

## OREGON CITY PARKS & RECREATION

### Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

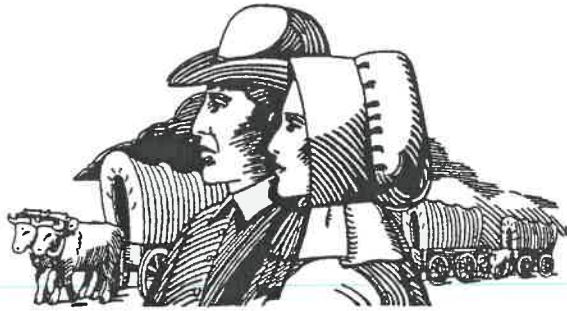
Monday, February 28, 2005

Pioneer Community Center, upper level  
615 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Oregon City

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

### AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Introduction of new PRAC members: Lisa Wright-Wilson, Havan Jones, Doug Neeley
3. Approval of minutes – January 31, 2005 regular meeting
4. Citizen comments on issues and items not on the agenda
5. Old business
  - a. Restroom project at Jon Storm Park – update ✓
  - b. W-L Park playground project – selection committee meeting date
  - c. Other
6. New business  
~~Remainder of the agenda~~
7. Director's report
  - a. Monthly reports and statistics
  - b. Updated PRAC roster
  - c. Daddy Daughter Dinner Dance – held Feb. 12
  - d. Dog park article
  - e. Project updates
  - f. Other – PARK TOUR / saturn day / soon or evening when light
8. Next meeting: March 28, 2005
9. Adjournment



## OREGON CITY PARKS & RECREATION

# Parks & Recreation Monthly Report January 2005

### Pool/Aquatics

- Online registration for swimming lessons now comprises about 25-30% of all lesson registrations
- The high school swimming season is winding down for the year. The district meet will take place February 11-12
- We are preparing for the annual CBSL swim meet on March 12-13. The meet brings hundreds of competitors and parents to the pool over the weekend

### Carnegie

- Children's Museum attendance is increasing in recent months
- The gallery continues to attract new visitors – street closure does not seem to affect people exploring the area
- The Carnegie Center is becoming a stop for Oregon City Tour Packages – 3 tours visited us this month. We also hosted a Girl Scout Troop.
- Gallery showed the work of Carnegie Center instructors

### Pioneer Community Center

- Fund raising events continue to replace 1992 van – Total collected \$4,289 from all sources.
- Brochure in process for rentals / marketing
- A church group is planning to rent building every Sunday, possibly beginning March 2005. They have also decided to rent every Wednesday evening.
- Two trips this month – Wine trip to Dundee (Full) and Empress palace (14 riders)
- Three dine outs with an average of 10 – 14 people
- Staff person Julie Miguel was honored with the Optimist of the year award at the annual chamber dinner!
- West Linn seniors participated in two dine outs and one potluck with 12-15 participants per trip
- Donations: \$1,135 for the pioneer donation fund and \$1,390 for meals on wheels
- The facility is starting to show its age with many equipment repair/ replacement issues, including the rooftop HVAC units currently in need of replacement and

the recent failure of our commercial coffee maker. We are also looking ahead at another replacement van scheduled for June 2006, and possibly kitchen steamer unit next fiscal year.

### **Recreation**

- Planning for first annual "Daddy Daughter Dinner Dance", a Valentine's Day themed event that included dinner, dancing and entertainment at the Pioneer Center.
- Weekly Teen Scene attendance ranged from 172 to 245
- Funding options are being explored for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and the summer Concerts in the Park
- We are working closely with Sage, the District's alternative high school to develop a PE program for their students

### **Parks**

- Removed transient camps at Clackamette Cove
- Spring cleanup and pruning at Pioneer Center
- Fertilized Chapin and Hillendale soccer fields
- Cleanup and prune Swimming Pool grounds
- Clackamas County Community service began removing invasive species and cleanup along Cove Trail
- Oregon City Construction Corps (O.C. High School students) began work on retaining wall and viewing platform at Hillendale Park
- Memorial tree planted at Chapin Park
- Community service and park/cemetery crew prune, level, mulch and cleanup of property line at Hillendale Park
- Clackamette boat launch/parking area pruned
- Clackamas Community Service work at Rivercrest Park
- Limb removal Rivercrest Park
- Parks staff attended clinic on sports fields
- Permanently attached picnic tables to concrete pad at Clackamette Park covered picnic area

