

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

for

North Clackamas Park

March 28, 2007

Milwaukie Center

MEETING SUMMARY

PRESENT

Representatives Sally Shook, Eric Shawn (chair), Fr. Matthew Tate, Tony Clark, Eleanor Johnson, John Denny

Alternates Jim Schuld, Susan Shawn, Beth Ragel

ABSENT Holly Denman (alt.) JoAnn Herrigel

GUESTS Dick Shook, Pat and Anne O'Donnell

STAFF Dan Zinzer, Kristen Cacka, Kevin Cayson

Introductions and Minutes

Eric Shawn opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. He then asked the committee to review the February meeting minutes. Sally Shook made a motion to table the minutes until everyone has a chance to read them. Susan Shawn seconded the motion.

Action: The minutes were tabled. Eric requested that the minutes be distributed by the Friday before each meeting.

Amplified Sound Policy

Dan Zinzer reviewed the changes made to the amplified sound policy recommendations, and reported that the District Advisory Board (DAB) wanted to know what the impact of the policy will be on championship games held on Sundays in the ballfields. He noted that the DAB felt that the policy was formulated for the ball fields and then applied to the entire park. As the DAB wants to develop a policy for the entire District, they feel this may be inappropriate and too narrow in focus.

Discussion:

- Dick-the DAB sees the need for a sound policy and wants to have something in place for the ballfields opening; however, they don't want to approve an inappropriate policy based only on the ballfields.
- Eric-the 65dB limit should work, but since it's complaint-driven, by the time someone responds to a complaint the sound may be gone; how do we actually implement this in reality?

- Dan-maintenance staff will be in the park Saturday & Sunday this summer, so rangers will be available onsite to report it to
- Susan-can we get an administrative ruling on this?
- Dan-we need one
- Susan-how can we help you do that?
- Dan-let me change this policy to 9am on Sundays for the ballfields
- Fr. Matthew-I don't want to agree to a policy until I can hear it in action
- Sally-the other day, blowers were being used in the park that were excessively loud
 - Fr. Matthew-the arc of sound makes sounds louder when heard from a hilltop than when you're level with sound – the ball games are going to have neighbors complaining
 - Sally-there are no leaves in that area of the park, what are they blowing? Do they need to use blowers?
 - Kevin (parks maintenance)-construction contractors are blowing grass clippings off the ball fields twice a week while the grass is growing
 - Sally-can't they rake it up like everybody else?
 - Kevin-the contractors are in charge of it until construction is over, later it will be different when our maintenance team is in charge
 - Susan-this policy is for amplified sound, not machines
 - Eric-maybe we can have a fundraiser to buy a new quieter blower for the parks district maintenance
 - Kevin-next time we get a blower it will be a quieter one
 - Eric-why don't we go ahead and test the sound policy?
 - Fr. Matthew-as long as we're clear on the fact that it's not policy but a trial period
 - Eric-earth day is scheduled for the day of the first ball game, so we can see how this works with multiple events
 - John-Joe Loomis is scheduling ball games
 - Eric-let's use our consensus measuring tool to get a level of support for the sound policy with amplified sound allowed in the ball field only after 9am on Sunday; we can test it on April 21 & 22
 - Committee members were asked, "do you accept or oppose the proposal to test this?"
 - Unanimously agreed [Note: committee members indicated full support.]
 - John-I want to reiterate that when and if there are problems, we will need to know what time of day it happened and as many details as possible, so we can notify the coach of that particular team and let those who respect the policy continue to use the park

Action: Amend sound policy recommendations to allow the use of amplified sound in the ballfields after 9am on Sunday, and then test the policy before approving.

Evergreen Tree Removal

Dan Zinzer introduced a proposal to remove the evergreen trees in the parking lot by the rose garden. Kevin Cayson explained that there are two trees in the island (which will be re-curbed) that are a maintenance nightmare with all the needles that they drop. Additionally, these are trees that grow outward vs. upward, making it a poor choice of tree for landscaping in this location.

Discussion:

- Eric-what problems are they causing for maintenance?
- Kevin-the needles they drop tend to rot out pavement, limbs grow close to ground, block parking area
- Sally-Dick & I looked up the tree, and it's a western white fir, a native tree; can't we just tie up the limbs?
- Eleanor-talked to workmen and they said the trees were on their last legs anyway and will die soon so there's not much point to keeping them
- Susan-if friends of NCP offered to pick up the needles, would that help?
- Sally-likes the diversity that trees give to the area because there are already a lot of white pear trees
- Kevin-if we replace with chanticleer pear like we used in other areas, this tree tends to grow more columnar, so it doesn't grow out into the parking area, and just makes more sense for the location
- Eric-also likes diversity and variety, limbing them up should help

