

City of Milwaukie
Milwaukie Park and Recreation Board (PARB)
MEETING MINUTES
City Hall Conference Room
April 28, 2015

Members Present: Lisa Gunion-Rinker (Chair), Lisa Lashbrook (Vice Chair), Lynn Sharp (Treasurer), Erin Willett Holcomb (Secretary), Ray Harris,
Absent: Tony Andersen
Staff/Visitors: Mitch Nieman (City Staff Liaison), Jeroen Kok (Planning and Development Manager, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District), Kenny Hill (Storm/Street Supervisor, City of Milwaukie), Amy Aschenbrenner (City Staff), and Dion Shepard (Visitor)

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Gunion-Rinker began the introductions; everyone introduced themselves. **Member Harris** added that this was his last meeting, as he sold his house and was moving.

Review & Approve March 2015 Minutes

Chair Gunion-Rinker asked if the members had any concerns or questions b if they were ready to approve the minutes from the March 31st meeting. **The group** discussed the finding of multiple typos and grammatical errors that needed correcting.

Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook motioned to approve the March meeting minutes, pending the corrections. Motion passed unanimously.

NCPRD/City Update

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

- A: Riverfront Park Grand Opening Speaking Roles (Mr. Nieman)
 - **Mr. Nieman** asked if **Chair Gunion-Rinker** wanted to speak on behalf of PARB
 - **Chair Gunion-Rinker** agreed to say a few words
 - The group discussed the ongoing geese problem and various options to help.
 - The group talked about the speakers and activities at the riverfront opening.
- B: FY 15-16 NCPRD CIP List (Mr. Kok)
 - **Mr. Kok** presented the Capital Projects List to the group. He explained the list was based on available funding, grants, partnerships, etc. He also clarified that if they did not budget for it, they could not spend money on it; therefore it was an ambitious list of projects. He presented documents to the group, including a spreadsheet and a map that listed all the projects and projected costs. In addition, Mr. Kok added that the new fiscal year would start July 1st.
 - **Chair Gunion-Rinker** asked for clarification about the Trolley Trail transaction, if that money was coming back.
 - **Mr. Kok** responded yes. They had to do a land exchange with TriMet but by the time the appraisals got done, there was a net of about \$500,000 to the district.

That money is available to reinvest in another project, with the caveat that they would have to work with Metro to make sure that the replacement project property would meet the purpose and intent of the Metro money that went into acquiring the Trolley Trail Corridor to begin with.

- **Mr. Kok** answered **Chair Gunion-Rinker's** clarification question as to why certain projects from the previous year were listed on next year's budget. He explained that was because they had not been completed.
 - **Mr. Kok** responded to **Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook's** question about a community center project. He explained that there was a project listed for a limited focused community center visioning project. Mr. Kok explained there was a promise for a community center east of 205, but since the ballot measure did not pass there would not be funding. However, he added that it was still important to create a vision for a good community center. This project would help to engage groups, elected officials, etc. for a better idea of what everyone would be shooting for in the future.
 - **The group** discussed the importance of more public involvement.
- C: Trolley Trail/Intertwine Wayfinding Signage Update (Mr. Kok)
 - **Mr. Kok** discussed how NCPRD was in the process of designing and locating wayfinding signage along the Trolley Trail. He explained how they would be working with the Intertwine, which consists of over 100 organizations around the Portland Metro area that work together to promote great local attractions. He mentioned that the purpose of the Intertwine is to promote regional parks, trails and open spaces (amongst other things).
 - This particular project would be to consistently help people find their way through the area's natural areas and parks. The goal was to create a consistent look using colors and graphics to make the signs easy to recognize, therefore making them universal and helpful.
 - Milwaukie would be one of the first three jurisdictions to have the signage done. NCPRD would be soliciting additional input to make sure they've got the right features identified to highlight along the Trolley Trail. The plan was for them to go into production this summer, install in July/August, and hope to have them all installed before completion of Light Rail in early September
 - **Member Harris** asked if there were plans to have restrooms along the trail. **Mr. Kok** said only where they could be reasonably located. He added that there was currently one in Stringfield Park, but that they could look at other ideas as they solicit suggestions from the community.
 - **Mr. Hill** talked about the possibility of graffiti on the signs. He explained that if the signs were made out of anti-graffiti film, then the signs would not have to be replaced all the time. **Mr. Kok** would check to make sure this issue was being addressed.
 - **Member Holcomb** asked if there was a general consensus on the signage; if every trail would have it. **Mr. Kok** said it would be opted into, but that it was supported.
 - **The group** talked more about the signage materials and details.

- **Mr. Kok** handed out the plans for Balfour, Bowman-Brae, and Kronberg Park to the group for their review. He did not yet have plans for Wichita. He cautioned to limit suggested changes to big ticket items, as there was a limited amount of budget left for the consultant, but to let him know of any questions or concerns.

Community Garden Language Balfour Park Plan

Chair Gunion-Rinker wanted to revisit the master plan concerns and discussion from last meeting. There was a lot of confusion regarding some items being included in the plan but others that could be added later.

Mr. Kok explained that as they were putting the master plan together, Steve expressed concerns because they ran into this with Wichita. The master plan for Wichita had previously been adopted and as they were looking at the construction drawings they were looking at shifting a few things around, such as a pathway. However, they ran into an issue with doing that because the City said it would be difficult to make those kinds of changes due to the fact that it was an adopted plan, that it created difficulty with implementing it through the City's process. Therefore, Steve expressed concerns with the community garden: putting in specific plot layouts maybe was not the best idea, because if it was laid out a certain way and the plan gets adopted a certain way, there was the question if they were locked into that if it wanted to change in future. That was the thought behind removing the plot layouts and then deciding where to place them once the garden goes into the park.

