort responded that changing that would have to go back to the Planning Commission, as it was a condition of development for the multi-modal path. Sexton noted that the pines will only block views for a few years.

Sexton advocated removing the concrete bollards along the existing service road through the disc golf area; Rochefort commented that staff does not like the "dinosaur teeth" either and would also like them removed.

Sexton stated that if there is no genuine intent to develop river access through the riprap, then it must be taken off the plan, even though it is important. Rochefort replied that it is her understanding that the city cannot do it now. However, she instructed the consultants to show them anyway at this point because she wanted to show it to Tom Penpraze for his additional review. She related that the Walker Macy consultants have done this trails approach successfully elsewhere, while maintaining the existing riprap. She agreed that if it appears that it absolutely cannot be done, then it will be removed from the plan.

Sexton added that he would prefer a graded cut through the riprap that was about 80' long and about 40-50' wide, leading down to a beach. He noted that the proposed six feet wide trails simply are dead ends. Rochefort replied that the Hogue Water District would likely reject this approach.

Mark Brown applauded the ADA access for river access and asked about how periodic flooding would affect that. Zilis replied that the effort is to make the trails with shallow slopes. Kiesling noted that part of that area was under water a lot during winter.

In response to Powell's question, Colleen Wolfe clarified that the main parking area would have the same number of parking spaces (40, spaced more tightly) as well as 18 new spots along Park Avenue. Zilis added the road would have speed bumps, with bikes sharing the road and pedestrians on a sidewalk. He noted there was no way to widen the corridor into the park at the south without removing a lot of trees. Gager noted there was a conflict in goals regarding the lack of separate bicycle access in the narrow proposed corridor entrance (which is a major connection to the multi-modal path along the river); she will seek additional City Planner comments on this element. Rochefort noted that expanding the proposed 6' separated pedestrian path into the park into a multi-modal path would require 12'.

Powell suggested placing the upper, non-reservable picnic shelter closer to the play area; Rochefort concurred. Powell concurred with a previous suggestion to make the reservable picnic shelter incorporate a stage for music. It would be a great amenity for South Corvallis and help address persistent neighborhood complaints that the park has become less a neighborhood park and more like a regional park.

Brown asked whether the upper proposed play area would be compatible with a nearby proposed community garden area. Rochefort replied that they are certainly not conflicting and could be compatible. Many schools like to participate in community gardens. She added that in the process of moving the existing community garden at Sunset Park to Starker Arts Park, it was suggested by many that every neighborhood should have its own community garden. The CIP subcommittee subsequently agreed with that but wanted neighborhoods to come forward to drive the process.

Sexton asked whether City-owned land east and west of Clearwater Drive were available for community gardens. Rochefort replied that it is owned by the water treatment facility, which is very protective of the land, due to its intended use.

Powell stated that he thought that the closest neighbors to the proposed community garden site would be supportive of it. Also, Crystal Lake Drive is almost an arterial of bicycle activity, so there would be good bike access to the proposed garden site; Rochefort concurred that it was a good spot for a community garden.

DeGhetto noted that there are operational constraints around community gardens. The two existing community gardens are both managed under contract by the First Alternative Coop, which coordinates, schedules and manages plots. The department helps by providing water, hauling chips and mulch, helping in placement of buildings, plowing and maintaining the water system. Electricity is not supplied at either site, though there is electricity at the campground site. The program has an operational impact to the Parks Division.

Rochefort stated that once the plans are complete, components will go into the Capital Improvement Plan. Community gardens would be built when there is funding to build and maintain them and once there is a contract with a party, such as the Coop, who is willing to manage it. She noted that supporters of a garden need to advocate for it in the future. Gager noted that by having a garden in the plan it can be determined what the most appropriate location would be.

Sexton asked what had happened to the dog agility course. Rochefort replied that it was removed because she wanted to reduce the area for dog use and the excitement that might accompany dog use in a general use area. Also, there was not a partner for it at this point. Gager noted she lives nearby and some neighbors would likely be concerned about noise from a dog agility or an off-leash fenced facility there. Rochefort noted the dog noise issue was addressed by eliminating the agility facility, reducing the size of the fenced off-leash area and by proposing planting a substantial vegetative buffer.

Gager also expressed concern about how music at the proposed picnic shelter would be managed. Rochefort replied that by ordinance, noise must cease at 10 p.m.

Sexton noted that road speed is a concern; it could make sense to not realign Goodnight Avenue as a traffic calming measure. Zilis replied that Public Works will probably require that it be realigned as a safety issue. Rochefort stated that despite research, she is still unsure whether the point at which Goodnight enters the park is considered a street or a driveway. If it is considered a street, then it must be improved to full street standards, with curb, gutter, sidewalk, etc. She stated that having consulted with the Planning Department staff, the Code identifies it as a driveway, as it meets that criteria, so it can be designed as Zilis has shown. The issue could come up with the Planning Commission.

Gager noted that if the street is determined to be a full street, it has protected resources along the side. If submitted as a conditional development, there may be a request for a corresponding lot development option to make some adjustments. The Planning Commission would look at trade-offs between preserving trees versus increasing pavement and public safety. Rochefort noted the new land Development Code will be adopted on December 31, 2006; the Natural Features component of the new code would likely work in favor of the proposed road design.

Sexton remarked that the proposed fitness trail is perfectly aligned with the disc golf course.

Gager stated that while Powell's request for a pedestrian connection into the park from Alexander Street appears to be beyond the scope of this project, she would still like it to remain on the table. She added that there seems to be a proposal to disconnect an existing informal trail into the park from Park Street in favor of a formal pedestrian entrance into the park away from the intersection, for safety issues; Zilis replied that is the idea. Powell noted that a chain link fence would be needed to deter users of the informal trail, as it is the shortest route into the park from the neighborhood and is well established.

Visitor Schurman suggested placing a Stop sign before the corner with a dog area and parking placed nearby.

Molk expressed concern that it would be impossible to deter pedestrians and bicyclists from using a very established informal trail from Park Avenue into the park and that it would make more sense to simply ensure that the corner is made safe. People need to be able to walk into the park without being in the middle of the road. He suggested placing the fenced off-leash dog area where some Ponderosa pines are now dying and considering rearranging elements of the neighborhood park area.

Powell suggested placing the fenced dog area further north. DeGhetto replied that all fences must come out of the Crystal Lake area, with all fences being conditioned to be removed in winter. From an operations standpoint, it is difficult to have yet another fence that must be removed in winter.

DeGhetto cautioned that the division is very limited in its ability to use herbicides at the top of bank to address Himalayan blackberry and there are OSHA limitations on mechanical control on revetment. Brown replied that an AmeriCorps crews could perhaps be used. Brown added that it is illogical for the Hogue Water District to object to planting native plant species there when invasive problematic species such as blackberry are already in the revetment. DeGhetto replied that there are good examples of native species functioning well in revetment placed in the 1960's throughout the Willamette basin and softening the riprap's visual impact.

