City of Milwaukie

Milwaukie Park and Recreation Board (PARB)

MEETING MINUTES

City Hall Conference Room

June 23, 2015

Members Present:	Lisa Gunion-Rinker (Chair), Lisa Lashbrook (Vice Chair), Lynn Sharp (Treasurer), Erin Willett Holcomb (Secretary)
Absent:	Tony Andersen
Staff/Visitors:	Mitch Nieman (City Staff Liaison), Jeroen Kok (NCPRD Liaison), Kenny Hill (Storm/Street Supervisor, City of Milwaukie), Wilda Parks (City Councilor), Mark Gamba (Mayor), Gary Klein (Vice President, Riverfront Task Force), Kristen Grompone (President, Geese Guys), and Amy Aschenbrenner (City Staff)

1) Welcome and Introductions

Chair Gunion-Rinker called the meeting to order and began the introductions; everyone introduced themselves.

2) Review & Approve May 2015 Minutes

Chair Gunion-Rinker asked if members had a chance to read and review both the April and May meeting minutes. She noted that the corrections for the April minutes had been completed.
Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook motioned to approve the minutes from April and May. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Goose Poop Recap/Geese Guys Proposal

Mr. Nieman invited Kristin Grompone with Geese Guys to speak to PARB, since she provided good insight at the June 15th event. Mr. Nieman also explained that during the meeting Council decided to divide the task into short term and long term. Short term solution would be under PARB's purview, and long term would be potentially to work with Riverfront Task Force to modify habitat, etc. Council want to get on this issue quickly so people can use the park.

Ms. Grompone handed out the proposal to the group.

Ms. Grompone explained that Geese Guys is a local organization that creates and adapts site specific management plans to mitigate conflicts with geese. She explained the variety of methods used to encourage the geese to move around more though humane hazing products. The proposal includes different recommendations to help with the Riverfront Park. They do short term solutions to help with the long term. The long term goal would be to modify the habitat by cutting up site lines and decreasing the open spaces to make the area less appealing to geese. She explained a few of the methods they use including: trained dogs to stare at the geese, which is threatening; long distance green lasers that run along the bank or park, since geese perceive the light as a solid object; and boats and remote controlled drones in the water to startle them. **Ms. Grompone** also explained the process in the spring where Geese Guys locate eligible nests and coat the eggs in corn oil, which encourages the female to sit on the nest until she abandons it on her own. **Ms. Grompone** stated that about 85% of the

work they do is preventative, but if the geese have been comfortable on the property for 10 years or so, it's difficult to discourage them, which is why they do the egg depredation. Finally, she explained Flight Control, the material that is sprayed on grass and makes geese have upset stomachs and discourages them. **Ms. Grompone** explained that the Flight Control is recommended to be the first step, since the geese are currently flightless. She also encouraged the breaking up of the landscape with fencing to get the park cleaner faster, and added that it may only need to be for a short period of time to see results.

The group asked if the Flight Control would run off with the rain and how long one application would last.

Ms. Grompone answered that it should not run off with the rain once it has dried, and one application would last approximately 6-8 weeks, or 3-5 mows.

Treasurer Sharp added that there need to be educational signs to help provide information to people who see it being applied or who are curious.

Ms. Grompone agreed that it was important to let the public know, and it would be helpful to have signage or a newsletter to share with the community.

Chair Gunion-Rinker explained that she read through the MSDS sheet on the active ingredients and it was not known how long the material stayed in the environment. There was also a carcinogenic factor in the product.

Ms. Grompone agreed that they do not know the long-term effects. She said it was common to the senna plant and latex products; it is safe for people.

Mr. Nieman explained that Councilor Churchill had also noted in section 2.1 that Flight Control is listed as a Level 2 carcinogen which has been known to cause cancer.

Ms. Grompone said it was safe in public spaces and once the product dries it is waterproof.

Treasurer Sharp added that it has been around for years.

Mr. Kok asked if any parks in the area use it.

Ms. Grompone was not sure. It is common in Chicago, but not in the Pacific Northwest, likely due to the wet weather.

Mr. Kok checked in the area and had not found anyone that used it.

In response to questions from PARB members, **Ms. Grompone** clarified that even though Flight Control is like the plant senna, it is not strong enough to give a laxative effect to the geese, just discomfort; it is a conditioned response that takes a few times. **Ms. Grompone** also clarified that Geese Guys employees wear logoed shirts and the dogs wear lime green safety vests.

Ms. Grompone explained that Geese Guys works every day for 48 days on the project, researching the geese's patterns and finding solutions. The program is sunup to sundown, with the focus on geese not sleeping on the property overnight. She said that geese learn pretty quickly and hear when the dogs (border collies) come.

Mr. Nieman explained that the next step was to get on the July 7th agenda for Council.

