

City of Oregon City

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2005

Attendance

PRAC members: Shawn Dachtler, Dan Kromer, Doug Neeley, Beth Park, Martha Sumption, Bill Woods, Lisa Wright-Wilson

Excused: Havan Jones, Peter Winstead

Staff: Scott Archer, Community Services Director; Jim Row, Recreation Manager; Larry Potter, Parks & Cemetery Operations Manager

Others/audience members: Trent Tidwell, John Williams, Ron Reese, Jerry Herman, Dean Walch, Bill Daniels

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Chair Shawn Dachtler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
2. Minutes of the April 25, 2005 regular meeting were approved, with two changes
3. Citizen comments:
 - a. Ron Reese expressed concerns related to sanitation issues at the O.C. Pool. His specific concern was related to enforcement and policies of pool users showering before entering the pool.
4. Certificate of appreciation from the McLoughlin Neighborhood Association to the Bloom family could not be presented as scheduled, as there were no representatives of the Bloom family on hand to receive the recognition.
5. The park naming sub-committee met since the last PRAC meeting – the committee reported that their recommendation for renaming Senior Citizens Park based on suggested names to this point, is McLoughlin Children's Park.

John Williams spoke to the park re-naming issue. He proposed the name Richard Bloom Memorial Park, based on Mr. Bloom's significant contributions to the community and the specific improvements to the park by B & B Leasing (Mr. Bloom's company before his passing away). Williams entered a petition in support of this name for the park with approximately 300 signatures.

Jerry Herman spoke about meetings held regarding other possibilities of recognizing Mr. Bloom and the Bloom family for their contributions to the community. He suggested there might be room for more than one possibility in this process.

Shawn Dachtler suggested the PRAC discuss the issue, but wait for the next regular meeting to make any formal recommendations on the name.

Bill Daniels said it was coincidental that two suggested name changes for the park came forward at the same time. The McLoughlin Neighborhood Association (M.N.A.) had volunteered to help in the process. Daniels provided a history of how the park and how this re-naming issue came forward as a proposal from the M.N.A.

Trent Tidwell said that he had proposed a compromise at the meetings (referenced by Jerry Herman) to incorporate both names into the park.

Dean Walch said the M.N.A. had not chosen a name recommendation initially, but they suggested just that the park needed to be re-named to something more appropriate. The name recommendation by M.N.A. came after they had decided to suggest a name change.

Shawn Dachtler suggested that since they had received all of the public comment from everyone who wished to contribute, PRAC should discuss the issue.

Scott Archer reminded the PRAC that the purpose of their decision making should be focused on making a formal recommendation by a majority vote to the City Commission on a specific name change. Archer also mentioned that Larry Potter had reminded him of a good point to consider. The language in the Parks Naming Policy which advises that duplication of name usage should be minimized to avoid confusion with other facilities. There are already several other City facilities with the McLoughlin name attached.

Bill Woods said that he also felt the use of the McLoughlin name was saturated. He suggested that the use of Mr. Bloom's name might be more appropriate on a larger facility, because of his substantial contributions to the community.

Doug Neeley spoke about the suggestion of McLoughlin Plaza, which could still occur, but be used for the larger area and include names in smaller segments, such as the Library Park, and whatever the name of Senior Citizens Park may be changed to. Neeley said that Mr. Bloom made a distinct contribution to this park site, which should be recognized, and to note that the park (Senior Citizens) serves more than just a neighborhood function.

Scott Archer noted that it is customary practice for the City to recognize a significant volunteer or donated project, such as the B & B restroom at Senior Citizens Park. Aside from the naming issue, Archer said the City will likely have a plaque permanently affixed to the building recognizing the contribution by B & B Leasing and the Bloom family.

Dan Kromer asked whether the consideration of Mr. Bloom's family had been taken into account regarding naming the park after him. How does the family feel about this?

Beth Park said that the sub-committee did discuss the overuse of the McLoughlin name in considering its recommendation. If the Plaza idea came forth, the Children's Park idea would be a component of the McLoughlin Plaza.

Lisa Wright-Wilson said she supports the Bloom name, within the McLoughlin Plaza idea.

Shawn Dachtler: Whatever comes forward, he hopes the City Commission will support it. He suggested all members be familiar with the City's Park Naming Policy to help

them in making their decision. Any other name ideas from PRAC members or others should be forwarded to he or Scott Archer so that all of the proposed names could be considered at the next meeting (July).

6. Archer updated the Committee on the Carnegie Center operations issue. A summary sheet of the revised proposal between the City and Fine Art Starts for the operations of the Carnegie Center as a public arts and community center was presented. Staff has received direction from the City Commission at this point to proceed with negotiation of a formal/legal agreement. Archer reported that if terms can be reached in the formal agreement between the two parties, it should be presented to the Commission for approval by last meeting in July or in August. The City will operate the Carnegie Center on an abbreviated schedule through the end of July. The Center will then be closed to allow for the transition of Fine Art Starts occupying the building and preparing for their operations. If the agreement is approved, the City would anticipate Fine Art Starts opening the doors under their direction by early to mid-September.

PRAC members asked several questions of staff about specifics of the proposed agreement. After significant discussion on the subject it was *motioned and seconded* that *PRAC support the summary of negotiations as presented, and support moving forward in the negotiation of the agreement with Fine Art Starts*. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Archer shared a proclamation to be read by Mayor Norris at the next City Commission meeting, which designates Oregon City's participation in "July is National Recreation and Parks Month". The NRPA has designated to month of July as Recreation and Parks month every year since 1985. The City of Oregon City is an organizational member of the NRPA.

It was motioned and seconded that PRAC supports the proclamation that July is National Recreation and Parks Month. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. Director's Report

- a. Monthly report and statistics as presented
- b. Project updates were given on Jon Storm Park restroom and Wesley Lynn Park. Shawn Dachtler commented that choice of materials used in contracts be looked at closely. Example given was picnic tables and benches in Wesley Lynn Park. PRAC may want to give input in regard to this on future projects. Larry Potter commented that materials in this case were based on maintenance ability, cost, and ease of replacement if damaged.
- c. Jim Row gave an update on summer recreation season.
- d. Status of current/pending grant applications was given. It is likely the City will not receive the Recreation Trails Program grant for the Willamette River Trail (Clackamette to Jon Storm Park segment). However, if funding is received from another pending grant for the completion of Jon Storm Park, this will free up funds from current SDC's budget to complete the trail project at the same time the park is completed. Doing both projects together as one will also give the City cost savings in the engineering/design work and construction bidding. PRAC expressed support for this idea.
- e. Staff priority for seeking grants in next available funding cycles after the current cycle are:

1. Wesley Lynn Park phase 2
2. Canemah Neighborhood Park

9. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by,
Scott Archer, Community Services Director