Kiesling strongly advocated incorporating a stage into the larger picnic shelter. She added that there is almost a natural amphitheater effect in the area proposed for the new picnic shelter; also, the water treatment facility backs onto the shelter, so there would be fewer neighbors to voice noise concerns.

Kiesling favored moving the fenced dog area closer to where the proposed horseshoe pit is located. A 4'-high fence should be adequate to contain dogs. She noted the off-leash fenced area is intended for the dog owners who are not sure what their dogs will do off-leash. The area meets the needs of a smaller group of dog owners that really needs it and has been requesting it. She added the park should be labeled as "dog friendly" rather than "off-leash". Peterson asked whether the off-leash dog area was placed in the right spot for neighbors. Molk stated he was not opposed.

Kiesling added that the horseshoe facility at Avery Park is rarely used. DeGhetto disagreed, saying the larger, regional facility at Avery is used by a club. One can't compare the single informal pit proposed at Willamette Park to the group of horseshoe pits at Avery Park. Kiesling replied she would suggest consideration of a bocce ball facility at Willamette; DeGhetto concurred.

Kiesling noted that Park Avenue was originally the main entrance to the park and that placing some parking there makes some sense. She added that some people do turn down Park Avenue thinking that it will take them to Willamette Park, and then get confused. Powell added that many people get directions to the park on the internet, subsequently turn on Chapman and then get lost. DeGhetto replied that he is working with Corvallis Little League regarding appropriate signage and placing symbols on Highway 99W.

Rochefort noted that the last meeting discussed at length motorized and non-motorized boat use in the park. She asked the rafters whether large group trips could use Willamette Park rather than North Riverfront; she related that the rafters replied that Willamette was not adequate for such use. She related that the Oregon State Marine Board has determined that the North Riverfront is not adequate for motorized boating, so it was thought that Willamette Park could be enhanced for motorized boating. Gager replied that anything that can be done at Willamette Park to enhance motorized boat use and large group boating would also benefit non-motorized boating. She noted that lots of parking is available there, including for trailers that could be left for extending trips. However, the North Riverfront site is not really geared for people leaving trailers there all day.

Brown emphasized that a better staging area is needed at Crystal Lake for large group boating. Currently, due to the angle, people stage right at the ramp, which was never designed for that. A side area is needed for staging. Also, there are a number of de-facto launch sites for non-motorized boats, such as behind the restroom there, extending down beyond the dock. This is because the non-motorized boats users do not want to deal with the motorized boats.

Brown observed that the ramp is now a pinch point, as it is now one of the best places in Corvallis for a quick dip. People get into the river from the riprap while motorized boats go right by them to dock; he's seen a lot of close calls there. The dock could use a flange or angle for designated swimming. Powell added that South Side Marine as well as sheriffs put boats in there all the time and should be consulted.

Powell noted there used to be a non-motorized boat landing on Mary's River. Kiesling noted that it silts up every winter. DeGhetto noted that the city returned its maintenance money to the State Marine Board, as the site is generally not usable or maintainable and the dock there will probably have to be removed. The site was poorly planned from a hydrological standpoint.

Kiesling concurred that there are real safety concerns for swimmers at Crystal Lake and noted concerns with conflicts with motorized and non-motorized craft, citing a case she saw of a sheriff's boat swamping a canoe. The site must be friendly for various uses. Kiesling related her husband, a fishing guide, remarked that the launch is poorly placed, due to the strong current there;. She said that often, non-motorized boat users unfamiliar with the site find they cannot make their way back upstream to the dock due to the current. Brown replied that non-motorized boats already sometimes separate from motorized boats by launching 20 yards downstream. Jeff Smith stated the site may be better for motorized uses and emphasized the importance of trying to separate uses.

- V. **WRAP UP-DISCUSS NEXT STEPS.** Planner Rochefort stated she will do a phone conference with the consultants to incorporate the most recent comments and concerns. The Stakeholders Committee may not meet again. The developed final plan will then go to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for comment and approval. She will email the group when the plan goes to the Planning Commission.
- VI. **VISITOR PROPOSITIONS.** Mark Schurman stated that the proposed music stage for the large picnic shelter would face east, across the river, and not neighbors to the west, so noise should not be an issue. He stated he would prefer tennis to volleyball; he suggested consulting surveys to find out what is more popular. He supported the park entry plan as proposed. As a cyclist, he would prefer to share the road with cars rather than widening the road.

Michael Molk suggested placing parking adjacent to the upper restrooms and having a placeholder for community gardens in the plan.

George Grösch, Ward 3 Councilor, stated he liked the bicycle access in regards to Goodnight Avenue. He stated he was glad the discussion on riprap was put on record. He expressed concern regarding the very fast current at the Crystal Lake boat ramp, which is dangerous for swimmers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

**CITY OF CORVALLIS
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
WILLAMETTE PARK STAKEHOLDER MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2007**

Attending

Mark Brown
Mary Buckman
Steve DeGhetto
Kathy Gager
Nance Kiesling
Janet Ranzoni
Tom Powell
Jay Sexton

Staff

Director Conway, Director
Mark Lindgren, Recorder
Jackie Rochefort, Planner

Visitors

Greg Bostrom, 143 NW 11th
Nancy Brown, 810 SE Park
Susan Cleary, 1208 Goodnight Avenue
Jennie Cramer, 980 SE Park
Gwendolyn Ellen, 840 SW Marion
Anita **Error! Reference source not found.**Dave Lytle
Michael Molk, 1315 SW Park
Molly Monroe
Nicole Padilla, 2560 Crystal Lake Drive
Laura Pagangovy
Nancy Rolin
Mark Schurman, 1225 SE Park
Sally Shaw
Julie Wilborn-Pilotte, 1290 Goodnight

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

- I. INTRODUCTIONS.** Park Planner Jackie Rochefort convened the meeting at 5:06 p.m. She highlighted the revised agenda and handouts for Scheme A and Scheme B. This is the fourth and last meeting of the stakeholder group; there was also a neighborhood meeting.

She explained the stakeholder committee was selected by the City Council to represent different facets of the city and different components of what would be in the park. Kathy Gager stated she represented the City of Corvallis Community Development Department and lives in South Corvallis; Tom Powell is a South Corvallis resident; Nance Keisling is a South Corvallis resident and represented off-leash dog people; Jay Sexton represented disc golfers; Mary Buckman represented the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; Janet Ranzoni represented the Riverfront Commission (filling in for Holly Peterson); Mark Brown represented the Bureau of Land Management and is a Willamette River Navigator; Steve DeGhetto represented Parks and Recreation Department interests.

