

## Minutes

### Park and Recreation Board

August 27, 2013

Members Present: Hughes, Cooper, Schaeffer, Councilor Miller

Absent: Harris, Gunion-Rinker

Guests: Dion Shepard, Lynn Sharp

Herrigel introduced Lynn Sharp, a candidate for the Park Board. Lynn said she was a wildlife biologist and had been on the Park District Advisory Board for 12 years.

#### Approve June Minutes

No quorum – held over to September meeting.

#### Open Space Acquisition Plan Strategy

Herrigel shared a map of the City with the group that showed vacant land, wetlands, vegetative corridors, habitat conservation areas, water bodies and parks. The group reviewed the map and discussed ways to go about developing an open space acquisition plan. Comments from the board included:

- Vegetative corridors are significant resources (Willamette, Johnson and Kellogg Creeks)
- Hughes noted that it is not good public policy to develop in high hazard locations. He said we need a management plan that promotes habitat and that aquatic resources are the highest value areas. He suggested that we should protect the highest value resource areas first. He added that trail access should be part of this – although he was not advocating for trails in natural areas.
- Sharp noted that if people had native plants in their yards they wouldn't need stormwater swales. Mitigation banking is also a good resource.
- Schaffer said she feels that upland areas and neighborhood parks are important to her.
- There's a parcel on Stanley that has been open for a while
- Miller said it would be good to get information such as addresses and size of parcels as well as location shown on this map. Miller also noted that a parcel near Vernie and Maple had been protected as part of the development of the Milt Palm property.
- Hughes said the Parks District is not necessarily interested in small parks. They are more interested in regional facilities like ball fields. Milwaukie has different needs

- Miller said pocket parks are not interesting to the Parks District – they are difficult and expensive to maintain
- Cooper suggested that the group focus on where we can get funding (by working with partners). He said the city needs pocket parks but should work on open space and parks at the same time.
- Sharp noted that the City could work with Water Environment Services near Johnson Creek for flood control
- Cooper asked if there was regional entity that could buy and own potential properties. (Hughes noted that there was the Intertwine...)
- Hughes said we need a vision of what we want the City to look like. We need a process by which we tell the Park District what we want in Milwaukee.
- Shepard said she thinks that the neighborhoods want pocket parks
- Hughes said we might look at what we own now and then try to expand into adjacent properties
- Sharp suggested having the GIS person do a buffer around parks and see where the holes are within the community.
- Elements important to the group included: Neighborhood parks, natural areas and trails
- Sharp asked if we could map the delinquent properties as identified by the tax assessor's office
- Group discussed how best to integrate the NDAs into this process. It was suggested that the PARB go to the NDAs and show them the areas that have been identified as target areas and work with the neighbors to advocate for purchase.
- Shepard suggested developing a concept first and then taking it to the NDAs
- Miller said it might be better to go the NDAs now and see if they have ideas on parcels that we should target
- Shepard said she thinks having parks is attractive to people and brings people in
- Hughes asked that Community Gardens be added to the list of resources we map
- The group asked Herrigel to bring the District's standards for parks to the next meeting. They said it might be good to look at some acquisition strategies developed elsewhere as well – to see what the options are.

### Park Master Plan Update

Herrigel noted that she had met with Jeroen Kok, from NCPRD, to develop a draft scope of work for moving the remaining parks forward in master planning and design. The four parks include: Kronberg, Wichita, Balfour and Bowman and Brae.

### Project Updates

Wichita Park : A Parking determination application was submitted to planning for review. The next step is to submit a Community Service Use application.

Kellogg for Coho: Council is wrapping up their due diligence process for with Wildlands and will report back soon.

Riverfront Grants: City was awarded an Oregon Marine Board grant for \$1.2 million and an Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept grant for \$221,000. Construction will begin in June 2014.

Creek naming – Island Station: Neighbors in the Island Station neighborhood are interested in naming small creek that was discovered and protected as part of the light rail project. The creek is located on a triangular lot along 99E north of Sparrow and 26<sup>th</sup>.