

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

for

North Clackamas Park

January 23, 2008

Milwaukie Center

MEETING SUMMARY

PRESENT

Representatives: Eric Shawn (chair), Tony Clark, Lisa Gibson, Sally Shook, Eleanor Johnson

Alternates: Steve Berliner, Dave Somann, Susan Shawn

Guests: Dick Shook, Anne and Pat O'Donnell, Rosemary Crites

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

ABSENT

Representatives: Fr. Matthew Tate, John Denny, JoAnn Herrigel

Alternates: Holly Denman, Jim Schuld, Beth Ragel, Rick Frank

Introductions and Minutes

Eric Shawn opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. He then asked the committee to review the **January** meeting minutes. Eleanor Johnson had some concerns regarding pg. 3 line 1. She didn't think the Milwaukie Center had said anything about not wanting speed bumps. They thought they needed to replace the ones on the outside road. Michelle Healy said when she went to the CCAB meeting to speak about traffic calming the Milwaukie Center didn't think speed bumps would be a fix. They wanted the driveway moved over and talked about other traffic calming fixes. After some explaining the minutes were approved with some minor changes to make this topic clearer. Susan Shawn made a motion to approve the minutes. Tony Clark seconded the motion.

*Action: The **January** minutes were approved with some minor changes.*

2007 in Review

Eric Shawn introduced the topic of 2007 in Review.

Discussion:

Eric- the first item on the agenda is to just take a look at what we did in 2007 and I wanted to compare it to the priorities matrix. I think it was in July of 2006 where we met and put together a matrix of priorities that we were using to focus our

attention and I just thought it would be productive for us to have a conversation and talk about **to which extent** we accomplished them and are the priorities that we need to shift or move. The most pressing issue that we identified involved problem solving, things like providing an Ombuds service and establishing contacts with specific issues. Another high priority items was planning contacts for future park use. Dog policies resolving the dog park area to new locations, new hours, and leash or off leash. Environment and sustainability to protect the creek boundaries with buffers. Problem solving and future park planning were listed as the most pressing in terms of what to address. Dog policies was third and then the horse arena and environment/sustainability were tied for forth. So I guess question is how well do you feel we did this year in terms of the top priority which is problem solving?

Steve- I give us a b+

Dan- Was problem solving and Ombuds the same one or Ombuds separate?

Eric- problems solving was the largest item and that had the most points. I put this together with a points system. That ranged from providing an Ombuds service to a contact list to contact DAB and provide a safe place for citizens to bring questions or complaints about the park. Those were lined up in the problem solving. There were other items there in terms of complaints and conflict and stuff like that.

Dan-There were the two activities. One was the drainage ditch design going to the south that people came in to the group and then we re-designed, put in the stuff, put diffuser on the end so that the water didn't come at a single point source that it was disbursed. The other one that we had was putting the locks on the gates; we modified that to where they (neighbors) put the locks on the gates. That was two issues where neighbors came in.

Susan-the big one of course is the noise issue. That is where we had the problems with people calling police. Even though it may not be resolved I still feel really good about how we all went about doing this. I think a lot of people came and spoke and we are still looking at different solutions. I don't know how you fell about that Rosemary.

Rosemary- well I think in my opinion it has been dropped. The last time I came which was a couple months ago we were talking about bringing in a consultant and I never heard anything about that.

Susan-we didn't meet

Dan-that was the last meeting.

Eric-we didn't have a meeting in December

Dan-the consultants been in. Eric gave us the name of a consultant, we met, we walked the park, and I gave him the cross sections of the dugouts and aerial maps and all that. Right now we are just waiting for his report.

Susan-so it's not dropped

Rosemary-I guess my point on this is that in any development those issues have to be resolved before anyone develops. I mean I think it's amazing.

Dan-I don't think that is a requirement in this development.

Rosemary- well I think it should be. I don't want to be antagonistic here but the park seems to be something that doesn't have to go along with any of the rules or regulations of every other classification and that is beyond me to understand especially when it is affecting peoples living environments.

Steve- I think it came up to more people are on scene to know how much noise was going to come out of it.

