

# STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

for

## North Clackamas Park

July 25, 2007

### Milwaukie Center

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## MEETING SUMMARY

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### PRESENT

**Representatives** Eric Shawn (chair), John Denny, Eleanor Johnson, Sally Shook, Tony Clark, Lisa Gibson, Fr. Matthew Tate

**Alternates** Rick Frank, Susan Shawn

**Guests** Dick Shook, Liz Lawson-Weber, Rosemary Crites, Jeff Giles, Agnes Obritschkewitsch, Denny Norton, John Erich, Don Martin, Jim Ballou, Sandy Fox, George Hudson, Mike Rose, Robin Wilcox

**Staff** Gary Barth, Michelle Healy, Kristen Cacka, Kevin Cayson

### ABSENT

**Representatives** JoAnn Herrigel

**Alternates** Holly Denman, Steve Berliner, Jim Schuld, Kathi Schroeder, Beth Ragel, Dave Somann

### Introductions and Minutes

Eric Shawn opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. He then asked the committee to review the June meeting minutes. Susan Shawn made a motion to approve the minutes. Sally Shook seconded the motion.

After approval of the minutes, Eric reviewed the operating agreements. These included mission, vision, goals, consensus measurement process and discussion process. Eric noted that the order of discussion is to go around the room and allow the members of the Stewardship Committee to speak in turn, then guests would be given the opportunity to speak.

*Action: The June minutes were approved as read.*

### North Side Planning

Michelle introduced the consultants from Alta Planning + Design, Mike Rose, George Hudson and Robin Wilcox. Mike Rose presented an overview of the three preliminary concepts, asking for as much feedback as possible to finalize these ideas to take to the next public meeting. He noted that so far we've received strong ideas for what should happen, and not a lot of conflict. The strongest ideas were to keep it natural, have walking trails and passive recreation areas as opposed to the active recreation on the

south side. Most people didn't want a lot of change, just improvements to what's there. Parking was a big issue, as well as key features such as storage for the Milwaukie center, a maintenance facility for storage and washing and a place for the caretaker that will likely be in the park during the summer.

***Concept A: minimal impact, keep it natural***

One of the key features of concept A is the off-leash area. There has been lots of debate about how and where this should be done. We did some research on what makes a good dog park and the existing dog park is right on average size at 1.1 acres. We also researched how dog parks should work, and found that entrances should not be in corners, we need a hard surface by water to avoid mess, and that the entrance to the dog park should be a plaza with water pond, benches for owners, etc. All concepts take this into account.

Here in concept A the walking trail goes all the way around and connects to the current trail and the dog park moves to the east. This trail can be wood chip, wood planar shavings that compact well into a nice walking surface, or gravel such as at Tryon Creek Park.

We also examined the pond to the north. One idea was to restore it with access to the creek, possibly as a refuge for salmon. Unfortunately, the pond is so much higher in elevation than the creek, this is just not feasible. At this point it is best suited to being left natural.

As you can see in the concept plan, parking has been removed from the north side, with parking around the Milwaukie Center reconfigured to allow more spaces. We have enhancement of the wetland area right beyond the "Wetland Window" sculpture, and exercise stations are scattered throughout the park.

***Discussion:***

- Eleanor-how do you meet ADA requirements?
- Mike-the trail compacts really tight to allow wheelchair access, particularly if using a specific type of gravel that we've used with success in the past
- Eleanor-if people are coming to use the park, where are they going to park? There's not enough parking
- Mike-this is only one concept, but we'll take that into consideration as we refine the preliminary concepts

***Concept B: maximum use***

Parking is added to double the size of current parking. Added parking is paved, with a driving loop. There is an improved crossing with a bridge to the additional parking. The caretaker is located off of the parking area, along with restrooms and the maintenance facility. There are also more picnic tables and structures near the play area.

This concept moves the dog park to the northeast corner, leaving more open space for recreation. There is a bridge from the Milwaukie Center across into the dog park area.

The loop trail doesn't go beyond the dog park, however, but stays to the west of the off-leash area. There is wetland enhancement on the northern border by the creek, with exercise stations all clustered in one spot along the trail. Fencing delineates the buffer area. There are some areas where there is a break through the buffer, but there are structures in place to keep the area protected, such as a boardwalk with viewing

platform that allows people to look without disturbing the natural areas. There is also an additional play area with large boulders for kids to play on or some other type of natural play structure.

