

City of Milwaukie
Milwaukie Park and Recreation Board (PARB)
MEETING MINUTES
Milwaukie City Hall
September 23, 2014

Members Present: Bob Cooper (Chair), Lisa Gunion-Rinker (Vice Chair), Tony Andersen, Lisa Lashbrook, and Lynn Sharp (via phone)

Absent: Ray Harris, Mike Miller

Staff/Visitors: Steve Butler (City staff liaison), Jeroen Kok (North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District staff liaison); Dion Shepard, Co-Chair, Historic Milwaukie NDA.

Minutes

Postponed until next meeting.

Update on Four Parks Master Planning Project

Mr. Kok mentioned that public meetings were starting up; Balfour's was this Wednesday, with Bowman-Brae and Kronberg's meetings happening next week. He then reviewed with the PARB the draft Kronberg Park information boards that would be used at next week's meeting. Regarding Wichita Park – Katie Dunham of NCPRD and Mr. Butler had had a discussion with Zac Perry regarding the master plan set, but some details still needed to be worked out (such as playground equipment). Regarding Bowman-Brae Park, **Mr. Butler** said that the City Engineer believed only a bike/ped connection was needed along the southern edge of this park (vs. a whole ½-street with sidewalks cross-section). **Mr. Kok** then went over the three preliminary concepts. He clarified that the Oak Lodge Sanitary District's building was vacant and unused. **Member Lashbrook** asked if community gardens were being considered. **Mr. Kok** responded by saying that NCPRD and the City were interested in hearing from the community about that issue. **Mr. Kok** then reviewed the existing conditions and three preliminary concepts for Balfour Park, adding that topography would be challenging. **Mr. Butler** asked whether the PARB wanted representatives at all of the upcoming meetings. **All of the PARB members** said they were planning to attend all of them.

Ballot Measure

Mr. Kok reported that NCPRD had prepared educational materials and was making informational presentations at several public forums.

Park Maintenance Review

Member Gunion-Rinker - Ardenwald Park was the same – picnic tables destroyed; Water Tower Park: the "Octopus tree" had been removed, with the question being why? **Mr. Kok** said he would follow up with NCPRD's Maintenance Supervisor

Member Lashbrook - Homewood Park: Large tree with a widow-maker branch, two trees seem to be dead, lots of ivy everywhere. Scott Park: Concrete trail still had moss on it, plus tripping trails, a small widow-maker branch, plus some dead plantings. Dogwood Park: Lots of concern, because it

was in really bad condition. There was a lot of garbage, beer cans and cigarette butts, and some broken steps; two dogwood trees appeared to be dead. NCPRD and the City need to do something to make it more hospitable to a broader group of people. **Ms. Shepard** added that there were a lot of invasive species in Dogwood Park that need to be addressed.

Member Sharp - Wichita Park: looked fine; North Clackamas Park: on the far west sides there were some noxious weeds blooming near the creek; otherwise, it looked good. She expressed some concerns about North Clackamas Park Master Plan: were there plans to replace the picnic shelter and expand the parking lot? **Mr. Kok** responded that those discussions happened before he started with NCPRD, and that there was no funding to do that type of work.

Chair Cooper - North Clackamas Park: The bark chips were replaced, but always get spongy; they would eventually need to be addressed. Century Park: Looked good, but the wood chips have been kicked away and the tarp under the swings was ripped; everything else looked fine.

Tree City USA and Similar Programs

Mr. Butler summarized the information that had previously been prepared by JoAnne Herrigel, the former Parks & Sustainability Director, about various tree retention and preservation program options. His experience has shown him that a phased, multi-faceted program (that includes plenty of education and incentives) is usually more effective than just focusing primarily on a regulatory approach that encompasses all trees, private and public. **Mr. Kok** pointed out that the City of Vancouver, WA had a robust urban forestry program, which might be a good model to consider. The overall goal was to assist neighborhoods to increase ## of trees, with a primary measures being to retain and expand the City's tree canopy. Vancouver had lots of education, on such topics as tree care and the negatives of tree topping. That City also had a Friends of Trees group, celebrated Arbor Day, worked with local schools (including both students and school maintenance crews). Vancouver's tree committee has taken an active role in advocating for the program, including making a pitch to Council (including budget). That City has a full-time forester, plus two support staff, paid for by SWM fees.

Member Sharp hasn't sensed that the City Council is supportive, but **Mr. Butler** reminded the group that it is an established City Council goal. **Member Gunion-Rinker** noted that Clackamas County already has a Heritage Tree program, and that perhaps the City could start with such a program in Milwaukie. **Member Anderson** felt it is important to keep the pressure on. **Ms. Shepard** said that it might be advisable to also include public lands, beyond the current City R.O.W. scope. **Member Anderson** said it would make sense to include County property (including parks). **Chair Cooper** asked Mr. Kok and Mr. Butler to invite the County's heritage tree program staffer to the next PARB meeting.

Events

Mr. Kok noted that the DAB Park Tour had been cancelled, due to scheduling conflicts.

Other

Mr. Butler gave a quick update about the Riverfront Park construction status. **Member Anderson** thanked City staff for last month's site tour of the construction site. **Chair Cooper** let the PARB know that Ray Harris' notice to leave the Board was due to his inability to drive to the meetings. When asked if the PARB members would be willing to pick him up on meeting days, the answer was yes. **Mr. Butler** will contact **Member Harris** and let him know of the PARB's offer.

Next Steps/Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was moved by **Member Gunion-Rinker** and seconded by **Member Andersen**; motion passed 5-0.