### **Cemetery**

- Cemetery staff attended CPR class
- Early spring mowing started (due to unseasonable weather)
- Spot spraying of beds with roundup
- Cemetery staff also assists parks staff in all of the above park projects

### **Up Coming Events/ Dates of note:**

#### **Carnegie**

- February Show is Jan Rimerman, mixed media paintings. There will be an artists reception on February 27
- Spring Trail News will be mailed by the end of February

**Pioneer**

- Three Trips planned this month: Scio covered bridge tour, Hillsboro transit center and a Rose Linn Care Center trip
- Bowling fundraiser will take place on February 12

**Concerns and Challenges:**

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**Carnegie**

- Scheduling 2005 Concerts in the Park and the Fourth of July Celebration

**Pioneer**

- We need more reception area volunteers and more time to train them
- Need to continue recruiting Meals on Wheels volunteers to maintain the strength of the program
- Development of fund raising is time consuming, but we are getting up to speed by continuing to make contacts and develop events
- We recently lost an AARP kitchen volunteer
- Building maintenance is an ongoing challenge, due to lack of regular (maint.) staff to address issues.

**POLICY FOR NAMING OR CHANGING NAMES OF  
PARKS, RECREATION/CEMETERY FACILITIES**

**PURPOSE**

To outline the criteria and procedures for official naming and/or renaming of City parks, as well as park and cemetery facilities and recreation centers.

**BACKGROUND**

Oregon City Parks have traditionally been named for locations (Park Place) or special features (Canemah), or the acquired name from common usage (Carnegie Library to Carnegie Center). Occasionally parks, or amenities within a park or cemetery are named in honor of a particular individual or group who has made a significant contribution the facility.

Most recreation or community centers and facilities bear a name with some historical significance (Pioneer, End of the Trail) or identify their role (OC Pool) some the name of where they are located; and others the name of the geographic area. However, there is also a precedent for naming recreational facilities after citizens who have made a significant contribution to their community (Ermatinger House).

From time to time, individuals, community organizations and neighborhood associations petition the City requesting a naming or renaming of a facility to honor a particular individual. The following policy will formalize consideration of these requests and assure reasonable commemorative opportunities for the community along with minimal confusion and maximum access to the general public.

**Policy**

Designation of names for parks, cemetery, and recreation facilities shall be in accordance with criteria and procedures set forth below.

**NAMING PARKS, CEMETERY, AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

The naming of parks, cemetery, and recreation areas and facilities should be approached with patience and deliberation.

Confusion should be minimized by avoiding names that are similar to those of existing parks and playgrounds in the system, or geographic areas, which are so broad that they could encompass many sites.

Conditions and stipulations of original property donation or deed shall be honored regarding the name of a park, cemetery or recreation/community center.

Consideration in naming parks shall first be given to geographical location (unless this would be so vague as to cause confusion), natural or geological features, and names in common usage;

Park, cemetery, and park facilities, or community/recreation centers may be named for an individual under the following conditions: The person has made a significant contribution to the citizens of the City of Oregon City or to Oregon City Parks, Recreation and Cemetery; the individual is deceased and approval is granted by the next of kin; or the individual is still living and grants permission for the use of their name.

Recreation/Community Centers shall be named, whenever possible, for the unique geographic location that gives identity to the community or the park in which it is located unless in doing so it would create confusion with other facilities located in the area which may or may not be on the same property.

### **RENAMING PARKS, CEMETERY, AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

Parks meet open space and recreation needs within the entire community. They are intentionally named for significant feature, which will identify them with a particular neighborhood or site because

- a) The site name is familiar to most of the residents; and
- b) b) throughout the city any resident can more easily locate any park if it is named by location or significant feature.

There are instances when it is the overwhelming desire of the community to memorialize an individual. Renaming a park, park or cemetery facility or recreation/community center in memory of an individual is a significant permanent City honor and will be done carefully and deliberately. Each application must follow the process listed below.