Eric-I think in terms of looking at the past here and the future would we be in agreement to say that were continuing to grapple with the noise question, it is still on the table, we are waiting for a report. That issue is still very much there and that as other issues have come up we have in fact worked to address them. Is there any issue that came up that we didn't try to address? Have we left any gaps in our response?

Dick-I would suggest that the dogs are still some what of an issue that is on-going. There still barking! I think there was a big article in the national parks and recreation magazine about dogs and problems that arise from having a dog park and one of the things it says is something we really haven't done yet establish a set of rules that are posted so that the people can see them when they bring their dogs into the park and know that the dogs need to behave or they are out.

Eric-well in terms of our priorities matrix the dog park and dog policies was number three on the list. We can say that that is one that we still need to grapple with.

Dick-I agree

Eric-what I am doing is making a few notes here in terms of the matrix. Is there any other problem solving areas that you feel that we have successfully addressed and are they other ones besides the noise and dogs that are on the horizon?

Susan- scheduling. Because once the horse arena gets fixed then people know about it. Then we have to make sure that everybody can use the park that wants to. So that is going to end up being a scheduling problem I think.

Eric- Ok. And the horse arena right now is kind of on hold waiting for better weather.

Steve-I think we are just going to have to wait and see how much use it's getting and then we go from there. It seems like the easiest way to do it. In response to your question maybe we should think about having some general use or picnic or reserved marked sight because of the over tendency for event overflow to fill that as the last block. Maybe we should think about have 6 or 8 parking spaces that that say reserved. Something that is off limits. It's just not fair when there isn't room for park goers because there is a scheduled event at the other side of the park. Not necessarily that they are competing with other picnicker you know people that have reserved a picnic shelter but to the extent that they are competing with the south side. Maybe that should be a topic for us. That could be a future response to complaints after they occur.

Eric-I have a made a note about that. Now if we look at how our matrix is laid out right now our top priority is problem solving, the next one is context for future planning and then the third item is the dog park and dog policies and then the forth is tied with the horse arena and environment and sustainability. Looking to the coming year do we see those shifting? For instance, since we have done work on the planning should that shift planning or do the priorities still line up where they are? In other words do they move up or down for the coming year?

Tony-I would think the environmental topic would move up especially as we move forward with the north side plan. You hear a lot about the salmon habitat etc, etc. It's going to be much more important issue and the horse arena is going to be a finished project.

Susan- In terms of signs we still need to deal with that.

Eric-oh yeah ok let me add that. Would it help if we actually wrote these out on a sheet so everyone can see them?

Michelle- I will write them on the board if you can list them again

Eric- 1. Problem solving 2. Planning 3. Dog policies 4. Horse arena and Environment and sustainability.

Susan-this is what we came up with when we all that the little stickers and we put them up all over the place?

Eric-yes

Susan-ok, now I remember

Eric- we developed a list of stuff

Eleanor- if I recalled a couple of months ago a decision was made that there be a committee set up for the dog people. I don't know what happened with that.

Eric- we will have to look back in the minutes

Susan-no she is right I remember talking about that. Kind of a standing dog committee of some sort

Eleanor-yes and I don't remember the resolution to that.

Tony-I think the resolution was that it should be a private organization, not something that parks district does. I think what is important is getting back to having a real focus on the dog policies from both aspects as far as user issues to rules.

Rosemary- are the dog people talking about issues? Are you talking to people about issues to bring to the stewardship committee or are you the only one?

Tony-there are issues but there haven't been a focus for it. For instance, small dogs and big dogs. Some of that is going to be solved in the future but we do not have a set of rules in place. We really do need more rules.

Rosemary-you have to have more rules. Doesn't Portland have rules?

Tony-there are some rules but they don't address everything

Kevin-well the rules are only as good as the enforcement behind them and the enforcement comes from the city of Milwaukie.

Tony-and if you have the rules and have them posted it helps.

Dave-is it possible to get rules from some of these other agencies?

Michelle-yes there are lots of resources that we could bring to the new committee.

Steve-it would be kind of nice to have the standing rules of the county.

Dan-the county rules apply here. Its kind of like Kevin said, we don't have someone out here enforcing if dogs are on leashes but we do have the rules posted.

