



MEETING MINUTES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

City Hall; 625 Center Street, Oregon City, OR 97045

September 27, 2018

Attendance

Members: Chris Cook; Lisa Novak; Bill Daniels; Troy Bolinger; Roger Fowler-Thias; Mike Mitchell; Doug Neeley; Shawn Dachtler; Karin Morey

Excused: none

Staff: Phil Lewis, Community Services Director

Guests: none

Regular Meeting

1. Call to order at 7:01pm

2. Introductions

3. Approval of minutes – July 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Dachtler to approve minutes as written, second by Neeley, approved 7-0.

4. Citizen comments on issues and items not on the agenda

Brian Shaw spoke and thanked PRAC members for their service. He noted the important role Parks and Recreation plays in providing opportunities for youth in the community.

Shaw stated that we will need to find a fix for Parks and Recreation funding and will work together to come up with a plan.

5. Presentations - none

6. General Business

- a. Charter Parks Ordinance – Phil Lewis gave a presentation of Chapter X of the Oregon City Charter and how it provides park protections. The presentation also included an overview of the parks which are already listed in the charter, parks which have been designated by ordinance as parks and parks that need to be considered for adoption by ordinance. Rita Mills gave public comment regarding her interest in having “lower Waterboard Park” designated as a park for members of the community. Rocky Smith gave public comment asking why the parking lot at the Ermatinger House was being

incorporated into the park but the parking lot for the Pioneer Center located across the street was not being incorporated as a park. A motion was made by Daniels, seconded by Neeley to recommend to City Commission that Canemah Slope Park be designated as a park by ordinance. The motion passed 9-0. A motion was made by Daniels and seconded by Neeley to recommend to City Commission that the Ermatinger House, defined as lots 3 and 4, be designated as a park by ordinance. The motion passed 9-0. A motion was made by Neeley and seconded by Daniels to recommend to City Commission that Old Canemah Park be designated as a park by ordinance. The boundary would be the primary portion of the park outlined in red and not include the sliver of taxlot property bordered by Southend Road and 5th Avenue. The motion passed 9-0. A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Dachtler to recommend to City Commission that the Pioneer Center, defined as block 62, be designated as a park by ordinance. Neeley amended the motion to invite Pioneer Center staff Kathy Wiseman and Denise Conrad as well as Library staff Maureen Cole to come to the next meeting to provide additional information. The amendment to the motion was seconded by Dachtler. Voting in favor of the amendment were Daniels, Novak, Neeley, Fowler-Thias. Voting in opposition of the amendment were Bolinger, Dachtler, Mitchell, Cook, Morey. The amendment failed 5-4. A vote of the original motion passed 9-0. A motion was made by Neeley and seconded by Daniels to recommend to City Commission that Sportcraft Landing Park be designated as a park by ordinance. Public comments were received from Jesse Buss who noted that the City is already recognizing Sportcraft Landing Park as a charter park as they have sent the ODOT I-205 project to a vote of the people and that it would be inconsistent to send it to a vote if the City didn't already feel it was a park. Buss supports designating Sportcraft Landing Park as a park. Neeley rescinded his motion and it will be tabled until the October meeting. A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Mitchell to recommend to City Commission that Stafford Park be designated as a park by ordinance. The motion passed 9-0. A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Cook to recommend to City Commission that Straight Cemetery be designated as a park by ordinance. The motion passed 9-0. A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Neeley to recommend to City Commission that Barclay Hills Park be designated as a park by ordinance with a requested public

access easement across the Public Works property being used for a pump station. The park is defined as the green and purple areas on the map with the exception of the pump station adjacent to Peter Skene Way. The motion passed 9-0.

