

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

for

North Clackamas Park

September 26, 2007

Milwaukie Center

MEETING SUMMARY

PRESENT

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

Alternates Rick Frank, Susan Shawn, Dave Somann

Guests Dick Shook, Anne and Pat O'Donnell, Rosemary Crites, Nick Bugliari, Todd Sonflieth, Jim Newman

Staff Dan Zinzer, Michelle Healy, Staci Hammond, Kevin Cayson

ABSENT

Representatives Tony Clark, Lisa Gibson

Alternates Holly Denman, Jim Schuld, Kathi Schroeder, Beth Ragel, Steve Berliner

Introductions and Minutes

Eric Shawn opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. He then asked the committee to review the August meeting minutes. JoAnn noted a typo in the first paragraph. The item will be corrected in the minutes. Eric motioned to approve the minutes as read. Sally Shook seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Action: The August minutes were approved with a minor correction.

Ball Field Hours

Eric Shawn introduced the topic of ball field hours. This has been a topic for an ongoing discussion.

Discussion:

John Denny met with Kids First to assess potential use of Alder Creek Middle School fields. Fields are booked. North Clackamas School District is interested in improving the fields. The school fields are already being used in conjunction with NCP for tournaments. Pressure on fields will increase as school construction takes place.

Kids First could not reach consensus on changing start times. Softball coaches objected the strongest. Softball does a round robin on Saturday with finalists playing on

Sunday. The weakest team then plays at 8am on Sunday. Softball tournaments tend to be fundraisers.

Soccer people objected to ideas because they feel that enough concessions have been made already. Milwaukie soccer is pretty angry.

No federal money was used to construct the ball fields. There was some state park money. \$3.2 million was lottery money given for spending at the discretion of the county. Title 9 does not apply because no federal funds were involved.

Todd Sunleaf spoke with some people who were unable to attend. Baseball groups are willing to eliminate the back blowers in the morning by bringing in parents to use push brooms.

Rick went into the meeting trying to sell the idea. Why can horses and dogs make noise and not youth sports? Are there sound readings that exceed 65 decibels? He expressed that youth sports has every right to use the park. If youth sports are to be restricted then rentals and other users must face the same restrictions. Why should sports have to change times at NCP when they have 8am games at other parks? The coaches and parents feel that youth sports is being singled out, picked on and discriminated against. Rick provided a list of parks for comparison.

Are backpack blowers needed primarily to clean up sunflower seeds?

Dave Somann described sound levels in Happy Valley Park. Sally mentioned that noise levels are lower since the new blowers were purchased.

Nick Bugliari coaches girls' softball. They played about 50 games, 30 or so at NCP. He was there for the game that went past 10:30pm. His association wants to be good neighbors. He emphasized that activities at NCP are no different than at any other park.

JoAnn mentioned that we are 45 minutes into a 15 minute conversation.

The topic is tabled until the next meeting. Discussion of options will continue between meetings.

Action: None

Clackamas LIVE! Event

Eric introduced the topic and thanked the District for mitigating the sound.

Discussion:

Dan Zinzer said the sound wasn't that hard. We tested both mornings and nights. We pointed the speaker towards that crowds which proved to be very effective. We tried to aim them to the south east. We had 1 email complaint about the noise but otherwise we had very good feedback. The turnout was lower than expected.

Dave Somann brought up the point of maybe planting some kind of sound absorbing vegetation around the park, like poplar trees.

The committee brought up the question, what about Waterfront Park in Milwaukie? Would that be more appropriate for next year's event? We would get a better turnout, more people, it would catch a lot of people just driving by and over the years the event will grow. A lot of people forgot about it.

Action: None

North Side Planning

Eric introduced the topic.

Discussion:

Michelle Healy explained that we are still collecting survey results until October 1st to try to gauge people's opinions and what they would like to see happen to the north side. At this point we have gotten 75 surveys back. The next north side planning meeting will be on Oct. 24 immediately following Stewardship from 6-8pm in the Trillium room. Once surveys are back we will send the results to the consultants and then they will come up with a refined concept of the results.