Ms. Grompone explained that the geese should start flying again in August, or they could apply the Flight Control.

The group discussed the dry condition of the grass and the decomposition of the geese droppings.

Ms. Grompone said a long term solution would be about 3 to 5 years.

Mayor Gamba was hoping by November to have a new plan for the park so there is all of winter to figure it out. He also stated that Council direction was for both PARB and Riverfront Task Force to work together on a long-term plan.

Mr. Kok said his group was working on a design for "no feeding the wildlife" signs. He mentioned that Audubon has a nice handout to help educate people. They were also looking at street sweeping and a regular schedule.

Mr. Hill explained that they would have to come up with a different method. The City does not have a vacuum. Yesterday as a test they went up and down the concrete path, and found the equipment was too big and was smearing rather than removing the geese droppings. Ideally they would like a smaller machine with a vacuum. Public Works was looking at long term goals to have a mobile sweeper no more than 6 feet wide to hit sidewalks and etc.

Councilor Parks asked about pressure washing.

Mr. Hill said the problem with that was the feces wash into the river and stream.

The group wrapped up the discussion and thanked **Ms. Grompone** for attending the meeting.

4) Tree City USA/Tree Ordinance Update

Treasurer Sharp discussed her progress on the new ordinance and said it was ready for the next steps in the process and passed out the tracked changes document to the group.

Mr. Nieman explained the next steps of the process: the finished draft would be sent to the City's Engineering Department, passed onto legal counsel, and finally taken to the City Council for approval.

Treasurer Sharp clarified that the ordinance includes all public space, including right of way. She also explained the included piece about "extreme" financial hardship that was written into the ordinance. She kept the language vague and on a "to be determined" basis in order to save from changing the ordinance multiple times.

Treasurer Sharp added that she did receive the correct list of trees and was happy to share with anyone interested.

Mr. Klein said he was interested.

Treasurer Sharp suggested having a walk around the downtown area to look at the various trees.

Mr. Kok added Vancouver had a similar walking and biking tour in their city.

5) NCPRD/City Update

Mr. Kok and Mr. Nieman gave updates about the following:

- A: August 4th Join PARB/Council Meeting
    - **Mr. Nieman** explained the plan for the meeting at 4:30pm on Tuesday August 4th. PARB would have time to present to council and there would also be a brief presentation by Dr. Geoffrey Donovan, the tree economist.
    - **Mayor Gamba** explained the importance of Dr. Donovan's full two hour presentation and how it would be a loss to have a shortened version.
    - **The group** discussed different options for the meeting as well as what was important to be presented to the group and the public.
    - **The group** agreed upon the following: PARB would still meet with the City Council on

August 4th, but they would not talk about Tree City USA. During the Council Study Session from 6pm to 9pm on August 27th, Dr. Donovan would give his full presentation (if available that day)and afterwards PARB would discuss Tree City USA.

- B: Master Planning Schedule for Approvals
  - **Mr. Kok** reported that he received notification from the planning department that the three park master plans were complete and being reviewed by staff. They were scheduled to meet with the planning commission on August 12th. Mr. Kok would provide links to the staff report and other documents.

- C: Bowman-Brae Private Road and Wichita Final Plan Updates
  - **Mr. Kok** said that Katie with NCPRD was going to investigate where the issue with the private road left off.
  - **Mr. Kok** said that regarding Wichita Park, Katie had forwarded the final packet, but it was never forwarded to PARB. Therefore, he would send it to Mr. Nieman who could then send it out to PARB members. The plans were already adopted; they were 30% construction drawings. Once funding was in place it would go to final design and construction specifications and then go forward from there.
  - Regarding Spring Park, **Mr. Kok** said the Island Station Neighborhood meeting went well on June 11th to let people know about the status of the project. They were hoping for construction sometime in August or September. The questions that came up were the ongoing parking challenge as well as the property line issue to the south. Mr. Kok was going to the Planning Commission tonight and expected it to go smoothly.

6) Welcome to Milwaukie Sign

Mr. Nieman spoke again with the Riverfront Taskforce and they want the sign in the original location.

Mr. Klein explained that the City of Milwaukie and Rotary came to his wife to make the sign. It was revitalized twice and the City spent money to weatherproof the sign. The Riverfront Taskforce would love to see it go back to where the blue star sign is currently. **Mr. Klein** explained that the money for Klein Point in Phase I came mostly from Metro, and at the time Metro required some signage on the north end. **Mr. Klein** asked if that was something they got out of or delayed, because if another sign would have to be put up, that would have to be figured out as well.

Mayor Gamba suggested asking Jeremy Ferguson who knows more regarding this issue.

Mr. Nieman talked about placing the sign near the speed change on McLoughlin upon entering the city.