Michelle-maybe we need to post them in the actual dog park

Eric-are there any items that are related to **resent** planning for the future which was the second priority that remain on the table?

Eleanor-can I add something to that list? What about the lights? They are still a big problem for a lot of people. If we could do something to diffuse the brightness of the lights. In addition some kind of hood for the lights and some kind of hedge or trees, some kind of foliage around the park to help diffuse the light.

Dan- That's what on them right now. They are directional hoods.

Michelle-maybe that is something we need to look at? If we knew that there was a specific issue regarding your property I'm sure there are things that can be done.

Rosemary-they look like flying saucers out there.

Dick-they can tweak the aim of the lights

Sally-from our house you look out our living room window into the park and we have a direct view. It looks like an airport runway at night. It's really pretty bad.

Maybe some kind of fast growing trees or a hedge or something that would grow tall enough or fast enough to help us out. Maybe like poplar?

Kevin-poplar grow fast

Dan-I think we can look into what kind of planting might work.

Eric-well what if we put that on the problem solving list? I guess what I am looking for is do we need to keep future planning on the list as a priority or have we addressed all those issues?

Sally-well I don't know if this is appropriate for us to address now the type of planting you are going to have along the borders of the creek that could help with the noise issue.

Eric-so the foliage that would be related to the north side plans that Alta has worked on? That's what you're referring to?

Sally-yes and of course all of the other planning but I think most of us are interested in the type of plantings that may help with the noise.

Eleanor-who is this person that is being hired regarding the environment and what have you, could this person be involved in making decisions regarding what should be planted there? I don't know what their job will be.

Dan-there will be someone that can help with it

Michelle-we haven't hired them yet. We are down to three people

Eleanor-so maybe we could wait and see what that person thinks of this

Eric-so for this planning piece I will put trees

Dan-I don't think it is inappropriate for this group to have input on that decision.

Dick-the consultant report has quite the list of plants and suggestive plants. I don't think they have nailed down exactly what you are going to do. But they have a whole list of native plants that would work.

Eric-ok so what I have here. I'm just adjusting some of these.

Dick-I would like the environmental and sustainability part maybe elevated a little bit.

Susan-yeah that is what Tony was saying also

Eric-what kinds of topic would you use to elevate the focus on that topic?

Dick-one of the first things is we get our natural resource coordinator going in and taking out the invasive, and organizing some parties. Of course by the time they are up and running the planting season is going to be over.

Rosemary-I think if we analyze this planting season is going to be over and nothing will be done until next spring. So how long does it take to figure this out?

Dan-bare root plants you can plant in fall and winter

Sally-February and March are a good time but you know it's going to take 5 years before they are really going to provide any help.

Rosemary-oh well I'm going to be gone by then

Steve-bare root I think is just for small ceilings, I don't think you would be interested in. You will want to start with something that has been potted and already has some height. That would probably be this spring.

Dave-you would want to put them in, in early spring or late fall.

Susan-Dan I have a question about the north side and it has to do with money. I was wondering if we could get a report from you, not today, but maybe this month on what we can realistically expect in terms of what we will see from the plans. The plans are big and there's no money as I understand it.

Dan-there is some and we have to figure out where to priorities that money. We have to discuss that

Michelle- in our draft plan they have made some suggestions on phasing and that's what I would tell everyone that that is what we are trying to figure out what can happen and when during the process. In the draft plan they made some suggestions and they made them based on the availability of funds and what we

can get for out dollar. For example the bridge for the new parking lot will be extremely expensive and so that is like \$800.00 because of the weight capacity for cars and everyone to use. They are trying to go high rather than underestimate what the cost might be so it could very well not cost that much but we have to have discussions with the group.

Dan- because their recommendation is the trail, the interpretive signage, moving and fixing the dog park. That is what they recommend for phase 1.

Susan-that would be great

Dan-and we probably are close to being able to fund that

Michelle-I think they said about half a million dollars

Susan-well I know the county gets a million dollars a year from the lottery funds for the economic community development and so that comes in every year

Michelle-Possibly

Dan- we have a couple hundred thousand in the metro green space fund

Michelle- I think we can accomplish most of it. We might have to apply for some grants and things but we should be able to.