- II. VISITOR PROPOSITIONS.** Julie Wilborn-Pilotte, 1290 Goodnight Ave, handed in written testimony and stated that she and many neighbors opposed the proposed fenced off-leash dog area, mostly due to concerns for increased traffic. She noted that residents on Crystal Lake Drive are particularly affected by park traffic because there are no sidewalks or bike lanes. She added that the Sheriff's Department told her there was not enough staffing to be able to patrol the neighborhood. She said that neighbors asked for development of the park that supports walking, cycling and neighborhood use.

Wilborn-Pilotte clarified that since a fenced off-leash dog area would be the only one of its kind in the area, it would significantly increase the already heavy traffic in the neighborhood by bringing in users from even outside the city. The proposed fenced dog area would be adjacent to what is already the largest off-leash park in Corvallis. She noted the neighborhood already bears the brunt of traffic from around the region for disc golf, soccer fields, river use and general park use. Neighbors also must endure excessive dog waste, noise and occasional theft and vandalism.

She stated that neighbors are accepting or enthusiastic about the proposed picnic shelter, sand volleyball courts, a play structure and community gardens. However, some neighbors would like the former campground area to remain completely open and natural.

She clarified that much of the neighborhood concern about traffic focused on speeding, especially on Goodnight Avenue coming out of the park. Also, there is intense volume on game days. She suggested placing stop signs in front of crosswalks. She explained that the city informed her that neighbors would have to pay \$4,500 per household for traffic calming devices. The additional 31 on-street parking spaces seems to indicate heavier usage is being proposed. Director Conway stated that she would contact Wilborn-Pilotte regarding follow up with Police and Public Works regarding traffic solutions and policing.

Gager added that the City analyses traffic impacts between various uses. Therefore, the City has to look at not just whether traffic is increasing but also whether those increases or changes were anticipated in the traffic management programming. In general, parking is preferred to be on the site that is generating the need for parking. The City will look at how much parking is being forced out of the park onto neighborhood streets. She added that the park has both community and neighborhood aspects. Rochefort noted the park was designed for several purposes and is a large urban park. One feature of neighborhood parks is on-street parking. A decision will have to be made to use green space or the street in order to provide parking.

Rochefort distributed testimony just submitted by Patricia Benner.

Dave Jenkinson, Goodpark Avenue (a small cross street between Goodnight and Park), stated that there are many small children and pets on his street; a number of pets have been killed by traffic. Traffic has gone from a half dozen cars per day only six years ago to hundreds per day. He stated he uses the park everyday and noted there are already lots of dogs off-leash there. The park already receives a lot of use and doesn't need any more. Nance Keisling asked whether some of the increased traffic could be related to the construction of the Willamette Landing subdivision; he estimated that perhaps half of it was related.

DeGhetto asked Jenkinson whether he thought that large City maintenance vehicles going to the proposed community gardens in the park would be a problem; Jenkinson replied that he did not think so.

Susan Hirsch stated that there would be a number of unintended consequences of having the only fenced off-leash dog park in the region. There has been increased traffic (including speeding) and drinking attributable to the disc golf course, which were unanticipated consequences. She

reported that her neighbor is picking up 10,000 bottles per year in the disc golf area. She added that a number of disc golfers use the course at night, using lights.

Hirsch described herself as "The Poop Lady": she picks up a substantial amount of dog waste in the park, some of it from people walking their dogs after dark, when they cannot see their dog's waste. Also, there is a handful of dog walkers who use the park every day and do not ever pick up after their dogs. She noted much of the waste is near the Crystal Lake Sports Fields entrance, though the sports fields themselves have tended to be fairly well cleaned up during use in winter.

She thanked the department for closing the campground, which had problems with drugs and violence. She noted that while the disc golf course is popular, it takes up a lot of space and cannot safely be used for other purposes when it is in use. She advocated for a quiet refuge space in the former campground area.

Michael Molk, 1315 SE Park, stated he liked the addition of the community gardens to the proposed design. He suggested that trees not be planted to the south of the gardens, since they were already fairly shaded by very tall trees to the east and the solar access of the gardens needs to be protected. He suggested the gardens include heritage grapes on arbors, fruit trees and possibly a memorial to Phil Fogarty, "The Fig Man", known for his work on local, sustainable agriculture.

Molk cautioned that he sees hundreds of people entering the park by foot at the informal park access point by the curve, so traffic calming is critical at the curve. That park entrance is the funnel for thousands of neighbors. He noted that it will be very difficult to get people to go from using the existing straight informal trail to the proposed path with a jog in it.

He stated that on-street parking would not be a problem and that figuring out a way to put some parking on the Water Treatment plant site would be ideal. The performance space proposed for the picnic shelter would be sited in such a way as to prevent sound from getting into the neighborhood to the west. He said that the proposed play area and restrooms would be compatible with the community gardens and did not expect problems from vehicles servicing the garden plots. Molk added the presence of gardeners would add to the level of supervision in the park. Jay Sexton asked how big the proposed community garden site was; Rochefort estimated that it was roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre.

Laura Pagangovy stated that she felt that there would not be much additional traffic due to the proposed community gardens. She noted that there were generally never more than five vehicles at a time at the community gardens at Starker Arts Park, where there are over 70 plots.

Nancy Brown, 810 SE Park, stated that over the last ten years, there have been three children and multiple dogs hit by cars in the neighborhood. Neighbors posted signs asking drivers to slow down, but Public Works Department Staff removed them. There also needs to be signage to prevent semi-trucks for turning the wrong way from Evanite onto Crystal lake Drive. She stated that the other proposed amenities won't have the same draw of the proposed fenced dog area, which should be more centrally located in the city.

She added that disc golfers helped pick up 11,600 cans that were collected to support the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Anita Earl stated that the neighborhood contains many small children; this is incompatible with traffic and dogs. A fenced dog area would be very popular and contribute to much heavier traffic.

Dave Lytle stated he lives adjacent to the park. While many of the proposed features of the park were very good, a fenced off-leash dog area would be a big draw, which would be a problem, drawing in a lot of traffic from outside the area.

He asked what had happened to the idea of building a canoe launch on the embankment; the feature is no longer in the plan. Rochefort replied that the whole embankment is part of the Hogue District, which prohibits anything that could change the character of the existing bank. Fully engineered drawings and studies of any changes would have to be submitted in a proposal to the Hogue District to demonstrate that they would not affect the river or the bank and that is outside the scope of this project. Therefore, the launch could not be included in the plan.

Lytle asked whether there were any plans to modify Crystal Lake boat launch to accommodate larger boats. Rochefort clarified that building a motorized boat facility was considered for the North Riverfront site. However, the Oregon State Marine Board determined that the site was not suitable for motorized boats. The OSMB also looked at Crystal Lake and determined that it would be more suitable for enhancing the motorized boating in the future. However, that will not be pursued as part of this project. If that goes forward, it will be in partnership with the OSMB to determine the best design for the area, acknowledging that it could also be used by non-motorized boaters and swimmer access.