*Discussion:*

- Guest-what about trees in the dog area?
- Mike-the existing trees stay in the dog area
- JoAnn-how do dog owners get to the dog park?
- Mike-they can park in the second parking lot and cross the soft-surface path to get into the dog park
- Tony-how big is the dog area?
- Robin-although they are different shapes, all concepts have roughly the same size dog park, matching the current size of 1.1 acres
- Mike-research shows the shape of the dog park doesn't matter, dogs tend to run around the perimeter regardless of the shape

**Concept C: hybrid of A and B**

In concept C, there is a new parking area, but reconfigured and smaller than in concept B. There is a trail all the way around the perimeter, with the horseshoes moved to the northeast corner. Additionally, the large picnic shelter has been moved, but is still close to the parking area. Smaller picnic shelters are spread throughout park.

There is a new maintenance crossing over Camas Creek near Mt. Scott Creek but outside the 50-foot buffer. Maintenance needs a link across the creek, so the new bridge is put in farther east and the existing culverts removed. Once again, the wetlands are enhanced in front of the "Wetland Window."

In this concept, exercise areas are spread out in small clusters of 3 in 4 each location. Restrooms are in basically the same area but with new buildings. The mature tree canopy is nice now, but we need a plan to allow the park to maintain tree canopy in the future by planting some new trees for succession.

The educational overlooks remain in the northwest corner. The area beyond the creeks and the pond area are staying natural with no interference. Coyotes, quail and other wildlife have been sighted in the park by the caretaker, and we want to leave an area for them to live. Environmental consultant John Van Staveren of Pacific Habitat Services said the pond would be a great environment to reintroduce native turtle habitat. However, we don't want people poking around capturing these turtles so we would not be placing a viewing platform there. Too much education and viewing would perhaps encourage destruction of the turtle habitat. This concept also includes a native plant garden just north of the Milwaukie Center, restoration of the meadow and creek itself and restoring native grasses and wildflowers.

*Discussion:*

- Eleanor-what happens to the bone yard?
- Mike-restoration planting, picnic shelter, or dog park depending on concept
- Dick-what about access to park for people from ball fields parking?
- Mike-on concept A there is a path drawn just west of the Milwaukie Center parking lot to connect to the other side of the park
- John Denny-what about bus parking?

- Mike - the caretaker said incidents of vandalism and theft have gone down significantly since there has been increased park use due to ball fields
- Eleanor-are we keeping the caretaker?
- Michelle-we need a presence at least in summer to monitor what's going on with all the events
- Mike-we did some research, and the caretaker needs to remain in current location to monitor comings and goings, moving it to another location restricts visibility
- Tony-can the concepts be on the website?
- George-Alta will put them up on their site
- Michelle-the next public meeting is August 22 from 6-8 pm, please attend
- Gary-parking is a net increase on all?
- Mike-concept A is about the same but less invasive, B doubles parking, C is about the same amount of parking

*George then asked that participants walk around to view the concepts and then come back with further comments. About 15 minutes were taken for viewing time.*

- George-can we get some general feedback, likes and dislikes?
- Tony-with the dog run in the northeast corner there is not enough drainage, ground would have to be prepared
- George-on our maps it is out of the flood plain, we thought it would be dry enough, but we'll note that
- Dick-as to the exercise stations, would they get used? thought they fell out of popularity
- George-take a look at the booklet we are passing around- there are different kinds of stations, more modern, and when placed strategically near the senior center, they should get use
- John-we must make sure we maintain them so they last
- Susan-people that I talked to from the walking program were thrilled with the idea of exercise stations
- Michelle-at the Friends of the Milwaukie Center meeting, they liked the idea and suggested including programming at the Milwaukie Center to use them in walking programs
- Dick-clusters make sense then, so if there's a group doing the walk several people can be using the exercise stations at once
- John-install durable footing that's going to last
- George-we'll get into that level of detail later
- Tony-compromise on parking seems good in C
- George-formalized parking tends to make more parking because people park in an orderly fashion instead of all over
- Lisa-I think they need more parking-I like the existing parking reconfigured to add more spaces, plus the plan B additional paved parking
- Rosemary-we don't need more parking, I don't see that there's a problem
- Lisa-Eleanor, has there been a problem?
- Eleanor-last Thursday is a good example, there was a two-day tournament and no parking anywhere; another day there were ballgames, two weddings, plus Milwaukie Center events, and again there was no parking
- Rosemary-this is not supposed to be a commercial venture
- Eleanor-then how are we supposed to keep the Center and its programs going?
- Rosemary-well maybe you shouldn't be doing all this, or send out grants