The group discussed the confusions surrounding the wordings, specifically the word "possible" on the community garden drawing. **Mr. Kok** clarified that the intent was to not run into issues later on, like they did with the Wichita plans. **The board** discussed the importance of actually seeing it written in the plans that the community garden was a committed and reserved space in the park.

The group also discussed the issue of the drinking fountain not showing up on the plan, as there was a thought process behind it and it tied to the community garden.

Chair Gunion-Rinker suggested the Milwaukie Community Garden Board met with the North Clackamas Parks planners.

Mr. Kok thought a meeting would be great. He added that he would make the two changes to the plans [changing the phrase "possible" to "spaced reserved" for the community garden, and adding the drinking fountain] and would schedule a meeting.

Tree City USA Subcommittee Report

Treasurer Sharp reminded the group that she circulated a draft ordinance at the last meeting. She will send an edited version of the Street Tree list changes to Chair Gunion-Rinker. Treasurer Sharp made changes, such as adding native species into the ordinance, and clarified this list was for trees that would be planted in public spaces.

The group discussed species that were added to and taken off of the list.

It was decided that **Treasurer Sharp** would send the draft ordinance to all PARB members, collect comments, and route the final draft to Gary Parkin and/or Legal to look over.

The next Tree Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for May 11th from 5pm to 6pm at the Public Safety Building.

Mr. Hill added that Mr. Parkin wanted it conveyed to the group that they still want Julian involved;

maybe 10 hours a week to help out. Mr. Parkin hoped that would ease some concerns about wanting an arborist or a specialist on city staff. Julian was going forward on getting his certifications.

Welcome to Milwaukie Sign (Mr. Nieman)

Mr. Nieman discussed the events surrounding the disappearance of the old “Welcome to Milwaukie” sign. After it was removed for a waterline replacement, before the Riverfront Park construction, a new Blue Star sign was put up in that area by ODOT. The Blue Star sign was placed unbeknownst to the Riverfront Park Taskforce. **Mr. Nieman** wanted to see what PARB and the Riverfront Park Taskforce thought in regards to the new placement of the old “Welcome” sign. He passed out photos of possible locations in the Riverfront Park along McLoughlin.

The group discussed location; **Mr. Nieman** explained how the family that made the sign wanted it placed on the north side, where they donated their land (Klein Point).

The group discussed possible locations to place the sign.

Mr. Nieman would take the feedback to Riverfront Taskforce, then report back to PARB with updates.

Joint City Council PARB Meeting

Mr. Nieman explained that PARB’s meeting with City Council was now set for November 17th, and made a note that the meetings now start at 4pm.

The group agreed that it would be nice if they could meet earlier than November if possible. **Mr. Nieman** added that there was some flexibility, and if they were prepared they could meet sooner.

The group discussed the council’s goal related to parks and what they wanted to say to council.

Treasurer Sharp discussed the desire to find funding to help achieve their goals, and asked how best to work with the Parks Department to seek out any available funding by working together.

Mr. Kok explained that one option would be for PARB to form another subcommittee for project funding. Then NCPRD could share their knowledge, partnerships, and get creative.

Treasurer Sharp added that she would be willing to start that process if she has helpers.

Mr. Nieman concluded that he would revisit the idea of having PARB meet with the council before November.

Chair Gunion-Rinker, Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook, and Treasurer Sharp will form a subcommittee for project funding.

Member News/Reports

The group discussed that the split rail fence at Ball-Michel Park was old and falling apart and that the neighborhood was willing to help. **Mr. Kok** would make sure it was looked at.

Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook discussed the proximity of the new Light Rail station to Dogwood Park and how it is and how it was a missed opportunity that the first neighborhood park people will see in Milwaukie is in bad shape.

The group discussed ideas of how to help clean up the park, including a cleanup day before the opening of Light Rail.

Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook suggested another tour of the parks soon.

Chair Gunion-Rinker reminded the group about the fundraising plant sale May 2nd and 3rd.

Treasurer Sharp added that the teasel and poisonous hemlock are back in the dog park in North

Clackamas Park.

Member Harris said that he would like to stay on PARB if at all possible, even though he was moving out of the city. **Mr. Nieman** said he would look into the bylaws.

Mr. Nieman added that PARB is actually down a member. If it was not possible for **Member Harris** to stay, then they would be recruiting for two members.

Mr. Kok said it was exciting that the bridge landings were funded, but added it is worth thinking about what it means regarding managing folks. There are existing homeless and teenager hangout problems, and it was worth think about what additional challenges the bridge connection would bring.

From the Audience:

Ms. Dion Shepard, Chair of the Historic Milwaukie Neighborhood, discussed the following:

- The importance of trashcans in Riverfront Park—she encouraged NCPRD and PARB to add trashcans from the middle to the north, especially down by Klein Point.
- The concern of goose poop being hosed down into the river
- She learned the hard way that it was difficult to make changes to master plans once it was on paper. For example, the tree at Riverfront Park: the plan has a plaza where the tree is. She encouraged the group to be proactive that if there was funding for Phase III, it does not include the tree.
- Dogwood and Scott Park: opportunities to do some invasive removal.
- The need for shade trees at Dogwood Park.
- Asked PARB what they want from the neighborhood. If the neighborhood asked for more maintenance would they have to help fund it?
 - **Chair Gunion-Rinker** said that it sounded like a Friends group that could be done.
- Concern that there are no trashcans along the Trolley Trail.
 - **Mr. Kok** added he would have the NCPRD maintenance look into it.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by **Member Harris**, with a second by **Vice Chair Lashbrook**. Motion passed unanimously, meeting adjourned 9:07am.