Director Conway added that the stakeholder group for the North Riverfront planning process is looking at that being a non-motorized boat access area. She emphasized that there has not been discussion about accommodating bigger boats at the Crystal Lake boat launch. The OSMB could provide funds for an analysis of the site.

Lytle noted that immediately north of the former campground, there are a few areas that still have viable wildflower populations, including the Chocolate Lilly (*Fritillaria*). Any plans should consider directing pedestrian and dog traffic away from them and also controlling English Ivy. DeGhetto responded that the existing informal trail was proposed to be rerouted to try to avoid sensitive plants.

Greg Bostrom, 143 NW 11th, stated that while he formerly frequently used the park to walk his dog, he can no longer do so, since his family recently got a dog that by nature cannot be in an off-leash area, since it follows its nose and chases off. In 2001, during planning for the Crystal Lake Sports Fields, he related that Director Conway had stated that the city would look into getting a fenced off-leash dog area; this would be a great location, as the site would block noise from going into the neighborhood. It is a needed

facility; Bend has three and Eugene has one in Amazon Park. Ideally, Corvallis should have more than one and it has to start somewhere.

Gwendolyn Ellen, 840 SW Marion, stated she moved to the neighborhood because of the park and walks her dog there twice a day. She noted that there are three fenced dog parks in Eugene. Ellen noted small, enclosed areas are not a dog utopia, since they are difficult for some dogs, from a behavioral point of view. She related that a number of dog trainers warned her against using small, enclosed dog parks. She stated she would prefer to encounter aggressive dogs and clueless owners on an open trail.

Nance Keisling noted that at least 50% of the emails regarding the park planning were from off-leash dog people that use the park every day. Off-leash dog advocates worked very hard in 2001 for off-leash areas and will not lose them as long as they are good caretakers.

Sally Shaw cautioned that some people own dog breeds that can't be walked off-leash and are not compatible with city living. She questioned whether it was necessary for the city to build a fenced off-leash park simply because people bought the wrong breed of dog for city living. She advocated that the city make its investment in a off-leash dog facility in a part of the city where traffic is not as serious a problem. Non-residents typically will not have the manners or sensibilities as neighbors (she cited the heavy, fast traffic during the Ultimate Frisbee competition last summer, when participants were rude when asked to slow down). No more attractions are needed to draw more people into the park.

Mark Schurman, 1225 SE Park, cited the issue of visibility at the curve. He stated he expected that a fenced dog area would not be well maintained. He stated he would like to see a larger community garden area and asked for activities for teenagers; for example, basketball would be used more than volleyball. DeGhetto asked Schurman, given the testimony about carloads of crazed youths creating a nuisance and playing disc golf, whether he expected that basketball could also be a problem, especially with noise at night. Schurman replied that he did not anticipate that it would be a problem and suggested putting court lights on timers.

Susan Cleary, 1208 Goodnight Avenue, emphasized that traffic was her main concern; speeding is especially a problem in the afternoon, perhaps because students are out of school then. She advocated placing traffic calming on Goodnight and Goodpark. She related that Eugene has a roughly 5-10 acre fenced dog area at the Horse Park, where dogs can run without the danger of being hit by cars; it is important to protect and exercise dogs. However, the proposed fenced dog area is only roughly a quarter acre. She stated she was excited by the proposed community gardens.

Molly Monroe stated she lives on Goodpark and walks her elderly retriever into the park all summer. She would prefer to keep the park peaceful and quiet. She would like to see the community garden enlarged and anticipates that it would be heavily used. There are already a lot of play structures around; she related that she has never seen a child on the play structure at Riverbend Park. She advocated restoring the native plants at the site, planting native plants and trees and removing the encroaching English Ivy. She suggested placing parking where there is

already gravel. She suggested placing a fenced dog area under the overpass near the skate park; there's already plenty of parking there; it could also be sited at Pioneer Park. She stated that the proposed sidewalks will be much safer for children walking to the park.

Jennie Cramer, 980 SE Park, stated she is a dog owner, gardener (she has a plot at Starker Arts Park) and bike commuter. She noted that many community gardeners bring tools and supplies to the community garden plots with bike trailers and asked that planning try to facilitate bicycle usage for garden users. She advocated leaving space to expand the proposed community and youth gardens.

Cramer emphasized that most community gardeners want their plots to be as close as possible to where they live, since it is difficult to travel a long way after work to harvest food; she would be the first to sign up for a plot at Willamette Park. Many people now live in places without space to garden. She has never seen more than three cars at the Starker Arts Park community gardens parking lot. The soil in Avery Park community gardens is wet late into the season and food is frequently stolen there. She asked whether there would be a fence to protect food; Rochefort replied that planning is not at that level of detail at this stage. Gager added that regulations prohibit fences in the tree area that would limit the movement of small mammals; that would be a problem for a fenced dog area there, too.

Cramer emphasized that traffic and speeding is a huge problem in the neighborhood; more signage could help.

III. RECAP OF DECEMBER 13, 2006 STAKEHOLDER MEETING. Members recommended that minutes from the December meeting were included in the meeting packet.

IV. SUMMARY OF SITE CONDITIONS; REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS. Planner Rochefort clarified that the only difference between the two plans is that Scheme A includes the fenced dog area and Scheme B does not. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be updated on tonight's meeting tomorrow night, though they will make no recommendation to the City Council at that meeting, only an information update.

Rochefort displayed an aerial photo of the park, which the group had used to help identify opportunities and constraints and where to locate improvements. In October, the committee wanted to accommodate improvements such as river access, natural area restoration, campground closure, sports fields, disc golf, a fitness loop, a picnic shelter, a play structure, restroom facilities, parking and general access. These were included in the plan to the greatest extent the different uses could be balanced.

Rochefort noted that traffic and speeding was cited a great deal tonight. Some of that can be accommodated in the plan but traffic calming would have to be addressed later in the project. The department and the project planning has only some control over traffic, but speeding is a police enforcement issue working with the neighborhood and is outside the scope of this project.

She stated that she has determined that the Goodnight Avenue entrance to the park becomes a park road and is not a standard city street; she is checking with Community Development and

Public Works on this interpretation. A proposed jog in the road should help to slow traffic. Cyclists and cars are proposed to share the driveway into the park, with an adjacent pedestrian sidewalk. There would also be a sidewalk to the east of Park Avenue.

She stated that a proposal, not listed on the list of goals, to expand the picnic shelter to accommodate a stage and performances was supported by the stakeholder committee at its last meeting.

The group wanted both physical and visual access to the river. With the Hogue District restrictions, physical access will be more limited than the group would have wanted. In addition, that bank is very steep, so safety is an issue. Visual access to the river would be accommodated with picnic tables and overlooks.

Mark Brown emphasized that it is important that the record reflect that with increasing community pressure for physical access to the river, members of the PRAB should, at the appropriate time, revisit the Hogue District issue in the future; Sexton and Keisling concurred.