Michelle went over some of the results so far. Dan noticed that there was a big difference in what kind of fencing people wanted. Full fencing all the way around or some fence and some kind of vegetation buffer. The majority of people would like a mix of fencing and a vegetation buffer. Michelle stated that the fencing would be split rail. Some smaller picnic shelters are something the majority would like to see. At this point we are just waiting to get some more surveys back. We will be doing a mailer for the October meeting.

Sally Shook commented that neighbors are worried about the cyclone fence on the creek. It needs to be maintained and improved on the north side south of the creek. It also needs to be corrected for the creek. Maybe it could stop and start again on the other side of the creek in order to keep park users out of neighbor's yards.

Action: None

Horse Arena Plan Update

Eric introduced the topic.

Discussion:

Eric suggested separating the two concepts- Horse Arena/Parking. JoAnn has heard a positive response but will stay neutral. Committee wanted to know what the Milwaukie Center's view is. Eleanor wasn't sure. Eric stated that the city has requested a letter about the arena location. Committee discussed that they are on two different tracks; they don't know how the parking will occur and how the arena will occur. The CSU modification is for parking but we don't need it for the arena.

The committee brought up a few questions:

1. Can we change the name from parking to staging area?
2. Where do they leave the horse hitched up?

Susan said that they widened the walking trail by 20 feet which will fit about 5 trailers on the road. This is part of the City of Milwaukie's planning process. How much use for shows and things?

There are three groups that would love to use it right now. It would probably be used fairly often being that it is the only public arena in the area.

Most likely the horses will be hitched to their trailers. Maybe we could build hitching posts? It wouldn't be that expensive.

Eric- Ok, to move forward, all in agreement to get the letter out to the city? We are in support of both with 2 different timelines. Eric will write the letter and send it out tonight.

Dave said that gravel would be easier on horses and for cleanup. Dan wasn't sure if gravel was legal and will have to check.

Action: Eric will write and send letter to City of Milwaukie

Ombuds Activity & Reports

Eric introduced the topic of Ombuds Activity & Reports.

Discussion:

The committee brought up the issue of baseball warm-ups taking place in the northwest corner where the oak and ash trees are planted. They are worried that this will harm the trees. Some suggestions were made, maybe moving some big rocks over there to discourage players from practicing there.

Nick Bugliari, guest, said that this is usually only an issue if there are a lot of teams on the field practicing at one time. Under normal circumstances players aren't over there to his knowledge.

The committee suggested that the warm-up area be taken off of the map so people didn't think to go over there.

Dan said that it has been taken off all of the new maps but there might still be some old ones that people are using.

Action: None

Committee Member Comments

Eric introduced the topic of Committee Member Comments.

Discussion:

JoAnn informed everyone that The Johnson Creek Watershed Council was holding a silent auction with some very good raffle items. She encouraged everyone to come and check it out. It will be held on October 11th from 6pm to 9pm at Club Paesano in Cederville Park. Tickets cost \$25.00.

Action: None

Citizen Comments

Eric introduced the topic of Citizen Comments.

Discussion:

Rosemary Crites brought up the topic of noise. There has still been no solution. She wants to know if it is possible rebuild the bleachers with some kind of sound blocking material. The noise should be directed toward the fields. The noise is coming from the parents cheering and screaming and not the kids playing. Can we put it on the table? Can we get some money to fix the problem? She doesn't think that the hours will change the problem. The noise is horrible and she has lived there for years and this should have precedence over other issues.

Eric asked if the Parks District had access to an acoustical engineer. Dan said we would have to hire one and asked if that would even help.

The committee asked if the foul ball netting was still going up and if that will provide some kind of sound barrier.

Rick will check some other parks to see what is being done about the noise. Maybe a foliage buffer would help? We will see what we can find out.

Action: Rick to look into other solutions and see if the foul ball netting could maybe have two purposes.

Eric made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eleanor seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.

Next meeting will be held on October 24, from 4 to 6 pm at the Milwaukie Center.