

NEXT MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2006
4:00 – 6:00 P.M.
MILWAUKIE CENTER

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

For
N. Clackamas Park

August 23, 2006
Milwaukie Center

Meeting Summary

Present:

Representatives:, Sally Shook, Jim Schuld, Eric Shawn (chair), JoAnn Herrigel (vice-chair), Eleanor Johnson, John Denny

Alternates:

Tony Clark, Susan Shawn, Rick Frank

Absent: Lisa Gibson (rep), Fr. Matthew Tate (rep)

Guests/Observers: Pat and Ann O'Donnell, Rosemary Crites, Dick Shook

Staff:

Dan Zinzer, Michelle Healy, Rose Hunt, Joe Loomis, Jan Wirtz, Clackamas County

Introductions/Opening Comments/Meeting Minutes

Eric Shawn welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the committee to review the July meeting minutes. Michelle Healy passed out a packet of information for each committee which included the agenda, prior meeting minutes, and the draft annual agenda.

Discussion:

- Eric requested the minutes use the word “recommended” rather than “approved” on issues contemplated by the committee (in this instance it related to the dog water proposal). Michelle will amend the notes.
- Jo Ann Herrigel suggested members of the committee send editorial/typographical changes to Michelle via e-mail using track changes.
- The committee approved Michelle’s request that meeting minutes be available one week prior to the next meeting. However, Eleanor Johnson requested a meeting summary from Michelle before the second Friday of each month. Michelle agreed.

- Eric reminded the group about the “pending topics” list. He suggested using the front page of the draft agenda to record these items. The committee agreed.

Action: The committee approved the July minutes with minor changes.

Working Group Proposal

Eric passed out a proposal to create a working group to look at dog issues at North Clackamas Park (NCP). Eric clarified that the role of the workgroup would be to help identify dog issues at the park, research what others have done regarding dogs, propose a timeline for a public process and make recommendations on solutions to dog issues to the Stewardship Committee. .

Discussion:

- Eleanor commented that the Park District has some information regarding dogs. Michelle agreed to bring the information to the next meeting.
- Committee discussed the idea of having a “sub-group” with members from the community working on this issue. Committee seemed comfortable with including non-members of the committee on the working group, since this a wider community issue.
- Jo Ann commented that the dog owner community is anxious to get going on both long and short term issues related to dogs in the park. She suggested that the working group could categorize issues and make a recommendation to the Committee about how to prioritize and address them.
- Sally Shook wanted to make sure that non-dog owners would be part of the work group and would have the opportunity to be heard. Everyone agreed that it should include all stakeholders (proponents and opponents). Eric further commented that the working group should be looking at all the pros and cons related to dogs in the park. He reminded the committee that one of the goals of the Stewardship Committee is to make recommendations using consensus.
- Rick Frank commented that it is important to get the word out to all people and collect information from them.
- Eleanor commented that issues related to dogs come down to policing. It is really hard to have rules if you can’t enforce them. It always seems to be a few people who make trouble for everyone else.
- Sally wondered if the Committee was “putting the cart before the horse” on this issue. Without a plan for the north side, no one knows if there will even be a dog run in NCP.
- Tony Clark commented that it was important to know the issues before the planning happens, because if there isn’t going to be one, everyone needs to know why not and maybe find solutions.
- Comment was made that this should be happening on a parallel track with the north side planning, as well as with the ball fields coming on line.
- Sally commented that NCP might not be the right location for the dog run. Maybe the working group could figure out another location?
- Dick Shook commented that he didn’t want it to be a “foregone conclusion that the dog run is in NCP”.
- Jim Schuld commented that “a taxpayer with a dog should have the same rights as a taxpayer with a ball player”.

- A comment was made that the working group should be small so that it wouldn't feel one-sided. However, Susan commented that the working group/stewardship committee wants to hear from as many people as possible on these issues.

Action:

- Eric asked the group to indicate their feelings (using the 5 finger straw poll) on the creation of a working group for dogs. All members were a "1" (full support), except Sally who was a "2". Committee agreed to create the working group.
- Tony, Jim and Sally would get together to figure out how the working group will work and who will be on the working group. They will give a report to the committee in September.

Progress Report: Ball field Construction

Dan Zinzer provided a brief update on the ball field project.

- Project is on schedule.
- Rose Hunt at the Milwaukie Center put together the form and process for posting notices in the dog run. There may be signs up already.
- Fence issue resolved with Father Tate as well as for the fence on the west side of the park. Fencing on the west side will be done as a separate contract after the ball fields are complete. Eleanor commented that some people access the park by walking along the creek. This access would be cut off by the fence.
- A ceremonial "turning on of the field irrigation" will be held on September 19, at 6pm at the park. All are invited.