- Eleanor-honey, we send out grants all the time, you have no idea
- John-put up reserved signage to say that this parking is only for the Milwaukie Center, and note overflow parking at church on signage because no one knows
- George-we can also have leagues note on the website where to park and set a policy on RV's parking in here; I would caution you that this is a park first and foremost, one of our guidelines was to keep this as natural as possible; we don't want to design for peak demand because most of the time you'll have too much asphalt out there
- Rick- people will get creative on where to park, so make sure buffers are protected if parking is not increased
- Mike-enhancing the wetland area by sculpture would remove decaying bridge
- Michelle-(to consultants) do we need more information? What about the dog park?
- Dick-I would go with A and move it down as close to the maintenance area as possible
- Sally-what does meadow mean, will it be different than the mowed grass we have now?
- George-that's up for discussion, but we can do wildlife plantings there
- Sally-I would maybe be concerned with fire with dry grasses, but if we irrigate that would solve the problem; I think a meadow would maybe eliminate some of the maintenance noise
- Guest-during ball games, people practice in open area of mowed grass behind ball fields, so that means the only area we have for open recreation is on the north side, we need to keep that space available
- Kevin-can you define what meadow means? Grass height?
- George-grass height of native grasses would be about 18"
- Kevin-so you're not going to throw a Frisbee out there?
- George-no, probably mow once or twice a year
- Kevin-if you look at what we have now, you can't keep the weeds out of the wild areas
- George-so there are maintenance concerns with a meadow, okay
- Susan-area is narrow, not really good for playing games, so we might as well have a meadow
- Michelle-we need to move on to our next topic, but please call or email so I can keep track of all comments and continue this discussion, the plans will be up on Alta's website

### **Ball Field Hours**

Eric introduced the topic, stating that the conversation started in June but was tabled until this meeting. Probably what's on everyone's minds is the game that went on into the night, past the 10 o'clock closing. Why don't we have Committee members go around and give their comments and then open it up for everyone. The only thing I can say is that turning off the lights at a certain time is a condition of approval from the City of Milwaukie. The decision to operate past 10 was in direct violation, but maybe the people who made that decision weren't aware.

#### *Discussion:*

- Michelle-I was surprised to hear about this issue. Maintenance should not be going on in the evenings, as well as with the lights. People weren't aware of the situation when they continued the games. As far as maintenance noise goes, you'll be happy to hear that Kevin has purchased new quieter blowers. They still are not

supposed to be using them before 7 am. We have all been learning with this new experience, and I really want to encourage this group to work through this issue, even if we need to meet more often to resolve it. Games are already scheduled this year, but this is a learning process, so today I want to hear some more discussion. I want to hear what everyone has to say, and I want to apologize about the night noise. I would personally be very upset as well - that's unacceptable.

- Dick-we just have to keep Mantay out of it
- Susan-don't worry, we're going to let Jon Mantay know that he violated the condition of approval!
- Sandy-giant grain of salt, but something was going on yesterday around 6:30 am, on Monday, I'll videotape it if you want, I'm up at a quarter to five so I hear everything, it's the same type of noise I hear every morning
- Kevin-it's not our guys, might be the management company, but shouldn't be, we've been over it and over it
- Guest-who decided 7? that's too early anyway
- Lisa-it's the same in the City of Milwaukie and Portland
- Kevin-please videotape it if you can so I know what's going on - there shouldn't be maintenance going on that early
- Eric-Let's have the Committee members go around and give their comments now
- Susan-Kids at games are not a bother to me, but I do get a lot of emails from those around the park, and this has been a major upheaval. It probably has people more upset than anything so far, and I really hope we can come to some kind of agreement or contract so next year we all understand what the agreement is and people around here are all okay with it. I don't think games should start before 10am - on a Sunday 8 is plenty early, which is when maintenance would start.
- Tony-no comment
- Father Matthew-I think when you look at the property given for the park, the family made a stipulation that nothing be done that is not okay with neighbors. That promise was broken and we're feeling the effects. I'm really disappointed that the county, city and all these levels allowed this. It's like moving a Wal-Mart in and it just doesn't make sense. This doesn't belong here. It disturbs our services on Sunday, especially when there's organized cheerleading with that pumping sound. If I lived here I guess I'd be looking to sell, but I don't think that people should be put in that position. I stand on the porch sometimes when games are going on with the lights. Traffic seems okay, but noise is horrendous. Sitting in the office at the church at 9pm on Saturday nights, a cacophony of sound is bombarding me. I am hugely disappointed. Any mitigating that can be done for impact on the neighbors should be done. Something serious has been taken away from us now.
- Lisa-no comment right now
- Sally-I think Father Tate put it in a nutshell how the neighborhood feels, and on the late night thing. And there's the sign saying "promises made, promised kept." Well they made promises to us too and they weren't kept. I was talking to Lynn Peterson last night, and told her that we had brand new double-pane windows put in for sound reduction. She said that when light rail was put in this was offered to close neighbors for mitigating. Maybe we could do something like that.
- Rick-we have games nationwide in every city, every state, it's a part of life, Father Tate has a bell that rings every Sunday, and...
- Sandy-that bell rings for only a short time, we listen to the ball games 15 hours a day, 30 hours a week, see how you like it
- Father Tate-it's not that we're anti-kid, it's the level of noise, the level of enthusiasm and everything is too much

- Rick-People live by airports, it's part of living in a community. Buy a house next to a park and you don't expect the park to be used? That's...
- Sandy-the ball fields weren't here when we moved in
- Rick-I bought a house up by Safeway before it moved in, can I say the Safeway can't be allowed to move there? We have games in other parks where there are houses a lot closer to the park... (people all talking at once) Never mind, I have better things to do.

