

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

The Park Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 5:03 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: City Manager Chris Workman

Others Present: None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 Dale Collins moved/ Lindy Young second, to approve the minutes of January 6, 2015, as presented. Vote: 7-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Review individual member project ideas

Each member had a turn to talk about their project ideas. The purpose of which was to create a list from which we could prioritize. Each member was encouraged to come with as many ideas as they desired.

All members had input and there were some project ideas that were on multiple member lists. A total of 16 unique project ideas were mentioned as follows;

1. Vista park – It was noted that we should have a park that provided a vista view of the City. Several members noted that Reservoir Park provides a nice view that looks west over the City.
2. Clean up Newton Creek at City Park – This would involve making the creek more aesthetically appealing and could involve shrub/tree removal and replanting. Several members stressed that the Parks Board should look to use only native vegetation for any park replanting.
3. Volleyball courts – These would most likely be an addition to a community park and most likely City Park.
4. Relocate the Little League Field to the east side of Newton Creek at City Park – It was stated that this might alleviate some of the field drainage issues. It was noted by Mr Workman that this field was created through funding from Little League.
5. Lighting along Hunsaker Path – It was noted by several members that it is really dark along that path and that it's used by both bikes and pedestrians at night. Mr Workman noted that the Board could explore several options from glo-style paint to the installation of lamp posts.
6. Fix horse-shoe pits at City Park

7. N. 11th Street Neighborhood Park – This would be a new park addition
8. Mini-Park – This would preferably be north of the highway to address needs mentioned in the Park Master Plan.
9. Fence at Pioneer – This would extend the fence to encourage pedestrians to use the proper crossing at the railroad.
10. Increase Trails – This was mentioned as a general idea with some specific project ideas. The idea behind this is to increase connectivity to existing and future parks.

The completion of a trail system that runs along the top of Neabeack Hill that would ultimately connect the trail that runs along Philomath Blvd to Reservoir Park and perhaps a tie into a future trail that could run through the Lowther Property.

Because Pioneer street is not a thruway between N 13th and N 15th Streets, it was mentioned it would be good to have a trail system that runs parallel to Pioneer or College St. This trail would be able to connect the current parks there to a new neighborhood park at N 11th and to increase access to Benton County Museum.

It was also mentioned that it would be good to hear about the development of the trails around the Clemens Log Ponds as we consider trail placement and construction.

11. School to Library bike trail – This would perhaps go behind the elementary School, but it was noted that present wetlands might be a concern with the development of this route.
12. High School Connector bike trail – This would be an extension of the bike path along the west side of the school. Its purpose would be to provide connectivity for bikers and pedestrians between schools, parks and sports fields to surrounding neighborhoods. Specifically it would redirect bike and pedestrian traffic from going through the parking lot to go through designated pathways.
13. Increase picnic tables – These would be added as needed and perhaps placed in strategic places or in “pocket parks’ for people to be able to stop and snack or eat lunch while walking around town.
14. Increase Benches/Places to Rest – Mr Miner mentioned that he would like to see more of these places and thought it would benefit all citizens and would like to see such rest places roughly every 100 YDS.
15. Dog Park – currently Philomath doesn’t have a designated dog park.
16. Upgrade disc park course at Mary’s River Park

During these discussions, Mr Miner asked if there was a way for citizens to donate land to the City. Mr Workman said there is a policy in place for this process and also for the recognition of donation.

3.2 Choose and rank 10 project ideas from group list

Mr Folgate led the discussion to prioritize from the newly created list in Agenda item 3.1. He suggested we create a list of ideas that we can work on within the next year. The following items were chosen;

1. Lights along Hunsaker Bike Path that runs through Newton Creek Park
2. Fence extension at Pioneer Park
3. City Park
 - a. Newton Creek cleanup
 - b. Horseshoe pits
 - c. Little league field relocation?
 - d. Volleyball courts
4. Planning 11th Street Neighborhood Park

Mr Workman mentioned that he has scheduled funds for the planning of N 11th St. This involves modelling out costs for potentially different designs. This would allow the City to be ready next year for a grant application to acquire additional funds for that park project.

Mr Workman also mentioned that there is transportation money for a trail system enhancement/repair at City Park and that there could be some funds that could go towards the enhancement (lighting) at Hunsaker Bike Path.

Members also discussed some longer term planning that would involve more discussion and are longer term goals. These included;

1. Vegetative Plan – perhaps added into the current Parks Master Plan
2. Trails
3. Future Trail Location – Use the Parks Master Plan as a reference to survey properties that could be critical for trail development
4. Dog Park – either stand alone or at Mary's River Park

During the talk about a creating a Vegetative Plan several members had input. Mr Miner mentioned that it could really be beneficial to get Oregon State University involved. Mr Workman mentioned that the City does consult with an arborist on vegetative issues.

They decided it would be good to hear from this arborist and Mr Workman noted he would look into the possibility for the arborist to come speak to the Parks Board.

Mr Workman noted that the Board should continue to reference chapter 7 of the Parks Master Plan in determining our Priority 1, 2 and 3 Capital Projects. Once these priorities are firmed up then the Board can begin to look for sources of funding.

3.3 Attach Action Items to top project ideas with progress goals and dates

See the time-lines as mentioned in agenda item 3.2

3.4 Set date/time for member tour of current parks

Mr Miner had brought up the idea of a tour of the current park system during the last meeting and we decided to discuss it further. It was decided that the tour should take place during our regularly scheduled Board Meeting and we tentatively scheduled the tour to take place on April 7th, 2015.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR: Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 5:00 p.m.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mr Folgate moved to close, Mr Miner second, meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Patrick McDonald, Secretary