The proposal must be reviewed by a standing committee\* through a specific process which will include:

verification of documentation showing that the individual has been a figure of historic significance to the City or Oregon City Parks, Recreation and Cemetery and has not been appropriately honored locally in some other way;

Verification of documentation showing that the individual is deceased for at least two years and that the proposal meets the approval of the individual's surviving spouse, children or parents, if any, or documented approval of the individual, if living;

review of documentation relating to appropriateness of specific site proposed for renaming, and;

recommendation through PRAC to the City Commission regarding the individual as a candidate for honor or memorialization.

\*The standing committee shall include the Director of Parks and Recreation, two members of PRAC, and the staff liaison to the Neighborhood Associations or CICC.

Review of the standing committee clears the application for the remainder of the process;

Parks renamed after individuals will retain the geographic location as part of the name;

Existing park, park or cemetery facilities or recreation/community center names, which are considered historically significant, will not usually be changed;

Exceptions to these criteria may be considered by the City Commission if renaming a park, park or cemetery facility or recreation/community center has been made a condition of accepting a donation of more than 51% of the total costs of land purchase, full development of any park, renovating or building onto a recreation center. (i.e.: addition of a pool to an existing center, covering an existing pool, adding a gymnasium or making other significant building improvements);

In all cases, the City Commission shall have the prerogative of accepting or rejecting the proposed name change, and;

Bestowing an individual's name on a park or park, cemetery or recreation/community facility shall be considered permanent.

### **OTHER OPTIONS FOR MEMORIALIZATION**

Parks are not intended to be memorial gardens and the proliferation of plaques and markers detracts from the purpose for which parks are established. However, there are instances in which the community's wish to memorialize an individual or event may be appropriately accommodated. Historical markers are traditional examples. Others include plaques affixed to denote significant gifts to a particular park. The wish to memorialize individuals and events within each generation certainly exceeds the number of parks to be named. Oregon City Parks and Recreation will establish policy accepting memorial plaques to be displayed in the main areas of Recreation/Community Centers on the recommendation of a neighborhood association according to the criteria outlined below:

The sponsoring group or individual provides the plaque and replaces it if defaced or stolen;

Oregon City Parks and Recreation offers routine maintenance and care of the plaque, and;

Placement of all plaques is subject to the discretion of Oregon City Parks and Recreation, however, they will all be placed together in a prominent location.



## Scott Archer

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To: P.R.A.C.  
Cc: Jim Row; Larry Potter  
Subject: PRAC Mtg agenda & materials for 2/28

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee:

Please find attached the agenda and related materials for the upcoming 2/28 meeting (next week). Please contact me if you will be unable to attend, or with questions related to this information.

Thank you,

Scott Archer  
Community Services Director  
City of Oregon City  
(503) 496-1546  
sarcher@ci.oregon-city.or.us



Feb05 PRAC  
agenda.doc



Minutes Jan 05  
PRAC.doc



Parks & Rec Report  
January 05....



Program & Facility  
Attendance ...



# Fighting for Fido



# Is there enough room for both dogs and children to enjoy the same park?

By Clare Leschin-Hoar

**I**t's been a frustrating three years for Susan Schwarten and her dogs. After scouting dozens of places in the hopes of establishing a dog area in her Ocean City community in Maryland, Schwarten was thwarted in her efforts to secure a location for the park yet again this fall. Skirmishes over land, combined with neighbors who oppose the idea of a dogpark, have Schwarten and her group—the Woodland Pond Dogpark Association—sniffing out potential off-leash areas for their dogs once more.

Likewise, a controversial off-leash area in Arlington, Va., is heating emotions between local families and dog enthusiasts. A newly formed citizen group called Parents Advocating Children's Turf is battling dogpark proponents against the construction of a \$400,000 dog area, which they say will shrink coveted park space that is currently designated for children. The parents' group cites safety issues among its chief concerns.

But for municipalities who have done their homework, and have adequate and appropriate space available, localized off-leash dog areas can be a boon to their communities.

Randle Harwood, acting director for Parks and Community Services in Fort Worth, Texas, opened the city's first dogpark in April 2004. "It's one of our highest usage parks," says Harwood. "It's amazing. There is literally somebody there all the time."

