

NEXT MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2006
4:00 – 6:00 P.M.
MILWAUKIE CENTER

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

For

N. Clackamas Park

September 27, 2006

Milwaukie Center

Meeting Summary

Present:

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

Alternates:

Tony Clark, Steve Berliner

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

Guests/Observers: Jim Bernard (Milwaukie Mayor), Pat and Ann O'Donnell, Rosemary Crites, Dick Shook, Scott Churchill (Monroe Street Associates), Jean Duggan, Liam Bair, Susan Shanks (Milwaukie Planning Dept), Marylyn Wagner, Nancy Haring and Jim Balieu.

Staff:

Dan Zinzer, Michelle Healy, Nancy Newton, Clackamas County

Introductions/Opening Comments/Meeting Minutes

Eric Shawn welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the committee to review the August meeting minutes. Michelle Healy passed out a packet of information for each committee representative which included the agenda, prior meeting minutes and the NCPRD draft amplified sound policy. Michelle also handed out a notebook with dog related information to each committee member.

Action: The committee approved the August minutes as presented.

Noise

Susan Shanks from the City of Milwaukie Planning Department presented information on the City's noise regulations and how they would be applied to North Clackamas Park.

Susan provided copies of Chapter 8 of the Milwaukie Municipal Code (noise control) to the committee.

Summary of Susan's presentation:

- The City does have noise regulations; however organized athletic events are exempt.
- Susan reviewed the notice of decision for the ball field project and there are no conditions imposed that address noise.
- Although organized athletic events are exempt, it does not mean that all noise from the park is exempt.
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Discussion

- Jim Schuld commented that there are deed restrictions that say the park should be cognizant of the surrounding neighborhood. Jim will give Susan Shanks a copy.
- Steve Berliner commented that NCPRD needs to be able to regulate noise at the park. He suggested that the City discuss and adopt a policy about noise. There needs to be consistency between the City and NCPRD.
- Susan Shanks suggested that rather than attempting a straight regulatory approach the parties might consider a memorandum of understanding.
- Dan Zinzer commented that the District does have the ability to restrict noise at the park.

Rosemary Crites, a neighbor living on Aldercrest, presented information regarding noise to the committee. She brought a consultant Scott Churchill to discuss noise. She also invited her neighbor to share her recent experiences with noise control in the County.

Summary/Discussion of Rosemary's presentation:

- Rosemary commented that she is fearful about the noise that will be generated by the ball fields. She'd like to suggest ways that noise could be mitigated. She asked the committee, "What we can do to be good neighbors to each other?"
- Rosemary asked her neighbor, Ayde Manzano de York from the Amiguitos School) to present information about her experience with noise mitigation at her preschool.
- Ayde explained that she lives on Aldercrest and has a small preschool. The county imposed noise control conditions on her when she recently expanded the school. She was required to have a fence and plant evergreen shrubs on her boundary to the west to protect neighbor. She commented that she is surprised that the park is not required to do something similar.
- Scott Churchill was asked by Rosemary Crites to speak at the meeting about possible ways to mitigate noise. Scott has experience with a ball field noise. He explained that the biggest issue with that field in particular was amplified public address system. In that case the neighbors worked with the consultant to mitigate noise. They placed speakers facing the bleachers, away from the neighborhood. That really helped. Scott also suggested that there are portable systems which provide good sound control.
- Regarding crowd noise in general there are a number of ways to mask noise:
 - Install concrete sound walls (costly, have maintenance issues)