- b. Waterboard Park Boundaries – Phil Lewis presented information on Waterboard Park boundaries including GIS data from the City and surveys completed by Public Works in 2008. Public comment was received from Jesse Buss on behalf of the McLoughlin Neighborhood Association. Mr. Buss presented background information on Waterboard Park and the Public Works Operations Facility. The neighborhood association is requesting that PRAC makes a recommendation to the City Commission to have the “upper yard” designated as a park by ordinance. Cameron McCready gave public comment to request the protection of the “disputed area” or “upper yard” as a park and receives Chapter X protection. Rocky Smith gave public comment encouraging PRAC to make a recommendation to the City Commission. Jim Nicita gave public comment supporting the compromise suggested by the neighborhood association but additionally asked that the City allow the “lower yard” to be used for housing and the “upper yard” for park space. Chuck Combs gave public comment supports including the “lower Waterboard Park site” be considered as a park and would go further to request that the entire space including the “lower yard” be considered for inclusion. Neeley noted his support for the designation of the “upper yard” to be included as part of Waterboard Park. Daniels spoke to his support of the neighborhood association and designating the “upper yard” as part of Waterboard Park. Morey spoke to the complexities of the site and the costs that would be associated with transition of the site to the parks department. She additionally spoke to the already extensive backlog of deferred maintenance and lack of parks staff to maintain the current parks. Cook also has concerns regarding the proposed addition of park space at this site and the lack of parks in some of the park deficient areas of the City. Mitchell spoke regarding the regional importance of Waterboard Park and that it isn’t just a McLoughlin neighborhood association issue. He is supportive of areas being devoted to the park and adding the lower portion as housing. Fowler-Thais brought up the issue of maintenance for the park and the importance of the volunteer hours that have been used at the park. Cook asked that staff research the armory property and any liabilities or environmental

concerns with the City acquiring the property. Jesse Buss gave public comment speaking on behalf of himself. He noted that his suggestion and proposed draft ordinances states that the intent was not to include them as “natural park land” as recognized by the charter. Buss also gave information regarding the court’s findings in the Waterboard Park trial. A motion was made by Neeley and seconded by Daniels to recommend to the City Commission that the upper yard of Public Works be designated as a park. Voting in favor of motion were Daniels, Mitchell, Novak, Neeley, Fowler-Thais. Voting in opposition of the motion were Bolinger, Dachtler, Cook, Morey. The motion passed 5-4.

- c. Park Funding – After the joint work session with PRAC and the City Commission it was determined that the group should plan for another joint work session scheduled for November 13th. Jim Nicita gave public comment requesting the City reach out to Metro to enter into an agreement to have Metro maintain Waterboard Park with their substantial resources. Mitchell asked how and why creating a Park District was dismissed as an option in the joint work session with City Commission. Neeley requested that this be an agenda topic for the October PRAC meeting.
- d. Buena Vista House – Staff are still receiving estimates from construction firms. A couple of firms have walked the space and one firm has provided an estimate based on the updated scope of work from the stakeholder groups. Once sufficient estimates have been received, staff will bring them forward for consideration. Rocky Smith provided public comment applauding PRAC for working on this topic.
- e. Glen Oak Park Naming Committee – Voting closes on Sunday and the naming committee will be meeting in the month of October. A recommendation will be brought back to PRAC at the regular October meeting.
- f. Willamette Falls Legacy Project – Project is still in the planning process. Staff are working on the design criteria and RFP for the design consultant. Jim Nicita provided public comment asking which permits the project team have applied for. Phil Lewis stated that the partner agencies have filed a joint permit application with the Army Corps of Engineers and that the property owner has signed off on the permits.
- g. Memorial Bench Program – Discussion postponed until October meeting.

h. Other General Business – PRAC tour of Newell Creek Nature Park is scheduled for next Thursday, October 4th at 5pm.

7. PRAC Member Reports

Chris Cook: nothing to report.

Bill Daniels: nothing to report.

Lisa Novak: Curious as to when the waterline project will wrap up at Park Place Park. Phil Lewis stated that it should be completed by November.

Karin Morey: Thanked Mike Mitchell, Brian Shaw and members of the community for being present at the Mt. View Cemetery Volunteer cleanup event.

Roger Fowler-Thias: Pioneer Center fall classes began 9/24, medicare presentations from Kaiser and SHIBA, new Walk with Ease class started on 9/17 and meets three days per week for six weeks. Oregon City Park Foundation is planning on a second ivy spray at Waterboard Park next week.

Mike Mitchell: nothing to report.

Doug Neeley: nothing to report.

Shawn Dachtler: nothing to report.

Troy Bolinger: nothing to report.

8. Staff reports

a. Recreation update – Email monthly updates to PRAC members

b. PRAC member openings – Three positions are currently open to serve on PRAC beginning in January with a deadline to apply on October 12th.

9. Future Agenda Items – none

10. Next scheduled meeting – October 25, 2018

11. Adjournment: 10:02pm