Rocheftort related that the committee had unanimously supported removal and redevelopment of the campground with features that are more typically found in a neighborhood park; this is all the more important given the testimony regarding the level of area residential development and the many young families nearby. A sidewalk off Park Avenue would connect to a central play area with an adjacent small picnic shelter, like the one at Riverbend Park. (A larger picnic shelter closer to the river would be reservable). A path would lead to restrooms, the volleyball court and community gardens, whose addition was unanimously supported by the committee. Rain filtration and runoff on the site will have to be engineered.

She clarified that once a plan is endorsed and a Willamette River Greenway permit is received, decisions regarding designing individual park features would be driven by citizens, with improvements having to be added to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and then finding funding. Pieces of the plan would only be built as funds become available. The only project in the plan that is already part of the CIP is building the large picnic shelter.

Gager expressed concern regarding the fenced dog area; it would combine a community park function into an area being considered to become a neighborhood park; City planners may look critically at this during the planning review process. She said that there is a need for such a facility, but she does not believe this is the right location. Also, new rules would not allow the dog area fencing within the tree line, reducing the size of the already small proposed area. There are also differences in the traffic that would be expected from the community gardens and the fenced off-leash dog area. She was also concerned about the appearance of and the noise from a fenced dog area. She noted that as the neighborhood grows, most of the new housing will have only small yards, so there will be an increased demand there for community gardens. Rocheftort added that the application will be filed under the new Land Development Code, in which natural features are a very high priority and so fitting park features with natural features will become more critical than ever.

Keisling stated she read all emails carefully; the neighbors are frustrated and angry about the traffic and speeding cars, alcohol and excess trash: the neighborhood is maxed out by impacts from the park. Probably the fenced dog area proposal was the last straw for many neighbors.

She advocated to finish an existing bridge at the north; currently, it terminates in a pond. A "No Alcohol" sign should be placed in the parking lot; Rochefort replied that one was just installed. Keisling added that the disc golf group needs to include information at its website and in brochures on the no alcohol policy, the need to pick up trash and to ask players to drive carefully and respectfully in the neighborhood.

Keisling emphasized that fenced off-leash dog areas are important and are needed. There are about 11,500 dogs in Corvallis and as Kathy Gager reported, yards are getting smaller. When one rescues a dog, one does not initially know if the new dog will come back when called. Other breeds are inherently difficult to train for a recall. In enclosed off-leash areas, there are many eyes upon you to make sure you and your dog behave well and clean up and there are a number of rules and criteria that apply. Problem dogs tend not to use such areas. She noted that it is best not to place a fenced dog area directly next to an off-leash area, since the enclosed dogs will bark at the dogs outside in the off-leash area. Also, fenced dog areas are handicapped accessible; most other dog areas are not. In addition, deaf dogs generally cannot be off-leash.

Keisling stated that the Parks and Rec department has heard numerous requests over the years for fenced off-leash areas. She offered a compromise solution, in which the department would look for a minimum of two other appropriate locations for larger, fenced areas in the city, preferably in the northwest and southwest areas. This would minimize the use of the area at Willamette Park. She asked that the fenced off-leash area be included and accepted in the plan; it would take a number of years for it to be implemented. She emphasized that its construction would be conditioned so that it would not be built until the two other dog parks are designed and also built, so that the Willamette Park fenced dog area would not be the only one in the area and not be a magnet for traffic in the neighborhood. She suggested planting bushes now so they are large enough to visually and audibly screen the dog area.

Keisling asked what Rochefort had found about neighborhood access to the park from Alexander Avenue. Rochefort replied that she checked with the Planning Department and found that a connection to the park wasn't required for the co-housing project there because the presence of wetlands and drainageway natural features precluded it.

Mary Buckman stated she shared Kiesling's comments supporting the fenced off-leash area; the project is an idea whose time has come. The fenced areas will surely be developed in parks in other parts of the city as well. Also, since it sounds as if the greatest interest is in the community garden, the play area site could be shifted in order to make the gardens larger.

Sexton stated that all the improvements that are being discussed: the gardens, the play area, the fenced dog area, etc are all things that people use when they don't have land of their own. While there is clearly a need for a fenced off-leash area, he stated that he wasn't sure whether to keep it in the concept; however, he has experienced the traffic problems in the neighborhood and that is a concern. He asked Rochefort for the timeframe of when park improvements would occur; she

replied that it was hard to say, since it is citizen driven. Director Conway replied that improvements probably wouldn't happen before five years, since there is already a full plate of approved CIP projects; it was probably closer to the 7-10 year range. However, if the community doesn't assist us to complete the plan, the improvements won't happen.

Sexton stated that in reading all the letters, it seemed to him that the concept of having a fenced dog area was complimentary to having an off-leash area; having one nearby a fenced area seems to be immaterial, since they serve different purposes.

Tom Powell stated that he had to come out against siting the fenced dog area in the park, since the concept was very mobile and could be placed almost anywhere. There is such intense use of the park already that any increase in usage should be avoided. Once other fenced dog areas are built, then it might not be a bad idea for Willamette Park.

Powell advocated enlarging the area of the community garden as designed; also, the garden should be placed first on the priority list. He noted that the presence of the gardens in that location would help self-police the park by putting a large number of eyes on people going in and out of the park. He asked if there was any way to raise the Goodnight intersection as a way to control traffic by acting as a giant speed bump. He asked, given that Park Avenue has been determined to probably be part of the park, whether it was strictly necessary to be connected to Goodnight Avenue.

Gager replied that when the Planning Commission looks at the plan, they will judge it in the context of previously adopted plans. In this case, there is a previously adopted Transportation Plan in which those two streets are connected and are part of the review on how the city will deal with traffic as the city redevelops. Because the park entry drive may not be in essence a city street, but rather a driveway, there are more opportunities to do speed control there and within the park, including a raised table, pedestrian crosswalks, stop signs, etc. (though it would have to be reviewed by the Traffic Engineer).

Janet Ranzoni stated she supported Scheme B, since the fenced dog area seems incompatible with a neighborhood park in the former campground area. The neighborhood park seems important, given the degree of development in the area.

Park Operations Supervisor Steve DeGhetto stated that he liked the idea of the community gardens and the playground placed nearby each other, since they help families to do things together. He stated that since he often gets complaints of someone's child being startled by a dog, for example; he thought that putting a dog area by a play area was not a good idea. Also, there did not seem to be enough parking available to accommodate people coming to put their dogs in the fenced area. He added that he would like to see a fenced dog area, but located elsewhere.

V. PROGRAM ELEMENTS-WHAT WE HEARD FROM STAKEHOLDERS & PUBLIC. Refer to Section IV

VI. PRESENT & DISCUSS DESIGN SCHEMES. Refer to Section IV

VII. VISITOR PROPOSITIONS. Susan Hirsch expressed concern that dog waste in the proposed fenced area would be washed by rain down the slope into the pond by the bridge that people and animals walk through.

