

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2004

Attendance

PRAC members: Shawn Dachtler; Heather Guthrie; Dan Kromer; Beth Park; Martha Sumption; Dean Walch; Peter Winstead; Bill Woods

Staff: Scott Archer, Community Services Director; Jim Row, Recreation Manager

6:00 Special Work Session

1. The Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update was discussed. Scott Archer distributed an example scope of work to PRAC members for discussion and consideration. Consensus was that PRAC members would review the draft scope and provide their comments and input at the next regular meeting.
2. PRAC goals were discussed. Consensus was that PRAC's highest priorities, in order of importance, are as follows:
 1. Identify funding and develop Jon Storm Park, per master plan
 2. Identify funding and complete development of Wesley Lynn Park
 3. Land acquisition – South End and High School areas
 4. Begin new projects, per completed master plans e.g. Canemah, Chapin Parks
 5. Revisit public-private community center project concept

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Bill Woods, Chair
2. Minutes of the September 27, 2004 PRAC meeting were approved, with two typographical corrections noted.
3. Old Business
 - a. Scott Archer provided an update on the status of the Jon Storm Park Master Plan approval process. PRAC approved and recommended the preferred master plan at its regular September meeting. Archer and Kurt Lango met with the Planning Department on October 20 to submit the preferred master plan and review the approval process. This process, which has been initiated, involves Planning Department staff review, Planning Commission approval, and City Commission approval. Staff will keep the PRAC informed as the master plan moves through the approval process.
 - b. Heather Guthrie asked for an update on status of the Friends of the Carnegie group. Jim Row and Scott Archer reported that the group has been organized and is in the process of establishing and promoting themselves. There is a standing position on the PRAC for a representative from the Friends of the Carnegie group. This position is currently open.

- c. Shawn Dachtler asked how the expansion of the Tri-City sewage plant might affect the surrounding City owned property in the Cove area. Staff was unsure what the impacts may be at this time, and will keep the PRAC informed as information is available.

4. New Business

- a. Scott Archer reported that there have been a couple of recent instances where Chapin Park visitors whom had been asked by our park hosts to leash their dogs while using the park submitted complaints to the City. The basis of these complaints were that they had been allowed to run their dogs off-leash in the park in the past, and questioned why we were now enforcing park leash rules. Additionally, these citizens inquired about providing designated off-leash times or areas within parks if the leash rule will be enforced. Archer noted that these were isolated incidents, and the park hosts did not receive official direction from department management to enforce leash laws.

Archer reported that there is a standing park rule requiring dog owners to leash their pet/s while in City of Oregon City parks. However, this rule has been effectively non-enforced due to lack of complaints to do so, and not being a priority for our police dept. or code enforcement officers to respond to this type of call.

Archer inquired as to whether the PRAC members had any awareness of past problems with off-leash dogs in parks. Also, Archer asked the PRAC for input on whether there is a perceived need to address establishing either designated off-leash times within parks (as Portland Parks has recently implemented), or develop a permanent off-leash dog park site. PRAC members remarked that this has not been a major issue in the past. PRAC members and staff believe that taking this type of action is not currently a high priority. A dog park at some point in the future may be a consideration; addressing this need could be considered in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update process. Some PRAC members suggested additional leash rule signage in parks could help the situation for the time being.

PRAC also discussed the possibility of installing waste removal dispensers in parks – such as “Mutt Mitts” or similar products. Dog waste in parks is perceived to be an ongoing problem and this type of system may encourage dog owners to be more responsible for cleaning up after their pets in the parks. Archer reported that he had implemented placing these types of dispensers throughout the parks system in two other cities. He indicated that these were well received by the communities and received considerable use. Consensus of PRAC was to recommend that staff consider installing these dispensers in one or two of our most heavily used parks on a trial basis. Specifically, PRAC recommended installing these in Chapin Park and possibly Wesley Lynn Park after it opens.

- b. A committee needs to be appointed to assist with the playground equipment selection for Wesley Lynn Park. The playground is planned to be installed in the

spring; staff would like to select the equipment over the winter. Scott Archer suggested that the selection committee for this project include two representatives from PRAC. Heather Guthrie and Shawn Dachtler were selected. PRAC members also recommended the committee include a neighborhood representative. Staff will establish a selection process and contact committee members to set meeting time/s.

- c. Dean Walch indicated he does not intend to seek re-appointment to PRAC at the conclusion of his current term, which expires December 31, 2004. Heather Guthrie also indicated she may not seek re-appointment at the end of her current term, which expires December 31, 2004.

5. Directors report

- a. The monthly report and statistics were presented as written.
- b. Jim Row reported on the replacement of one of the Pioneer Center/Senior Services Vans. The majority of the approximately \$50,000 cost will be paid through the Ride Connection program. The 10% cost participation requirement to the City will be paid mostly through donations and fundraisers.
- c. Scott Archer and Jim Row provided updates on the following projects under construction:
 - 1. Clackamas River Trail – construction is essentially complete, pending “punch list” items. A grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned in the near future, staff will notify PRAC when scheduled.
 - 2. Wesley Lynn Park – significant progress has been made, the contractor will need to wrap up for the winter season soon; completion of project will occur in spring.
 - 3. Transient Dock – significant progress has been made on construction. Staff will need to develop operation policies for the Dock. Input from PRAC will be sought on these policies before implementing.
- 6. The November meeting date would need to be changed from its normal standing week, due to conflicting with the Thanksgiving holiday. Scott Archer will confirm rescheduled date with PRAC when finalized. PRAC requested Archer invite City Manager Larry Patterson to attend the next meeting to provide an update on BRTF recommendations and current status of City finance issues.
- 7. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm

Minutes submitted by,
Scott Archer, Community Services Director