

**City of Milwaukie**  
**Milwaukie Park and Recreation Board (PARB)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Milwaukie City Hall**  
**Tuesday, February 25, 2014**  
**7:30 a.m.**

**Members Present:** Mart Hughes, Bob Cooper, Lisa Gunion-Rinker, Ray Harris, Mike Miller, Christie Schaeffer, & Lynn Sharp; Steve Butler (City Staff Liaison)

**Absent:** Lisa Lashbrook

**Visitors:** None

Minutes

**Member Sharp** noted that her question (asking if North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District maintains a list of tax delinquent properties for potential open space use) was not included in the 1/26/14 minutes, and she asked that the minutes be amended to include it. The minutes from the November 26, 2013 and January 28, 2014 (as amended) meetings were approved, 7-0.

Parks and Open Space Guiding Principles

**Mr. Butler** explained how he had written the latest set of revisions to conform to the comments made by the PARB at its January 28, 2014 meeting. **Member Sharp** moved to adopt the Parks and Open Space Guiding Principles, with a second from **Member Schaeffer**; motion passed, 7-0.

Friends of Minthorn Wetlands Area

**Chair Hughes** stated that the Minthorn (pronounced "Mint-Horn") wetland is a result of the filling done during the development of the Milwaukie Marketplace site. He said that there was originally a volunteer maintenance that had reduced its activity in recent years, but that a Milwaukie resident (Michael Pinker) was interested in restarting a "Friends of Minthorn" group. **Chair Hughes** stated he noted a problem with parties and perhaps transients when he went out recently on a site visit, and asked if "no camping or partying" signs could be installed. **Member Cooper** felt that cleaning out the trash a few times might be needed to discourage inappropriate use. **Chair Hughes** pointed out that there are two issues: a "human use" issue and a "resource management" issue.

**Member Harris** said that the homeless need a place to stay, but that Minthorn is not necessarily the right place for them. **Member Gunion-Rinker** pointed out that the human use aspect reinforced the need for a "Friends" group. **Chair Hughes** expressed the opinion that homelessness is an important social issue, but outside the scope of the PARB. **Chair Hughes** said that, while signs might be an important feature, planting of additional vegetation and construction of a fence should also be considered to protect Minthorn wetlands from negative human impacts.

The topic of beavers in the Minthorn wetlands was then raised by **Chair Hughes**, who stated that the beavers' presence has had a positive effect on the wetlands. **Mr. Butler** reported that the beaver dams have caused water to flood over 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. **Chair Hughes** pointed out that there was a gate near the beaver dam that can be used to regulate water levels. **Member Cooper** added that the beavers were causing some of the trees to be felled. **Chair Hughes** clarified that those trees had been planted by the original citizen maintenance group for the express purpose of being used by future resident beavers. **Member Cooper** said there was still a need for restoration of the vegetation within the wetlands buffer, including trees.

**Member Cooper** asked how far along was Mr. Pinker in forming the "Friends of Minthorn" group, and that individual PARB members might be interested in joining that group. He also suggested that Mr. Pinker make a presentation to the Hector Campbell NDA.

**Mr. Butler** said he would talk with the Police Chief and other City staff to discuss what is currently being done and identify potential future actions. He will also find out how closely the Wetlands Conservancy and City staff works together.

#### Four Parks Master Plan RFQ

**Mr. Butler** relayed that he would be meeting on February 26 with Jeroen Kok, NCPRD staff person, to review the suggested revisions to the RFQ.

#### Project Updates

**Mr. Butler** provided an update about the Riverfront Park project. He said that the valuation of the access easement had been the subject of intense negotiation between WES and the City, and that it appeared that both parties were ready to settle on a payment of \$63,200 to be paid out over three years; Council will consider this issue at its 2/25/14 meeting. He also mentioned that the Milwaukie Garden Club is still interested in the installation of a Blue Highway Memorial Parkway within the Riverfront Park, along McLoughlin Boulevard.

#### Upcoming Events/Adjournment

**Mr. Butler** mentioned that the PARB annual report to the City Council is scheduled for 5/20/14, with the PARB asking that it be put on the next meeting's agenda. **Member Sharp** suggested that the PARB develop a vision statement with its work plan. Given that the next regularly scheduled meeting date would be during Spring Break, **Member Sharp** moved, with a second from **Member Harris**, that the next meeting date be changed to March 18, 2014; motion passed, 7-0. **Member Cooper** then moved, with a second from **Member Harris**, to adjourn the meeting; motion passed 7-0.