But Harwood was a reluctant advocate. When a local citizens group first approached the city for a dogpark, the parks department felt it couldn't justify funding the project. "The dilemma was that it was a dogpark," says Harwood. "The challenge we faced was that we had playgrounds that were rundown. We had existing infrastructure that was rundown, and here we were building a park for dogs. That was an initial dilemma. It was not in our core group of services."

In retrospect, however, Harwood says it wasn't a park for dogs, it was a park for people who have dogs. Located on five acres in Gateway Park in Fort Worth, Texas, Fort Woof has amenities for its residents and their pets that are common to many dogparks across the country: fencing, picnic tables, benches, irrigation, water fountains for humans and canines, waste bag dispensers and trash cans. At a cost of about \$81,000 to launch

the park, an extra \$35,000 is needed annually for its maintenance.

Anticipating accurately what the maintenance costs will be is crucial in your park planning efforts, says Melody Mitchell, assistant director for Fort Worth's Parks and Community Services Department. For Fort Woof, that equates to \$7,000 an acre, with Mitchell outsourcing much of the labor. "[Contracting out maintenance] was cheaper to do than stretching my staff any thinner. This is just one more thing we've added to maintenance staff responsibilities. Make sure your budget is tight," advises Mitchell.

Harwood and Mitchell credit much of the success of Fort Woof to good planning. "We knew dogparks as a trend were coming, and we researched all the other places that had them. We had a policy in place for the implementation of a dogpark, so when the political pressure came, we were ready," Harwood says.

Planning for adequate park size, installation of an irrigation system to maintain grass, development of good policies and enforcement of park rules have been key to Fort Woof's success, says Mitchell. Many dogparks across the country are also supported by local





dogpark associations that can provide additional funding for the park, as well as maintenance and support. Many park departments have found that the associations can also make for important and influential political allies (see sidebar on page 36).

Costs for starting an off-leash area

can vary wildly depending on land availability and amenities. Broward County, Fla., has just opened its first county dogpark at a cost of \$460,000.

Comprised of 31 cities and 25 city park and recreation departments, Broward County serves 1.7 million people, and has 400,000 known regis-

tered dogs. Two communities within the county—Hollywood and Pembroke Pines—already have dogparks, making Broward County's park its third.

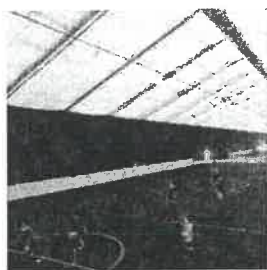
The three-acre dogpark is located inside existing Markham Park (nicknamed Bark'em Park by department employees) and includes fencing, with bay areas for large and small dogs, water fountains, shelters, an irrigation system for the full three acres, a wash-down areas for dogs, walking paths, wheelchair accessibility and parking.

Bob Harbin, park and recreation director for Broward County, says dogparks reinvigorate interest in parks for people who might not otherwise go. "It's a trend, and you see that across the entire country. A lot of people who have animals—this gives them time to socialize with their dogs and others who have dogs. The ones [currently] here in our county are very heavily used," he says.

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Fueling Harbin's optimism that the park will be a success is its location. The pyramid-shaped dogpark abuts the Everglades on one side, and expressways on the others, eliminating concerns of upsetting nearby neighbors or families with small children. "Everyone wants parks, but they don't want them next door," says Harbin. "What makes this park so nice is we don't have any residential issues around it."

While dogparks are most often citizen-driven, it's the not-in-my-backyard attitude that's ruffled fur in even the most established dog areas. Officially recognized by the city in 1988, Ohlone Dogpark in Berkeley, Calif., has recently been testing a muzzle of sorts. Neighbors, tired of what they say have been years of incessant barking, have been pressuring local officials to resolve the problem.

A six-month trial period of early

morning and evening "Quiet Hours" has been instituted, meaning dogs who bark during the designated quiet time must leave the park.

"What [the neighbors] really want to do is to shut down the park, but we're working like crazy to show that we do care. It's supposed to go to council for a vote in February, which would mean they could restrict the hours to the park. No quiet hours, but the park wouldn't be open later [any-more]," says Doris Richards, board member of the Ohlone Dogpark Association.