Nicole Padilla, 2560 Crystal Lake Drive, stated that she used to live in Eugene and the smaller fenced dog area tended to get mucky and smelly, with the ground completely torn up. The awful smell would be particularly unpleasant adjacent to the community gardens. Also, the fenced dogs would be barking at the dogs going past in and out of the park.

Julie Wilborn-Pillote stated she was excited by much of the planning and thanked Director Conway for her offer to assist the neighborhood with their request for safety measures for traffic problems. She asked that something be done regarding traffic safety sooner than the five to ten year timeline for implementing improvements that Director Conway had cited. Director Conway replied that she will be in touch with her; she will engage the Engineering Department and the Police Department with the neighborhood to address the issues brought up tonight.

Janet Cramer stated that the former campground is currently the one very quiet place in the park other than the river; it would be nice to keep that instead of a fenced dog area there. Many neighbors moved to the area for that feeling.

Rocheport stated the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet here at 6:30 p.m. March 15 and will be updated on tonight's meeting. While it may be two or three months before the board makes a recommendation to the City Council regarding Willamette Park planning, the public is encouraged to speak during PRAB Visitor Propositions. Once the City Council has endorsed a plan, then work on completing the Willamette River Greenway Permit can move forward in July. Once the permit is received, then pieces of the plan can start to be placed in the Capital Improvement Plan and fundraising for projects can commence. She thanked members of the committee for their hard work and the public for their input.

VIII. PROJECT ENDORSEMENT. Mark Brown recused himself from voting.

Sexton moved and Powell seconded to endorse Scheme B (without the fenced dog area); motion passed, with four in favor and Buckman and Keisling opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

**CITY OF CORVALLIS
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 1, 2007**

Attendance

Greg Bostrom
Mary Buckman
Kent Daniels, Chair
Charles Fisher, Vice-Chair
Ellen Hooven
Tracy Noel

Staff

Julee Conway, Director
Karen Emery, Recreation Division Manager
Mark Lindgren, Recorder
Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner

Absent/Excused

Denise Nervik
Randy Keller
Noel Mingo, 509-J District Rep.
Stewart Wershow, Council Liaison

Visitors

None

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
II. Review of Minutes	X		
III. Visitors' Propositions	X		
IV. Staff Reports	X		
V. Board Member/City Council Liaison Reports	X		
VI. Willamette Park Design Review			Motion passed to endorse Scheme B with all presented design refinements.
VII. Senior Center Internet Use Review Policy			Motion passed to recommend the policy to the City Council, with the modified 4.15.03.1b to make it more general and removing "satellite and phone" language.
VIII. Code of Conduct Policy Review			Motion passed to move the policy forward with the changes agreed upon during discussion.
IX. Adjournment	X		The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is 6:30 p.m., May 17, 2007 at the main Corvallis Fire Station conference room.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Kent Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

- II. REVIEW OF MINUTES.** Mary Buckman moved and Charlie Fisher seconded to accept the March 15, 2007 minutes as presented; motion passed. Since some board members had not received their board packets, approval of April 19, 2007 minutes was postponed.

Daniels suggested that during meetings when there are members of the public waiting to testify, then Staff Reports and Council Liaison and Member Updates should be given afterwards. Similarly, someone attending in order to give a report should be allowed to present their report early in the meeting and then leave.

- III. VISITORS' PROPOSITIONS.** None.

- IV. STAFF REPORTS.** Director Conway stated she will present on the department to the Core Services Committee on May 10. Daniels added the process has just started and he is not sure how the committee will accept public input. He noted that while the last City Council had a goal to develop long-term funding strategy for the Parks and Recreation Department, the current Council is stating that it will accomplish this through the Core Services process. He wasn't sure, however, if anyone on the Core Services Committee was aware of that.

Also, the City has a Vision and what it does is directed by that; the CSC should be focusing on funding items on which decisions have already been made and committed to. The CSC meetings do have a Visitors' Propositions section; he encouraged members to attend. He has discussed with Director Conway having the PRAB giving input to the CSC once the process has been clarified for doing so.

Charlie Fisher asked whether it is likely that the CSC will look for projects that the city wants to do, that might be put ahead of the Senior Center or other projects that have already been tentatively approved, or whether the CSC will only look at the services available now and how they will fund them. Daniels replied the committee is looking at that but also at alternative ways of funding services. It is also looking at efficiency measures. He added the committee is focusing on property tax-funded services; he emphasized that property tax revenues are not even keeping up with inflation. Director Conway said departments will be making presentations to the Core Services Committee for the next two months; following that, they will start to look at additional revenue strategies. The committee's recommendations on revenue and savings will go to the City Council.

Park Planner Rochefort clarified that the North Riverfront design review would likely come to the board at its June meeting.

- V. BOARD MEMBER/CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS.** Charlie Fisher noted the ODOT staff leading the Van Buren Bridge project has departed the agency. Tracy Noel reported the Earth Faire, held April 21st, including the Procession of Species parade, had the best attendance and feedback yet, despite poor weather.

- VI. WILLAMETTE PARK DESIGN REVIEW.** Planner Jackie Rochefort related that the Willamette Park Stakeholder Committee had selected Scheme B as the preferred design alternative, along with a list of design refinements. She said that list of design refinements was in the board's packet, as requested by the board last month. Scheme A and B are identical, except that Scheme A contains a fenced dog off-leash area and Scheme B does not, leaving that area open, perhaps for passive recreation.

Rochefort highlighted a large map displaying the proposed park improvements, derived from the Stakeholder Committee meetings, a neighborhood meeting and a lot of citizen comment. The closed

campground there would be replaced by neighborhood park components, including a play area, picnic shelter, a restroom, a volleyball court and a community garden. Some of these areas could be adjusted in order to accommodate expansion of the community garden and a dashed line could indicate where the garden could be potentially expanded in the future.

She noted a sidewalk would be separated from the road entering the park for safety, with cyclists sharing the road. Neighbors asked that the replacement picnic shelter by the river (replacing one burned down around 2000) contain a performing stage; the Stakeholder Committee strongly supported the idea. An overlook with picnic tables would provide visual access to the river. There would be 41 parking spaces adjacent to the turnaround in the park, seven by the community garden and another 23 along Park Avenue. From the turnaround, a path would lead to the multimodal path and a fitness trail.

Rocheftort related that most people commenting acknowledged the need for a fenced dog off-leash area, but there were concerns that this may not have been the best site for it and it may have been too small. Ellen Hooven suggested placing a "ball barrier" from the community gardens; Rocheftort suggested a hedge. Fisher suggested separating the adult volleyball area more from the kids play area. Rocheftort stated that all of the details about the plans would be included in the Willamette Greenway Permit and consulted in the future when different components are constructed.

