

**Philomath Park Advisory Board**  
**MINUTES**  
March 3, 2015  
At City Hall, 980 Applegate Street, Philomath

The Park Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm by Chair Ben Folgate.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Dale Collins, Ben Folgate, Justice Heern, Sonlla Heern, Patrick McDonald, Malcolm Miner and Lindy Young

Staff Present: Public Works Director Kevin Fear, Public Works Staff Gary Black and Lige Wheedman, GIS Analyst D'Anne Hammond

Others Present: Al Shay, OSU Horticulture Instructor

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2.1 Dale Collins moved/ Malcom Miner second, to approve the minutes of February 3, 2015, as presented. Vote: 7-0.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

3.1 Introductions

Everyone provided brief introductions.

3.2 Update to Newton Creek Path Lighting

Discussions ensued about possibilities for lighting the path along Newton Creek. Mr Fear went over several options with advantages and disadvantages. The option that he recommended was to use recessed solar lighting. There was a concern that enough light might not reach the charging panel. Mr Fear indicated that problem could be worked around.

Mr Folgate mentioned that a specific area that needs some light is where the path crosses James St. This was recognized as an area where there is a hazard to pedestrians from auto traffic.

Mr Black indicated that the Parks Board could bring specific proposal to the Public Works meeting in May so they can take the issue up and pass it along to the City Council.

3.3 Al Shay, OSU Horticulture Dept. Presentation to discuss development of a long-term vegetative master plan for the parks

The Board introduced their idea about removing the trees along Newton Creek in City Park to improve aesthetics. Public Works personnel mentioned that it takes quite a bit of time and work to trim and cut back the willows in the stream so they don't create a serious impediment to flow.

Mr Shay talked about some of the work that he has been involved with concerning the restoration plantings along Oak Creek in Corvallis. He also agreed with the Board that native vegetation should be considered first, given our rural setting. Mr Shay talked of many ways to keep habitat for wildlife by ringing or topping a tree (girdling), planting vegetation for pollinators and in general developing a sustainable vision for a park in general. Mr Black mentioned that work on the creek could be done in sections so as to mitigate the environmental impact and public concern.

There was general agreement that the actions of the Parks Board and subsequent work should be well communicated to the general public. This could be as simple as signage at the specific park to show what and why work is being done.

Mr Shay urged the Board to not be in a rush on actions because if bad decisions are made then they will only have to be dealt with later.

There was general discussion on how the community could get involved with these types of projects like tree planting and invasive vegetation removal.

Public Works indicated that they would like to see the priority work focus on City Park. A decision was made to have Mr Shay accompany the Parks Board during their next meeting at City Park. Mr Shay indicated he could begin the process of creating a portfolio of photos and ideas of what was discussed.

There was also general discussion about the need to consider maintenance cycles for our parks. Public Works personnel indicated that maintenance on vegetation goes up during the growing season and could involve up to 30% of manpower at Public Works.

### 3.4 Begin to develop list of action items to begin moving forward with chosen projects

#### Newton Creek Lighting

-The Board asked for specific information about the length of the path that would need lighting. Ms Hammond said she would provide that information to Mr McDonald so he may pass that along to the rest of the Parks Board members.

#### City Park

-It was decided to have Al Shay, OSU Horticulturist Professor and a representative of the Public Works Dept to accompany the Parks Board for a tour of City Park at our April meeting.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR:** Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at 5:00 p.m.

Special Location: City Park Shelter

### 3. ADJOURNMENT

Mr Collins moved to close, Mr McDonald second, meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Patrick McDonald, Secretary