It's that type of community rancor and a regard for current park design that has pushed Tom Reilly, parks development administrator in Santa Clarita, Calif., to lay careful plans for the dogpark currently in design in his community.

"We felt we wanted a designated, from-scratch dog area, rather than

impose it on an existing park, patrons and neighbors. We didn't react quite as quickly as other cities in our area have, and that's the reason. Off-leash areas weren't in the plans of any existing park plans," says Reilly.

Hoping to have the dogpark open in 2006, Reilly estimates the 1.5-acre dogpark will cost approximately \$100,000, and is part of a \$30 million Sports Complex expansion.

"I'd absolutely say it's a trend that's swept through our area in the last five years," says Reilly. "There's a buzz about it, and an acceptance that [dog owners] are a segment of the population that agencies are interested in accommodating."

However, Santa Clarita has a sizable school age population, and relatively flat land is a coveted commodity there. "If we have two acres of flat land, it's tough not to put grass and soccer fields up. There's always a bal-

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## The Rise of the Off-Leash Citizen Advisory Council

For years, in Charlotte, N.C., dogs and their owners met at the park next to the Mint Museum to let their dogs play and catch up on neighborhood news. Stricter enforcement of leash laws led to the formation of a group called FiDO-Carolina (Fellowship in Dog Ownership). FiDO put together a proposal for an off-leash dogpark and began raising money to help build Charlotte's first dogpark. It took four years, but in 2002, the off-leash dogpark opened to the public (and to 500 dogs on the first day).

A second, larger park followed in the summer of 2003. At this point, residents in different areas of the county all wanted an off-leash area in their district. In order to help streamline the process, FiDO-Carolina and Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department Director Wayne Weston discussed the possibility of an advisory council to address the needs of the growing number of dog owners in the community.

This past summer, the Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation Commission approved the creation of an Off-Leash Dog Area Advisory Council (OLDAAC). This council of nine appointed citizens is chaired by one of the park commissioners.

The council serves as liaison to the Park and Recreation Commission between the park and recreation department and citizens of the county. The council consults with and advises both bodies in matters affecting promotion, marketing, partnerships, membership, programming, and other related aspects of the county's off-leash dog area program.

The council is also responsible for developing long-range planning for resources for capital projects for rehabilitation, design and/or development of off-leash dog areas in county parks.

With a third dogpark just opened in the county at the end of 2004, OLDAAC will begin monitoring usage statistics to determine appropriate placement for future off-leash dog areas. The park and recreation department has committed to building a total of nine off-leash areas, and will discuss off-leash areas as part of its master planning for all new parks.

—written by Christine Weber

To learn more about the Charlotte, N.C., dogparks, visit [www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com).

To learn more about FiDOCarolina, visit [www.fidocarolina.org](http://www.fidocarolina.org).

ancing act. Our Park and Recreation Commission helps us set our priorities with public input. Dogparks have steadily risen on the Commission's priority list so that it's now among the top three priorities," says Reilly.

For communities in less populated areas, available land is far less of an issue. Opened in 2001, Cheyenne Park in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was the first dogpark in the state, and remains the largest at a whopping 18 acres.

At a cost of approximately \$70,000, the park boasts a training yard, small dog yard and main dogpark area. While many off-leash parks nation-wide do not charge patrons for park usage or require permits, Cheyenne Park charges an annual fee of \$25 per dog, with discounts for spaying, neutering and proof-of-obedience training.

"Overall, this park has been a fantastic success," says Randy Carris, co-chairman of K9COLA (Citizens for Off-Leash Areas).

The group has sold nearly 700 permits, far exceeding its permit sale goal of 150 a year, and usage continues to grow. "People really, really enjoy this park. We have people from other states who have stopped through and are amazed. And we've had people tell us they've moved to Eastern Iowa, and the dogpark was the thing that made them settle in Cedar Rapids. So it can have an economic effect too," says Carris.

Meanwhile, nearby communities of Waterloo and Iowa City have struggled to find locations for their own dogparks. "Every time they get a site chosen, people complain. Until you get the first one open, it's like a land-fill. No one wants it in their backyard and it's not accurate. Dogs are having a great time, they're not barking. It's really been a positive thing, but until you do it, most [communities] are hesitant because they don't know how it will be perceived," says Carris.