Attendees took a field trip outdoors to take a look at the trees in question

- Eric-what is the vote?
- Eleanor-leave it up to the people that know what they're doing – I don't want to comment
- Tony-if they can be trimmed up and parks is fine with keeping them, great
- Sally-trim them up only as far as needed and keep them, since they are a native tree and add diversity
- Beth-if trees are unhealthy, they should be replaced; if not, and the group wants to keep them, then we should keep them
- Kevin-according to the parks district, the trees are healthy
- Eleanor-if they're not going to die, keep them
- John-abstain
- Eric-I'd like to keep the trees
- Susan-I'd like to make a comment as a non-voter; it makes no sense to limb up the trees to the point where a semi-truck can pass, so keep the limbing up to a minimum
- Eric-I suggest we limb up only to the height of a pickup truck
- Kevin-I'm getting the feeling that people think we're butchering trees, we're not
- Pat-limb trees tastefully
 - The recommendation to keep the trees was unanimous. Of the voting members, one member voted 2 while the remaining members voted 1.

Action: Committee recommends that NCPRD keep the trees.

Natural Areas Steward

Eric noted that Steve Berliner, who introduced this topic was not able to be here. Sally passed out copies of Steve's statement for the group to review, requesting that the committee support adding a natural areas stewardship position at the Parks District.

Discussion:

- Sally-DAB has been asked to authorize a Natural Areas Steward position; we recommend creating a position to watch over natural areas to make sure they are maintained in an environmentally sound way-this is a paid staff position
- Eric-brought up by Dick Shook and Mart Hughes to DAB
- Susan-are you asking for a signed letter to take to DAB?

- Tony-we could just type up a statement of support and send it
- Dick-when originally presented, there was a list of duties including taking inventory of all natural areas in all parks, this would be a naturalist position, do educational programs for public and staff, work with volunteers to remove non-native plants, etc; would be nice to have our own person, noticed the position is not in the budget
- Dan-what we'll have for the next DAB meeting will be a decision package for a naturalist position, and then we can roll it into the budget
- Eric-in favor of the proposal; wants to have a person trained in natural resources stewardship hired, whether part-time or full-time; wants to encourage finding a way to provide education, how to care for stream, wetlands, where to plant native plants, etc
- Sally-would it be helpful to suggest to the DAB that we are in favor?
- Dan-DAB will be going over hours of items from all aspects; might be more appropriate to say support environmental, rather than hiring a full-time individual, maybe contract with someone or other options, but has we have put in an environmental areas planner as an additional line item; this person has environmental education-various degrees, but would be working in planning
- Susan-want someone who can be responsible and have resources available to make sure areas are being protected and managed properly, wants someone who is a steward and can be out on the ground, not a planner
- Eric-where are the common points between planner and steward, etc
- Dick-this is semantics, naturalist planner is a fine title
- Dan-this person would do planning as well as be out on the ground, in the field
- Sally-can we call it steward/planner?
- Dan-district is fairly small to have someone doing "stewardship" full-time, unless we add educational programs coordination
- Eric-can we offer an endorsement that would support Dan's idea and the environmental stakeholders' idea of getting someone to provide education and guidance in stewardship?
- Sally-suggest we send a letter to DAB that we would like to see them bring on board a natural areas planner/stewardship/educator position in this year's budget
 - Consensus indicated full support for this proposal
- Susan-Sally, what if you type up an email from us and send to Dan so there will be an official piece of communication from us-helpful to have a separate document for support (in addition to memo from NCPRD)
- Eric-Sally, please attend the meeting in support of our proposal

Action: Sally will type up an email from the Stewardship Committee and send it to Dan. Dan will also write a memo with information excerpted from the minutes.

Progress Report on Construction and Arena

Dan announced the grand opening of the ballfields on Saturday, April 21st. The event starts at 11am with the unveiling of the artwork, "Wetland Window," by Devin Laurence Field. The commissioners and local mayors will attend, as well as the DAB and other boards. There will be mini exhibition games. The Earth Day event will be held Sunday, April 22. Dan noted that the construction is almost done, and the contractors are working on concession stands and curbs. Susan announced that we have a speaker for the Earth Day celebration from the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Department. He is responsible for the east side of the Willamette, and will speak on what it will take to bring fish back up into the creeks. His talk will be at 11am, followed by a potluck lunch. Pam

Girtman will also have little wooden birdhouses for kids to assemble and paint. There will be ivy pulling in a small section of the park, and may also be a little birdwatching. Susan will be designing little flyers and getting the word out.

North Side Planning

A proposal has been picked by Michelle. It is either Alta or Walker Macy.

Naming of Creek

The idea of naming it Camas Creek has been introduced to Milwaukie Parks & Rec Board, and will be forwarded to the Lake Road Neighborhood Committee and the City Council.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm.

Next meeting will be held on April 25, from 4 to 6 pm at the Milwaukie Center.