Dan-they based the phase 1 on what they knew we had and what we could afford to do at this point

Michelle- and these are just their suggestions, we need to look each year at our budget and have some discussion with the board.

Eric- Susan needs to leave

Dan-I have to go also in fact tonight Molalla is considering joining North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District so I am going to be at their study session here in about 45 minutes

Action:

Planning for 2008

Eric introduced the topic of the Planning for 2008.

Discussion:

Steve-would the Natural Resource Coordinator hired before our next stewardship? I would just like to have them at the February or March meeting so they could hear the different issues.

Michelle-I think they will be here by then

Dan-we are going to select Tuesday and typically someone is going to want two weeks. So they should probably be here by the next meeting I would think

Michelle-there are 3 people left. We have narrowed it down to 3 from 5

Kevin-but if we bring them here you have to promise not to overwhelm them

Michelle-that's right

Dan-Dick what do you think about the three? Do you think there is anyone I should just pass on?

Dick-I would work with any of the 5 in an office setting

Eric- well here is what I have got on the notes so far, problem solving which includes things like noise, scheduling, and lighting. Problem solving was our priority last year followed by planning which includes trees, planting, signs and the phasing of projects and then the third priority was items related to the dog park and dog policies which would include committee, rules, noise and anything

related to that. Environment and Sustainability included items like soil compaction and invasive species. On the scheduling I have the horse arena and ball field scheduling which is really one piece. They are interrelated. Once the horse arena is done would it be fair to say that scheduling is problem solving practice?

Dave-Yes

Eric- well if we look at the list would it be fair to say the priorities line up pretty much the same way they did last year with problem solving, planning, dog policies, horse arena and environment and sustainability? Does that still line up?

Tony- I think environment needs to go up higher

Eric- ok would you agree that problem solving remains the priority or would it be something else?

Everyone said yes

Eric- so keep problem solving as number one, and these aren't exclusive it is just a matter of keeping things in order and then right now planning is number two with dog policies number three. Tony you are suggesting that environment and sustainability needs to move up.

Tony- it seems like a lot of those are all involved in the planning section

Steve-I agree. I see a lot of these issues as concurrent and I don't see it to be much of a problem area. It's a pretty easy item for consensus, I mean everyone wants to identify what the environmental zones are and then treat them with some expertise.

Eric-would you merge planning and environment/sustainability as one?

Steve-Yeah I think you could do that

Everyone said yes

Eric-Ok then we will combine planning and environment/sustainability. Problem solving is number one, Planning/Environment/Sustainability number two, Dog policies/issues number three. Ok so this leaves us with three things to focus on for the coming year. I will adjust this matrix and put it in a single page format and send it to Staci so she can print it out.

Action:

Chair Position

Eric introduced the topic.

Discussion:

Eric-I put on the agenda the question of the position of the chair of the committee. The reason I put that there is because as we started and as we developed our protocols and our processes, one of the pieces that we didn't address is the question how long should the chairs serve? What kind of a term would be appropriate?

Eleanor-I think in most cases it is appropriate for a chair to be in position for two year. The first year to get their feet wet and the second year to maybe do something constructive.

Eric-Ok so Eleanor recognizes two years?

Eleanor-Yes

Tony-so for two years, where does that put us right now?

Eleanor- one year to go. What was the date that we started?

Eric-Well it was July 20th 2006.

Tony- So that really only leaves 6 months and I don't think that is long enough

Rosemary-I know I'm not on the committee but I think that if the current chair would like to go on for another two years then they should be able to.

Sally-I think that's what we need to discuss whether the chair has to change or doesn't have to change. But not more than two terms.

Eric-So we would limit it to two terms served.

Steve-I think we should hold an election process after each term.

Lisa-why would you want to change it if someone was in that position for four years and still wanted to keep doing it and run again?

Eleanor-wouldn't you think they would be sick of it by then?

Lisa-some people aren't. It would be nice to have that option instead of having it iron clad, I would leave it open.

