



Carnegie Park Re-Naming Comments
Received prior to deadline of 10/25/2017

"I continue to support the work of PRAC on renaming the park as "Carnegie Park".

- Vern Johnson

"I strongly urge you to reconsider your recommendation for the name of the park and honor our City's proud history of the Oregon City Public Library at Library Park."

- Karin Morey

"I like the name.... Carnegie Library Park.... I think it sounds far more impressive than just plain.... Carnegie Park. I'm proud of our beautiful new library and all of the time and effort it took to see it finally happen....

- Jackey Harris

*Additional comment received from Denyse McGriff
on behalf of McLoughlin Neighborhood Association in support
of 'Library Park' renaming during October 26, 2017
PRAC meeting.*

Phil Lewis

From: Phil Lewis
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 5:21 PM
To: 'Jackey3391'
Subject: RE: OR Park Renaming

Thank you Jackey. I will share your response with PRAC.

From: Jackey3391 [mailto:jackey3391@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 10:38 PM
To: Phil Lewis <plewis@orcify.org>
Subject: OR Park Renaming

Hi Phil,

I won't be able to attend the meetings scheduled for discussing the renaming of the park, but I would like to make a comment.

I like the name Carnegie Library Park I think it sounds far more impressive than just plain..... Carnegie Park. I'm proud of our beautiful new library and all the time and effort it took to see it finally happen

Sincerely,
Jackey Harris

Phil Lewis

From: Phil Lewis
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 5:02 PM
To: 'Vern Johnson'
Subject: RE: Notice - Oregon City Park Renaming

Thank you Vern. I will forward your comments to PRAC.

From: Vern Johnson [mailto:verndonnajohnson@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 4:59 PM
To: Phil Lewis <plewis@orccity.org>
Subject: Re: Notice - Oregon City Park Renaming

Phil.

I continue to support the work of PRAC on renaming the park. as " Carnegie Park"

Thanks.

TVNA Chair.

Vern

From: Phil Lewis <plewis@orccity.org>
To: Phil Lewis <plewis@orccity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 3:22 PM
Subject: Notice - Oregon City Park Renaming

Hello Neighborhood Association Representatives,

This email is to notify you that the Oregon City Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) voted on June 22, 2017 to make a recommendation to City Commission to change the name of Carnegie Library Park to Carnegie Park. The park is located between 6th and 7th Streets and John Adams and Jefferson Streets. At the August Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) meeting, it was requested that Community Services staff reach out to each of the neighborhoods prior to the next PRAC meeting to allow additional public process prior to presenting to City Commission. Please find below a short history of the site, the purpose of forming the naming committee, PRAC recommendations and next steps.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee – March 23, 2017
Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee – April 27, 2017
Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee – June 22, 2017
McLoughlin Neighborhood Association – July 6, 2017
Citizen Involvement Committee - August 7, 2017
Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee - October 26, 2017

BACKGROUND

August 10, 2017

To: Phil Lewis, Community Services Director
Maureen Cole, Library Director
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
McLoughlin Neighborhood Association via Denyse McGriff, Jesse Buss

From: Karin D. Morey

RE: Naming of Block 102 city park

I just became aware of a recommendation to add the name "Carnegie" to the park name for Block 102, historically known as "Library Park" and briefly as "Carnegie Library Park" during the absence of the library from the property from 1995 to 2010.

Following are my reasons to support "Library Park" as the formally adopted name of the park:

1) Although I could not locate an ordinance establishing the name for the park, Library Park came into use for Block 102 in 1913 and has been the name of the park used by citizens and the city for 104 years.

2) Oregon City citizens were proud of the fact that in 1910 the first levy to support library operations was approved by a city wide vote and felt that it was important that the new building, constructed with funds from the Carnegie Institution, be known as the Oregon City Public Library.

3) Andrew Carnegie provided funds for 2,509 public and university libraries from 1883 to 1929. 1,689 of these libraries were built in the United States and the rest in thirteen countries around the world. The decision to fund a particular library was deferred to his secretary, James Bertram. All applicants had to:

- demonstrate the need for a public library;
- provide the building site;
- pay to staff and maintain the library;
- draw from public funds to run the library—not use only private donations;
- annually provide ten percent of the cost of the library's construction to support its operation; and,
- provide free service to all.

Although his generosity provided the funds to construct the library building, he had no connection to Oregon City, never visited the city and had nothing to do with the property on which the library was constructed, which had been set aside for civic purposes since 1842.

Following is a history of Block 102, city parks and the names by which they have been known.

I strongly urge you to reconsider your recommendation for the name of the park and honor our city's proud history of the Oregon City Public Library at Library Park.

Karin D. Morey

History of the Original City Parks

In the original plat map of Oregon City, Dr. John McLoughlin gave several blocks on the hill to the city for use as "Public Squares." One of these public squares is Block 102, bounded by Sixth and Seventh Streets and John Adams and Jefferson Streets.

Until 1898 Block 102 was used for various purposes, including several years when it was used as the "cow jail" where cows that strayed away from the homes on Main Street at night were taken to graze until reclaimed by their owners. In March 1898 the City Council designated Block 102 as the first city park. The lot was plowed and leveled and walnut, elm and cottonwood trees were planted. Two walkways of sand were constructed and twelve "lawn benches" were purchased for \$22.50 and placed around the park.

Block 40, at the head of Singer Hill at Seventh and Center, had also been set aside by Dr. McLoughlin for use as public square. It served as the city baseball field for many years and around 1900 became known as Knapp Park after Councilman Alwin Knapp arranged to have trees and flowers planted in the park to improve its appearance.

A third block, Block 152, designated as a public square by Dr. McLoughlin, was also developed as a city park in the early 1900s. Lying between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets and J. Q. Adams and Jackson Streets, the block had only minor improvements to make it usable as a park.