Park Scheduling and Coordination

The Committee invited Joe Loomis and Rose Hunt from NCPRD to discuss the scheduling of venues at NCP (Fields, Rose Garden, Milwaukie Center and picnic areas). Rose gave a presentation on how she schedules reservations at the Milwaukie Center and park. Rose handed out information about intensity of rental use at the park/Milwaukie Center.

Presentation by Rose:

- She uses different mechanisms for handling reservation: 1. "Class System" (computerized), 2. Reservation book (manual entry for those not familiar with the computer system) and 3. Picnic permits, which are posted at each picnic area.
- Clarified that when people call she tells them that each area is first come first serve, unless someone has a reservation.
- Some of the problems that have come to Rose's attention are:
 - Parking
 - Not enough picnic tables
 - Noise between Rose Garden and ball fields (how to balance)
- Rose explained that the Milwaukie Center does rely on rentals as a funding source. Rental income has been up 15%.
- Rose did not have a sense of how much use the park experiences from non-reservation use except for what she hears from the caretaker Tom McDowell. According to him, he is constantly busy trying to move tables around to meet the needs of park users.

- Eleanor commented that it took hard work to establish the Rose Garden. It needs to be considered in whatever gets figured out for scheduling.

Joe Loomis provided a presentation on scheduling for the new ball fields.

Presentation by Joe:

- NCPRD is actively working on establishing a process so that the fields and other uses in the park can comfortably co-exist. Joe handed out a packet of information about scheduling that he has been working on. Nothing has gone before the District Advisory Board on this issue yet.
- Joe explained that the majority of league games are during the week, March through June. Tournaments are in July.
- There are possible benefits from the fields for the Milwaukie Center. Including the possibility of some of the revenue from concessions going to support the Milwaukie Center. Also, there is the opportunity to hold classes at the Milwaukie Center to educate ball players and their families about other aspects of the park and center (e.g., natural resources, etc).
- Joe explained that no teams are scheduled yet for the fields. He is still working on the fee structure.
- A member of the committee asked, “Who will be using the fields? Where are they coming from?”. There have been rumors that people might be coming from Seattle. Joe explained that there will be criteria for who can reserve use of the fields. Monday through Friday it will be District kids. On the weekends, there might be tournaments where other teams are invited by our local teams. There will likely be play every night of the week.
- Eric commented that scheduling issues will be an on-going topic for the committee to address. It will reoccur on the agenda as issues arise.
- Rick added that ball teams are experienced with adjusting schedules to work with neighbors and the community. Next year will be a learning experience, might be some bumps in the road, but he feels like issues can be worked out.

Ombuds Activity

Buffer mowing:

- Jo Ann said that the City sent the District a letter that the 15-ft buffer is required. It needs to happen and cannot be put off until the planning of the north side of the park is done.

Construction fencing:

- Fencing around trees continues to be a problem. It needs to be up. There were some construction materials within the fenced area that should be moved out. Eric asked what the District means by tree protection. It doesn't seem to be working. Dan to walk around the site after the meeting to take a look.

Invasive species projects:

- Dan indicated that he thought the Stewardship Committee recommended approval of these projects. Volunteers should work with Clea Ann Hart

Committee Comments

- Blackberries are growing down into park near the dog run. A crew was out removing them. Who schedules this work? When is it supposed to happen?
- Blackberry canes from this work were left in the dog run. They should be removed.
- The District should place notice of when things are happening to avoid patrons coming to the park and not being able to do what they want to do (e.g. the dog run).
- Susan thanked Dan for taking the Friends of NCP on a walk of the construction site.
- JoAnn mentioned that the City Council will be considering a proposal from the Milwaukie Center Community Advisory Board to change the name of the Milwaukie Center. Their proposal was sent to all the Neighborhood District Associations (NDA) in the City. All of the NDA's were against the name change.
- Eleanor asked if the Park District has any rules about kids riding bikes in parking lots. The other night a couple of kids were riding dangerously through the Milwaukie Center lot. Dan commented that we don't have rules, but he'd talk to Joan Young about it.
- Eric commented that Chris Runyard is interested in doing some spraying of blackberries in NCP. However, he's having trouble getting through the process. NCPRD to discuss.
- Question was asked if kids will be using aluminum bats – Yes.

Citizen Comments

Rosemary Crites asked if she could have time on the next meeting's agenda to discuss noise issues related to the new fields. She is fearful of the noise that may be generated and would like to discuss possible solutions. The committee supported giving this issue time on the next meeting's agenda.

Adjourn 5:40 pm.

Next meeting – September 27, 2006, Milwaukie Center, 4-6 p.m.