Rocheftort stated that the design refinements include evaluating whether a trail connection should move further to the north and whether the neighborhood play area or the picnic shelter should move further to the north or the east to accommodate expansion of the community garden, depending on what site conditions work best. The community garden expansion could also go east. Recorder Mark Lindgren advised that a community garden proponent had expressed concern about morning shading of the gardens from the large trees to the east, so expanding the gardens east may not be desirable.

Charlie Fisher moved to endorse Scheme B with all the presented design refinements; Mary Buckman seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Rocheftort stated that in July 2007, she will start work with consultants Walker-Macy on the Willamette River Greenway Permit application. She projected the Willamette River Greenway Permit application work would be completed next winter.

Daniels noted that there is, in fact, a Crystal Lake in the park. Rocheftort replied the lake is a remnant of an old river channel. A stakeholder member suggested early on reconnecting it to the river; however, to do so would require removing much of the park. She conjectured it may have connected originally to the millrace to the north.

Daniels asked whether any thought had been given to a connecting path to the park at the Coho Co-Housing from Alexander Street. Rocheftort replied that was considered when the housing development was proposed; however, it was not done because the grade change was too great to meet ADA requirements and there were intervening wetlands. A boardwalk would be a possibility. Daniels said it is something the board could look at in the future.

- VII. SENIOR CENTER INTERNET USE REVIEW POLICY.** Recreation Manager Karen Emery highlighted the draft policy regarding use of the computer lab equipment and public access to the internet at the Senior Center. She said that Section 4.15 in the Guidelines underlines that the City does not have censorship rights and does not monitor use; it suggests users exercise discretion. She noted there are no time limits set on use.

Buckman suggested that a level of detail may not be needed regarding the number of pages that may be printed for free. Emery replied that the policy could be made more general. Buckman suggested with member endorsement leaving out “.by satellite and telephone..” in the definitions section on page 1.

After discussion, Emery suggested inserting language that would allow staff to establish rules and procedures and not put it in policy. Director Conway noted the city already has established a cost to copy and staff can use discretion regarding when to charge. Emery suggested using the honor system on printing payments, which generally works well.

In response to a member question, Emery related the computer lab replaced a ceramics studio by popular demand. The computers were purchased through a grant. Classes held since then have taught seniors to use computers. She added that in the design process for a proposed senior center expansion, people asked that the lab double in size.

Buckman asked whether problems or issues had led to establishing policy. Emery it was both, though the problems were not serious. She noted the room is set up so that anyone can see any screen. Daniels asked whether the policy was similar to that of the public library; Emery replied that it mimics the library policy, though they do have a usage time limit and more staff.

Mary Buckman moved and Tracy Noel recommend the policy to the City Council, with the modified 4.15.03.1b to make it more general and removing “satellite and phone” language; motion passed unanimously.

VIII. CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY REVIEW. Emery said the draft policy would establish rules and regulations to protect the rights and safety of staff and the community at all events and activities sponsored by the department. Section 4.16 list twelve specific behaviors that are prohibited. Section 4.16.03 lists rules of enforcement; it mimics the Library code of conduct.

She noted that there are specific procedures that are enforced by umpires or referees in adult sports programs. There are also behavior expectations that go to parents of youth participating in youth sports programs. She anticipated that some behaviors would not be enforced; however, the policy gives staff a tool and a process to use. Some behaviors will be difficult to enforce. Director Conway added that the City has four enforceable major citywide policies, related to harassment, discrimination, and other related antisocial behaviors.

Buckman suggested changing the phrase “service points” to something more understandable, perhaps “events, activities and facilities”; there was consensus to change it to something more accessible. She added that the word “facilities” should be added to events and activities in the policy’s Purpose; there was consensus to add it.

Buckman asked about the “level of personal hygiene” referenced in the policy. Emery replied it referred to cleanliness, such as bad smell, not dress. Buckman asked whether this was directed at the homeless; Emery replied that it was not. Noel expressed concern about the issue of hygiene in a code of conduct policy. Emery replied the policy responded to a behavior that can be adjusted in order to participate in a program or facility. Generally, when this issue, such as body odor, is brought to the attention of a participant (or the caregiver of a senior), they are happy to make an adjustment. Director Conway added that the issue occasionally comes up at the Osborn Aquatic Center, such as those patrons with adult diapers.

Noel expressed concern that the policy could be used to remove a homeless person at an outdoor or indoor sports event. She said there was enough latitude that someone could be discriminated against. She stated she wanted to support staff, but the item, #8, made her uncomfortable. She related she has seen such rules used by both well-intended and ill-intended people for racist or other purposes. Daniels suggested adding existing city language under Purpose regarding "...to protect the rights of staff and individuals while respecting the rights of individuals"; there was consensus to add it. Buckman noted the policy would be reviewed in three years.

Director Conway suggested the word "all" be removed from the phrase 'from *all* unlawful activities'; there was consensus to remove it.

Buckman asked about language regarding soliciting for funds. Director Conway replied that it is not allowed *without prior approval*. Greg Bostrom asked about busking in Farmers Market. Director Conway replied that the Market has authority within its permit to regulate such activities in that area.

There was consensus to so check to see if there was a code reference for item #2 and add it, if there is; adding a reference to existing Admin policies regarding harassment, respect in the workplace, etc; checking item #7 to see if that is the exact language in the Municipal Code related to soliciting for any approved use in a Parks and Rec facility and checking to see if #8 corresponds to the Library's existing policy.

Mary Buckman moved and Charlie Fisher seconded to move the policy forward with the changes agreed upon during discussion; motion passed, with Tracy Noel abstaining. Noel clarified that her abstention does not reflect lack of support for staff; rather, it reflects her experiences with similar language.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