Until 1909, all three blocks were referred to as "City Park" or individually as the Park at the head of Singer Hill, Seventh Street Park and Twelfth Street Park. The city continued to improve the existing parks, with a bandstand being built in Seventh Street Park in 1905 and four sets of swings being added to both the Seventh Street and Twelfth Street parks in 1910.

In 1909 the McLoughlin house was moved to Block 40. After the house was in place, the Oregon City Womans Club worked to improve the landscaping of the park and at the request of citizens the block was officially named "McLoughlin Park" in 1911. In August of that year the property was connected to the city sewer system and public toilets were added.

The 20th century brought other changes to Oregon City. In 1906 a group of citizens urged the city to establish a tax to provide a free public library. The Council declined to act and the movement died down until 1909 when the citizens formed the Oregon City Library Association. In order to support a reading room they established a subscription rate of \$12 per year to be paid monthly and solicited donations from local businesses. The reading room opened on the third floor of the Masonic Temple on Main Street on December 13, 1909. After further urging of citizens, and after seeing the success of the subscription library, the City Council placed a half-mill tax on the ballot in December 1910. The levy passed by a vote of 432 to 303 and established the free Oregon City Public Library.

One editorial in favor of the levy also noted that several cities in Oregon had constructed new library buildings in the past few years using funds from the Carnegie Fund. B. T. McBain, Superintendent of the Willamette Pulp & Paper Company and Library Association member, wrote to Mr. Carnegie and received an application form in return from Mr. Carnegie's secretary, James Bertram. In December 1911, Mr. Bertram notified the city that \$12,500.00 would be provided for construction upon proof that the city would guarantee \$1,250.00 in annual support for the library and that donated land or property already owned by the city would be available for the building. He also advised that the design of the building would have to be approved before funds were released.

As the library levy was already collecting close to the \$1,250.00, the City Council approved the amount from the city for support of the library. Next the Council and Library Association members began a search for a location. Several properties on Main Street and on the second level were proposed. After first preferring a Main Street location the site committee made a recommendation in March 1912 to place the library at the southeast corner of McLoughlin Park. The Seventh Street Park location was rejected as being "too far from the center of town." Objections to the McLoughlin Park location immediately arose from citizens, particularly members of the Oregon City Womans Club. Mrs. Eva Emery Dye, local author and member of the Womans Club, advised that Council that she opposed the location for many reasons, including the fact that she feared that the park would be renamed "Carnegie Park" if the library was built in McLoughlin Park.

After several more meetings the committee again turned their attention to the Seventh Street Park. In early April 1912 the City Council unanimously approved building the library on Block 102 with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie. Once the city had a location and the guaranteed financial support to operate the library, they approached Portland architect E. E. McClaran to design the building. After reviewing five proposed designs on May 3, 1912 the Library Association chose one and submitted it to Mr. Bertram. On May 25th they were notified that the plan had been approved, although minor modifications were later made at the request of Mr. Carnegie's financial secretary, Mr. Franks.

The library building was completed in early 1913, although opening was delayed due to problems with leaks and the quality of the glass that had been installed. In May 1913 the books from the Reading Room were moved to the new building in the center of the Seventh Street Park and the library was formally dedicated on June 21, 1913.

In January 1913, City Councilman Tooze had recommended citizens submit ideas to the city for names for two of the city parks. He suggested that Seventh Street park be named Library Park and Twelfth Street Park be named Firwood Park due to the number of fir trees growing in the park.

In the Oregon City Enterprise of January 30, 1913 the following editorial appeared: "Parks should be given names – The matter of naming the various parks that were deeded to the city by Dr. John McLoughlin at the time of the city's founding, should be taken up and suitable names found for them. The subject has several times come before the Council and the matter referred to committees, the people each time requested to suggest suitable names, so that the council might act on names that would be popular with the people, but during all of this time no names have been suggested and the parks still remain unnamed, notwithstanding the fact that they have been in the city's possession since the time of its first charter. McLoughlin Park at Seventh, Eighth and Center Streets is the only one of the parks that has been named and this was done several years ago at the time the McLoughlin home was located on the property.

With the improvement of what is known as the "Seventh Street Park" and the park opposite the High School, which is bounded by Monroe, Jackson, Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets, appropriate names should be found that would be fitting for them. It has been suggested that names be chosen that would be suggestive of the parks, themselves, such as naming the park on Seventh Street Library Park on account of the location of the library in it, and the name of the park of Twelfth Street Fir Park because of the native trees that grow in it. It has likewise been suggested that the city perpetuate the names of some of the prominent pioneers who have done much toward the upbuilding of the community. This method would be following out the idea started with the naming of McLoughlin Park would be very appropriate and might be a very satisfactory system to follow.

There are a great many other names that might be well used in the naming of the city parks and the Enterprise will welcome any suggestions that might be made to it.”

Readers of the paper submitted the support for “Library Park” and “Fir Park”, although Eva Emery Dye sent in a letter suggesting the Seventh Street Park be named “Eloisa Park” in memory of Dr. McLoughlin's daughter and the Twelfth Street Park be named “Indian Park” to memorialize the Catholic graveyard for Native American church members that had existed on the block diagonally across Twelfth and Taylor from the park, where the high school had recently been built.

Although the City Council minutes and the newspaper show continued discussion of the naming of the parks, no formal action was taken. But, although not formally adopted, Library Park had been attached to the property in the minds of the residents of Oregon City.

From 1913 on Block 102 was referred to as “the Library Park” or “Library Park” in newspapers, city reports and various minutes of meetings. The only exception I found was in the 1970 Charter Park amendment, where Block 40, Block 102, Block 152 and Block 96 (Barclay Park) were only identified by block number, while the other parks then in existence were listed by their names.