

Philomath Park Advisory Board
MINUTES
December 2, 2014
At City Hall, 980 Applegate Street, Philomath

The Park Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 5:04pm by Chair Ben Folgate.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Dale Collins, Ben Folgate, Patrick McDonald, Malcolm Miner

Staff Present: City Manager Chris Workman

Others Present: Sonya Heern and Justice Heern

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 Dale Collins moved/ Malcolm Miner second, to approve the minutes of November 4, 2014, as presented. Vote: 4-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Review of the 2012 Park Master Plan

There was quick introductions of Sonya and Justice and Mr. Workman mentioned that the Mayor had approved their appointments to the Parks Advisory Board. He also mentioned her work with the Safe Routes to Schools and that she will be an asset to this Board.

Mr. Collins had two specific ideas that he felt the Parks Advisory Board (PAB) should move on as its first business;

- 1) Installation of culverts at Philomath City Park (Newton Creek) that would greatly expand the use of the park.
- 2) Funding through a levy that encompasses the Fire District for a Community Center/Senior Center.

Mr. Collins said that there was a history of trying to get funding for such a center in the early 1980's, but interest rates were too high. There might be the possibility that the Clemens School building would open up since enrollment has been depressed.

Mr. Miner spoke about the importance of approach to projects that we consider. He felt we need to pay particular attention to the sequence of priorities and to results that will take time. He felt it was important to get long-term things in place such as land acquisitions and plantings that will take time to mature and fill in.

Mr. Collins mentioned that the city has done a good deal to improve the drainage at City Park. Mr. Miner talked about how important it is to think about drainage in future plans given where we live and our seasonal flooding issues and that rain shelters could really be a good fit in almost all future parks. There was mention at that point about Mary's River Park and just how high the water gets during the winter.

Mr. Miner talked about how we might want to look into getting some help from Oregon State University. Specifically, he mentioned that we might be able to get assistance from their landscape architecture department (or horticultural department). Mr. Workman said that we would have to come up with something very specific and that something might be able to be rolled into a course curriculum, but that it would take a many month lead time.

Mr. Collins asked if there was funding to have drawings made for future parks (architecture type drawings) – something we could contract with a private firm. Mr. Workman said there currently isn't funding for that. Mr. Collins then mentioned that it would be good have the City set aside money from the budget for parks or even have a line item. Mr. Workman suggested we really need to bring some specific ideas to the table first, before we start asking for money to pay for something abstract.

The discussion moved back to the idea of involving Oregon State University. Mr. Folgate mentioned that students majoring in Civil Engineering have to do a senior project and that there is a good possibility that something we might want done could be incorporated into that process.

Mr. Collins had to leave the meeting at 5:34 for a prior engagement.

Mr. Folgate said that his first goal for the PAB would be to get the 11th Street Park completed. This priority was due to the lack of parks north of Highway 20 as outlined in the Park Master Plan. Mr. Workman discussed how the City had applied for a \$130k grant to develop the 11th Street Park. The City competed statewide for the money and lost out to other municipalities.

A discussion ensued about some general park ideas.

Mr. Workman talked about natural playscapes and how they are generally less money for structures, but a bit more for landscaping depending on the site.

Mr. Folgate pointed out that it would be nice if Philomath had a dog park. It was recognized that there is an off-leash area at Mary's River Park, but it was agreed by several members that having a dedicated dog park would be ideal. Mr. Workman mentioned that something like that wouldn't need to be fancy to be effective. He gave the example of a dog park in Eugene that utilized construction grade fencing that was used to enclose an off-leash area for dogs. A discussion ensued about bathrooms at parks and how they are subject to continual maintenance costs because they are always subject to vandalism.

Mr. Workman described a bit about the process when a new housing development goes in and how there is a set amount of land that is donated based on the number of houses that will be built. Developers set aside the land and will generally do some work to the land in anticipation of a park development. There is a System Development Charge that is collected for each house and this revenue is used in part for park development.

There was discussion about the history of the Lowther property that is just outside the city limits and how in the mid-2000's there was a measure on the local ballot to annex that land into the City limits. It was turned down by the voters. This discussion was in part due to the question about the future park locations that were designated on the Parks Management Plan document.

3.2 Begin list of potential park and trail capital projects

Mr. Workman discussed how the next meeting we will begin to go over potential park and trail capital projects in more detail.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR: Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 5:00 p.m.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Patrick McDonald, Secretary