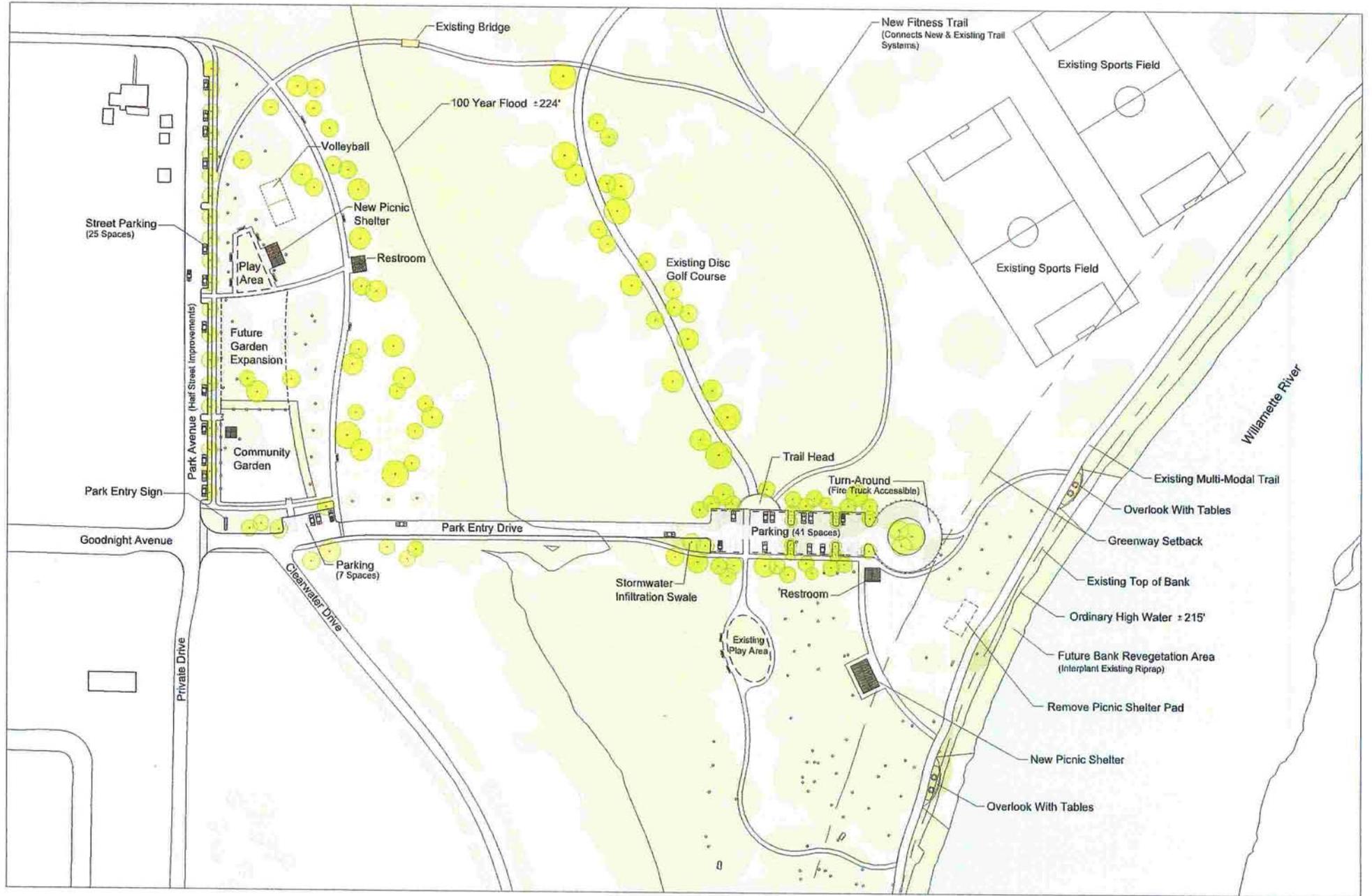


Willamette Park Summary of Project Notifications

<i>Event</i>	<i>Event Date</i>	<i>Method of Notification</i>	<i>Date of Notification</i>
Riverfront Com Mtg – Staff Report	September 8, 2005	1) Web calendar	1) August 2005
CBUF Mtg –Staff Report	January 12, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) December 2005
Riverfront Com Mtg – Staff Report	March 9, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) February 2006
PRAB Mtg –Staff Report	April 20, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) March 2006
Stakeholders Committee Mtg	May 2006	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list	1) May 2006
PRAB Mtg –Staff Report	May 18, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) April 2006
Riverfront Com Mtg – Staff Report	June 8, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) May 2006
Riverfront Com Mtg – Staff Report	July 13, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) June 2006
Stakeholders Committee Mtg	July 25, 2006	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) E-mail/letters to interested parties 3) Web calendar	1) July 2006 2) July 2006 3) June 2006
PRAB Mtg –Staff Report	August 17, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) July 2006
Open Space Advisory Mtg –Staff Report	September 12, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) August 2006
Riverfront Com Mtg – Staff Report	September 14, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) August 2006
PRAB Mtg –Staff Report	September 21, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) August 2006
South Corvallis Neighbors Mtg	October 3, 2006	1) Corvallis Gazette-Times FYI 2) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list	1) October 2006 2) September 2006
Stakeholders Committee Mtg	October 4, 2006	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) E-mail/letters to interested parties 3) Web calendar 4) City Newsletter	1) September 2006 2) September 2006 3) September 2006 4) September 2006
PRAB Mtg –Staff Report	October 19, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) September 2006
Open Space Advisory Mtg –Staff Report	November 14, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) October 2006
PRAB Mtg –Staff Report	November 16, 2006	1) Web calendar	1) October 2006
Open Space Advisory Mtg –Staff Report	December 12, 2006	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) November 2006 2) November 2006 3) November 2006
Stakeholders Committee Mtg	December 13, 2006	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) E-mail/letters to interested parties 3) Web calendar 4) Web -P&R meetings page 5) City Newsletter	1) November 28, 2006 2) November 28, 2006 3) November 2006 4) December 2006 5) December 2006
Riverfront Com Mtg – Staff Report	December 14, 2006	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) November 2006 2) November 2006 3) November 2006
PRAB Mtg –Staff Report	December 14, 2006	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) November 2006 2) November 2006 3) November 2006
Open Space Advisory Mtg –Staff Report	January 9, 2007	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar	1) December 2006 2) December 2006

		3) Web -P&R meetings page	3) December 2006
PRAB Mtg –Staff Report	January 18, 2007	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) December 2006 2) December 2006 3) December 2006
PRAB Mtg –Staff Report	February 15, 2007	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) January 2007 2) January 2007 3) January 2007
Riverfront Com Mtg – Staff Report	March 8, 2007	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) February 2007 2) February 2007 3) February 2007
CBUF Mtg –Staff Report	March 8, 2007	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) February 2007 2) February 2007 3) February 2007
Open Space Advisory Mtg –Staff Report	March 13, 2007	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) February 2007 2) February 2007 3) February 2007
Stakeholders Committee Mtg	March 14, 2007	1) Press release to all media 2) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 3) E-mail/letters to interested parties 4) Web calendar 5) Web -P&R meetings page 6) City Newsletter	1) March 7, 2007 2) March 7, 2007 3) March 7, 2007 4) February 2007 5) March 2007 6) March 2007
PRAB Mtg –Staff Report	March 15, 2007	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) March 7, 2007 2) March 2007 3) February 2007
City Council Mtg –Coun. Report (Wershow)	April 16, 2007	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) March 2007 2) March 2007 3) March 2007
Open Space Advisory Mtg –Staff Report	April 10, 2007	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) March 2007 2) March 2007 3) March 2007
PRAB Mtg –Staff Report	May 1, 2007	1) E-mail/letters to stakeholder list 2) Web calendar 3) Web -P&R meetings page	1) April 7, 2007 2) April 2007 3) March 2007

Last Updated 6/29/07



Walker Macy
Winterbrook
CH2M Hill

Site Plan
Willamette Park
City of Corvallis Parks & Recreation Department