- Install earthen berms (can require a lot of space)
- Install sound panels with sound absorbing qualities
- Install CMU walls to help deflect noise.
- All of these “wall” methods have potential for graffiti.
- Scott explained that any of these methods would not do a lot for neighbors up on the ridge. Sound travels like light and is deflected. It is also cumulative.
- Scott explained that creating “white noise” works in some applications, but not for ball fields.
- Rosemary asked the committee to considered installing walls around the fields. They would cost \$45,000 to \$75,000 per ball field. The wall she suggested would be about 10 feet high, 8 feet wide and 6 to 8 inches thick.
- Dan Zinzer explained that the District is not proposing a permanent address system. A portable system is proposed instead that could only be used with a permit for special events only.
- The District is not planning on providing the equipment. Sports teams would have to bring the equipment.
- The District hasn’t done any more work on the policy since it was drafted.
- Suggestions were made to control decibel levels and that the District provides the equipment. The District would have better control of how it is used and could have rules about how it gets set up.
- Jim Bernard commented that he uses a portable system at the Farmer’s Market. You can’t hear it two blocks away. It is less than \$1,000 and manufactured by Fender. They have not had any issues with it.
- Sally Shook asked about creating a natural barrier.
- Susan Shanks explained that if berms were proposed it would have to go through the City. The City would have to look at issues regarding flood plains and natural resource areas on the north side. Additionally, the District is required to add more vegetation already on the south side.
- Rosemary commented that she felt like the sports teams are getting a “free-ride”.
- Eleanor commented that she didn’t think the noise was going to be that bad. She’s been to a number of other facilities and hasn’t seen a problem with noise.
- Rosemary remarked that she will invite anyone over to her house to listen for themselves.
- Dan suggested that the District work with Rosemary if there is a problem. She should come to the Committee and then staff will take it to the District Advisory Board.
- Eric commented that the amplified sound policy is something that the committee can grapple with. It will be put on future agendas.
- Jean Duggan asked what the neighbors can do if noise is a problem.
- Susan Shanks commented that there currently isn’t much on the regulatory side, but if there are on-going problems it might have to be looked at.
- Eric commented that the best way for neighbors to address the problem is through the committee. Part of the role of the committee is to come to good neighbor solutions.

Action:

The Draft Amplified sound policy will be on a future agenda. Noise will continue to be looked at by the committee as problems arise.

Dog and Park Work Group Report

Tony Clark presented the dog report. The working group will be identifying issues, addressing options and start to figure out a plan to bring to the committee.

Discussion:

- Eleanor commented that the group needs to address “mean” dogs. Also, asked how to reach a broader base of people.
- Suggestion was made to advertise meetings in the paper.
- Jim mentioned that he placed signs in the dog run and at the Milwaukie Center. The dog run gets a lot of use.
- Tony is putting together a group to advocate for the dog community.
- Eric has been taking notes for the group. Note taking needs to continue. Notes are available on the Friends of North Clackamas Park web site.
- Meetings are scheduled at the Milwaukie Center every other week. The next meeting is October 11 at 6:30 pm.

Progress Report: Ball field Construction

Dan provided a brief update on the ball field project.

- Half of the lights are installed.
- Expect paving of the parking lot by October 1.
- Paving completed around the Milwaukie Center. A drain line was broken and power was cut; both are repaired.

Ombuds Activity

Invasive species projects:

- Removal work by the Friends was approved by the District. Spraying is still being discussed

Buffer mowing:

- Dan commented that he didn't think the area had been mowed. The grass hasn't grown due to the dry weather.

Pruning Practices

- Michelle explained that the District does not have a pruning policy. Pruning is done as needed, when there is time. Also, the District has had problems with patrons using the shrubs as restrooms. Maintenance cuts them back to prevent this.
- Steve Berliner commented that there are some non-native species that are worse than others. It would be good if District staff knew what plants are not welcome. What we don't like to see is plants being unnecessarily sheared.
- Comment that volunteers could help with the education.
- Sally commented that it would be nice to have the opportunity to suggest trees for the park.

Horse Arena:

- District received a bid of \$50,000 to remove the existing material from the horse arena.
- Dan commented that the District needs to work with users to figure out what is the appropriate size and surface for the arena.
- Jim commented that they originally put in a lot of sand with sawdust.
- Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET) is concerned about the arena and wants to help, if possible. They can help to provide information on the size and surface.
- OET was asked to be an alternate on the stewardship committee. Marylyn said they could discuss it at their meeting the following Tuesday night.

Committee Comments

None, due to time.

Adjourn 6:18 pm.

Next meeting – October 25, 2006, Milwaukie Center, 4-6 p.m.