Steve-I have a little bit of a problem with that because I am a term limit kind of guy. I'm sure we are all going to have warm fuzzy thoughts for Eric but how is a person who would like to move into that position feel.

Eleanor-they wouldn't want to say anything

Steve-they would never have an opportunity except to work it out with the retiring chair.

Eric-that raises two questions. One is if part of our goal is to develop the capacity for collaboration it takes practice and so by having different people in different roles there are more opportunities to practice that and to grow that capacity so that's on thought.

Steve- I am trying to remember wasn't case JoAnn and maybe even one or more others were also interested in chair the first time around?

Eric-yeah there were several

Steve-so that is an example of what I thought

Eric-I think another thing to look at is it seems to me that when an organization has somebody in a leadership position for a long period of time, what happens when they step out of that position and another person steps in. That person has to have a very short term because they can usually only survive for a very short time just because of the dynamic of how things work.

Steve-change is hard for some people

Eric-well and it engrains certain ways of doing things and so it makes it very difficult to shift.

Rosemary-so Eric what if the person that would like to be head worked close with you so that they will have that working process so if they stepped into that position they would be ready for the road ahead.

Eric-the vice chair is JoAnn

Dick-on one of the committees I serve on we elected a chair and vice chair and then after two year or whatever the term was the vice chair would take over and then we would elect a new vice chair. That way they all kind of worked together.

Rosemary-yeah that's what I was trying to get at.

Lisa- so it would just be a natural transition from vice chair to chair

Dick-so the vice chair knows that after the two years are up they will be moving up to the chair position.

Eric-yet a third model is to have, lets say the chair and then you've got the vice chair that would become the chair next year and the chair this year is the past chair, and all three of them have a roll and they all work together. So we have got

options and choices that are available. We just need to clarify how what we want and how we want to do that.

Eleanor- do we want a motion on this tonight or do you want to think about it?

Eric- why doesn't everyone think about it? Are there any other options that come to mind?

Steve-there are a few that aren't here this time I strongly agree to keep this item open through the next meeting. I think we have a good start and if we get the suggestions into the minutes we have one more chance for the not attending.

Eric-well I put it on the table because I think it is important to discuss. The other reason I've got in on here is because I have been the chair of a safety committee on campus for 14 years now and so I can see what happens. Part of that is nobody wants to chair a safety committee but you also don't have new ideas flowing through and a different way of doing things. You tend to lose some of the ability to affectively chair. Well let's think about it and I will put it on the agenda for next time.

Action: Discuss further options for the length of term the chair serves.

Ombuds Activity & Reports

Eric introduced the topic of Ombuds Activity & Reports.

Discussion:

Michelle- the DAB said that they generally accepted this plan as a concept and they want to get some feedback from the city of Milwaukie. The city of Milwaukie won't formally take action on this right now because we will have to go to them when we do land use and so it can turn into a weird thing if they say "oh we approve it" and then we come in. What I am going to talk to JoAnn about is getting the recommendation from their parks group as well as the city council. I just wanted to let everyone know what was happening.

Dick-I think the idea was that the layout of the paths and the exercise can tend to shift and those ideas were approved as a concept with us knowing that some minor things could change.

Committee Member Comments

Eric introduced the topic of Committee Member Comments.

Discussion:

Dick-We didn't have a meeting in December right? Sally and I took the name Camas Creek before the Oregon Geographic Names Board on December 6th. We gave them a little presentation and they approved unanimously and forward the suggested name on to the Federal Geographic Names Board in Washington D.C. That process will take approximately one year for official recognition of the name Camas Creek for our little streamlet that divides the park.

Steve-you mean that's not top priority in Washington D.C?

Eric- I think they wish it was!

Citizen Comments

Eric introduced the topic of Citizen Comments.

Discussion:

Steve- I just want to put a kudos and thank you in the minutes officially to the parks department and the district advisory board which Dick is a member of. Thank you for creating the Natural Resource Coordinator job, this is a new position and a big move for the department and something that many of us out in the community consider a very very important aspect of parks and natural areas management. It's a wonderful step in the right direction and thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on February 27, from 4 to 6 pm at the Milwaukie Center.