

City of Milwaukie
Milwaukie Park and Recreation Board (PARB)
MEETING MINUTES
City Hall Conference Room
February 23, 2016

Members Present: Lisa Gunion-Rinker (Chair), Lisa Lashbrook (Vice Chair), Erin Willett Holcomb (Secretary), Linda Blue, Ben Johnson, and Andrew Craig
Members Absent: Lynn Sharp (Treasurer)
Staff/Visitors: Mitch Nieman (City Staff Liaison), Tonia Burns (NCPRD Natural Resource Coordinator), Amy Aschenbrenner (City Staff)

1) Welcome and Introductions

Chair Gunion-Rinker called the meeting to order at 7:37 am.

2) Review & Approve February 2, 2016 Minutes

Member Craig moved to approve the minutes, **Secretary Willett Holcomb** seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

3) Tree City USA/Tree Ordinance/Tree Lists Update

Mr. Nieman reported the Tree Ordinance was presented to City Council, and would move onto the next Council agenda. The Council had no questions, and **Mr. Nieman** reported on the Planning Department's questions regarding Conditional Use conflicts. **Ms. Burns** understood there were two zoning areas in the park, and **Mr. Nieman** expanded upon the management of land related to Conditional Use. He would speak with the City Attorney related to these issues before the first public hearing. The group discussed protecting trees in parks.

Mr. Nieman reported the first public hearing was scheduled for March 15, 2016.

Chair Gunion-Rinker discussed downtown trees and noted the list that Treasurer Sharp had been working on included species that were currently present downtown. **Mr. Nieman** provided a brief history of how the tree lists came about, and clarified the concerns that had been voiced regarding the species on the downtown list. He noted the ordinance did not include a specific list, so the lists could be adaptive. Only the downtown tree list had caused concern from a downtown business owner.

The group discussed the downtown tree lists. **Member Blue** understood that if a new tree needed to be installed, they would use a tree off the new list. The group discussed the contents of the tree list. **Mr. Nieman** suggested the subcommittee annotate the list with explanations of why the trees were chosen. **Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook** suggested waiting until March for Treasurer Sharp to be involved as well.

Mr. Nieman provided an overview of the possible neonicotinoids resolution by Council, and discussed it in relation to the street tree list. He noted Mayor Gamba discussed the possibility of not passing the tree list if the majority of trees come from nurseries in the Metro area that use neonicotinoids.

Member Johnson asked about the emergency clause in the Integrated Pest Management Plan. **Ms. Burns** provided an example that occurred in North Clackamas Park.

The group discussed neonicotinoids and how they affect the plants. **Member Craig** would call Jeff Stone with the Oregon Association of Nurseries and ask about the use of neonicotinoids.

4) Arbor Day/Week Celebration

Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook said she and Chair Gunion-Rinker worked on a blurb for the Pilot Newsletter. She provided an overview of the celebration, which would include the Earth Day cleanup, the Bike Pedestrian Bridge Opening, and the Arbor Day celebration. She noted that a native oak would be planted during the Arbor Day portion of the event. **Chair Gunion-Rinker** asked Ms. Burns if the planting could take place in Kronberg Park. **Ms. Burns** was concerned about the state of site and suggested Dogwood Park instead. The group discussed the pros and cons of planting the tree in Dogwood Park.

Mr. Nieman provided a more detailed overview of the Earth Day events.

Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook suggested having the Arbor Day Celebration between the other two events; she had concerns about losing the audience if the Arbor Day event was at the end of the day.

The group discussed the details of the events, including the options of planting a tree in Kronberg versus Dogwood Park. The group suggested meeting at the site and figuring out which park would be best for the planting. **Ms. Burns** suggested signage to help illustrate when and where the events were located.

Ms. Burns discussed the possibility of celebrating the Spring Park Opening on the same day after the other events, but she wondered if that would be too much in one day. **Linda Blue** suggested announcing at the Earth Day event that the Spring Park Opening would take place on a following weekend.

Mr. Nieman discussed the possibility of providing plants or trees to volunteers to take home, and the group agreed it was a good idea. **Ms. Burns said** she could help with that, as well as the procurement of the tree to dedicate.

5) Riverfront Park Flooding and Geese Update

Mr. Nieman explained the question from a Councilor about the Egg Depredation, and discussed the response from Geese Guys.

Mr. Nieman reported that the Department of State Lands (DSL) denied the City's request to work in the water. Therefore, the bridge would not be ready as previously hoped, as the temporary fix required water work. **Mr. Nieman** also reported that Clackamas County was the only county that did not get included in FEMA funding. If the DSL would continue to not allow work in the water, it would have to wait until June. He discussed the new plan for a temporary roadway to enter and exit the park at Washington Street, which involved demolishing the steep turn for access, and then building it back up later after the bridge was removed and replaced.

Mr. Nieman provided an overview of the Engineering priorities for Riverfront, including the bridge, the stabilization of the bank, and the dock issues.

Mr. Nieman noted the geese mitigation could continue to move forward and not just be focused on the beach/riverbank area. **Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook** understood that the planting in that area was not off the table, but noted the confusion of what the direction should be. **Mr. Nieman** discussed options for PARB moving forward, noting that planting in the riverbank area may not happen until the fall.

Mr. Nieman discussed the four objectives identified at the Riverfront Task Force (RTF) meeting on February 22, 2016. He would report back to Council and ask for clear direction for RTF and PARB to work on. **Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook** discussed the frustrations about the miscommunications between the groups. **Member Blue** reported RFT was open to meeting together, and discussed what the Mayor suggested.

Member Johnson wanted to see what Engineering wanted to do first. He also discussed the beach access and coordinating the effort with the multiple parties involved.

Mr. Nieman would send out a doodle poll to RTF and PARB and try to find a time to meet together. He noted PARB would likely have those joint meetings in lieu of regular meetings for a few months.

Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook, Ms. Burns, and Chair Gunion-Rinker discussed the problems with miscommunications between the multiple groups involved.

Mr. Nieman discussed the possibility of PARB stating what was within their capability and what was not, specifically related to Riverfront Park.

Chair Gunion-Rinker discussed conflicting messages for what PARB was tasked with, and discussed PARB's role in relation to RTF.

Mr. Nieman discussed the success of Geese Guys and the possibility of Geese Guys being the best solution for the geese problem until something more solid was figured out.

Chair Gunion-Rinker noted the time and the fact that this was the second PARB meeting lost to Riverfront Park discussions, and noted the other agenda items that would not get covered.

6) 501(c)3 Parks Foundation

Chair Gunion-Rinker would send an email to PARB members about meeting next Wednesday evening to discuss the Parks Foundation.

7) NCPRD Update

Item moved to next meeting's agenda.

8) Council/PARB Goals Update

Item moved to next meeting's agenda.

9) Member News/Reports

Item moved to next meeting's agenda.

10) Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 am.

Prepared by: Amy Aschenbrenner, City staff