Mr. Klein had no problem with the sign placed further down but added to make sure Rotary and anyone else was okay with that.

7) PARB Recruitment Update

Mr. Nieman said that there were two pending applications; they were trying to get them scheduled for interviews at the end of the month, so they may be ready by July's meeting.

8) PARB Mission Statement

Chair Gunion-Rinker thought through a mission and a vision statement. She will send out all the options for members to review. The mission statement she created includes: To advise city council and NCPRD, making recommendations concerning Milwaukie's parks, trails, and green spaces. **Chair Gunion-Rinker** said "to promote sustainability and livability" could also be added. She would send out all statements and options to Mr. Nieman and he would send them to the group.

Mr. Nieman said they could carve out time next meeting to go through the mission and vision statements as a group brainstorm. **The group** agreed that was a good idea.

The group discussed the naming of PARB, with possibility dropping "recreation" and including "sustainability" in the board's title.

9) Park Liaison Visits

The group discussed the results from their park visits:

- Furnberg Park: **Secretary Holcomb** visited with **Treasurer Sharp**
    - The play structure mats were peeling up and they were hard and curled.
    - Invasive species present but not too bad
- Wichita Park: **Secretary Holcomb** visited
    - Not a lot of shade; big pile of dry brush; and some English ivy on the west side
- Century Park: **Secretary Holcomb** visited
    - Plants growing through the bark dust in the play area
    - Same rubber issue on play structure, but not as bad as Furnberg
    - Tennis net needs to be replaced. Sign possibly missing outside tennis court
    - No invasive species
- Watertower Park: **Chair Gunion-Rinker** visited
    - Same issue with play structure; rusty metal
    - Can see the fabric under swings, so lack of bark dust; where come down the slide there was a lack of bark dust
    - She interviewed a few people using the park and they had no comments.
    - She noticed honey buckets, asked who pays for them?
        - **Mr. Kok** said they have received a few requests at certain parks for them
- Bowman-Brae & Balfour Park: **Chair Gunion-Rinker** visited
    - Looks ok; a little ivy on trees at Balfour
- Ardenwald Park: **Chair Gunion-Rinker** visited
    - Electric outlet covers torn off and missing
    - Piece of masonry on climbing wall had been ripped out of the wall
    - Sign on shelter that says no skateboarding or scooters has been folded and pulled up
- Scott Park: **Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook** visited
    - One rail down in split rail fence
    - Behind amphitheater was a shrubby tree with dead shoots
    - A planter that needs a tree in it
- Dogwood Park: **Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook** visited
    - One dogwood completely dead; one looks like it was dying

    - Blackberries starting to grow and get in the way.
- Ball-Michel Park: **Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook** visited
    - Fence was fixed.
    - Burned spot on the concrete in the picnic shelter
- North Clackamas Park: **Treasurer Sharp** visited
    - She pointed out some poisonous plants to the weed guys; looks better than last spring
- Homewood Park: **Treasurer Sharp** visited
    - Looks fine; needs ivy removal but that's a given.
- Riverfront Park: **Chair Gunion-Rinker** said there was a lack of garbage cans on the north end.

10) Member News/Reports

Chair Gunion-Rinker was working with a city-wide subcommittee to start a sustainability tour in the City of Milwaukie. They would be using a few houses from each neighborhood, and were looking for people interested in opening up their homes. The event would likely be the weekend in the 3rd week in September, and they hope to have PARB involved. They were hoping to have houses lined up by end of June/July.

Mr. Nieman said the City was working on a bulk recycling day in fall, so that's good timing for the sustainability event. He said the City would work with them and he would brief council.

Mr. Nieman reminded about the Spring Park Planning Commission meeting this evening.

Mr. Nieman also reminded about the Orange Line ride for PARB members this Thursday at 7pm.

The group talked about TriMet's Transit on Tap and how it's been Milwaukie focused.

Mr. Kok said the intersection on 23rd will be done soon; just a few remaining touches.

Chair Gunion-Rinker said that Regarding the Wildlife Management Plan, she was leery of the Flight Control Plus. She suggested doing more research before next spring. **The group** talked about how they have a full year to figure it out.

The group approved the proposal, but agreed not to apply Flight Control this summer and to research more and look into it.

Secretary Holcomb observed that it was about $50 a day, and that it was good to look long term to maintain the geese free environment. She added that it was important to discuss and how long they want the service of Geese Guys and how to transition from there to a long term program.

Mr. Kok added that NCPRD was looking at temporary solutions on their end, including fencing, plantings, etc.

Motion made to approve the proposal with the exception of removing the Flight Control Plus out of scope for this season. All agreed.

11) Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by **Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook**, with a second by **Treasurer Sharp.** Motion passed unanimously, meeting adjourned 9:10am.