[Rick walked out]

[Sandy walked out]

- John-along the lines of what Rick says, I was once living in a dorm next to train tracks. At first you notice and then you get used to it. You guys seem to notice it all the time. I feel for Father Tate with church services being interrupted, that's not right. As for lights, they need to be on a timer so when times' up they go off. It really upset me when I heard that happened, but youth groups were upset before when ball fields weren't put in when it was promised.
- Michelle-from what I understood they were on a timer
- Tony-I didn't have a comment before, but I do now. I think the focus just has to be on mitigating what's there. We can't make it go away, so we just need to make it less disruptive.
- Neighbor-there is enough parking in the park, they just need less ball field stuff. They don't need to schedule from 7am to 10 pm, they don't need to run this so much. I don't remember anyone saying this would be a state tournament ball field, but now it goes on all day.
- John-Most of these are county tournaments. There are occasional state tournaments though. What they do in some areas is stretch the tournaments out over more days, maybe that's what we should do here then keep it between certain times each day.
- Neighbor-it's the screaming that bothers me, it's the girls
- Neighbor-I was here on Sunday, and there was one game and the noise from the parents and grandparents was unbelievable, if it was just kids you probably wouldn't hear anything. I don't think it's the kids.
- Rosemary-John I think this is something needing to be discussed. I resent Carlotta saying we don't like children having fun. What I hate is the friggin' screaming. My family home has been here for 60 years. The ball parks encroached on my environment and I resent it. This is a commercial venture. The purpose of zoning is to separate commercial and residential to protect people, and we're not protected here. The zoning requirements have been crucified.
- John-Yes, parents are out there trying to live their lives through the kids, and they're excited. How do we stop them from yelling?
- Rosemary-Since you're the head of this, it's about teaching people manners and decorum, respect. I'm not against sports and not against kids, but people who come and use this get to go home to a quiet area. We can't leave.
- John-If it's any consolation, after this weekend it's going to be much quieter - July is the worst.
- Sally-is there any way Parks, or this group, can reconsider having this number of games? Could we schedule less games?
- John-When we talked about this originally I said I hoped they'd leave some weekends open, and I think the Parks District has booked them up more heavily than I would have.
- Rosemary-Who's doing that, is that Joe Loomis? Who's his boss?
- Michelle-Dan is his boss.

- Kevin-Dan said last time that we'd look at scheduling fewer games next year
- Michelle-We need to find some mitigating strategies for this year
- Matthew-I don't see why we can't come up with a strategy here, signage, etc
- Michelle-maybe we also need to do some learning about how games and tournaments are structured
- John-There are 8 different softball leagues, we try to give them each a weekend to host
  - Matthew-is the parks district trying to use the ball fields to the max?
  - Michelle-no, everyone's just excited because it's new
  - Kevin-these fields were so long in coming, people are just really excited to use them, and all the teams want to be here
  - Susan-I appreciate and understand that, but the people that planned it forgot to factor in one thing - they did not factor in the impact on the neighborhood
  - Kevin-I know you're going to get tired of hearing this, but this is the first year, it's new
  - John-What we were worried about with the amplified sound is turning out not to be the problem, so it's new for all of us, we didn't know what the impact would be
    - Neighbor-we need to start later, end earlier, have less games or something, noise from 7am til 10pm is too much
    - Dick-I talked with Jon Mantay the other day when he was up by our house, and suggested that a schedule be put on the website so we know if there's a big tournament coming up and we can go away to the beach or something
    - Lisa-I remember when we had football games over at Clackamas High School and it wasn't unbearable, and I wonder if we could put up sound reflectors or boards that can be put on bleachers to manage the sound. There are sound experts. You're not going to stop the parents from cheering for their kids when they get excited, so try to find something that muffles the sound.
    - Michelle-we should do some research and find out what other areas have done to mitigate
    - Neighbor-We live up on Capistrano, and we're not impacted by sound. It seems that the county has control over games scheduling, so things don't need to stay the way they were this summer.
    - Eric-I would like to follow up on Michelle's idea of meeting more frequently, I'd like to suggest instead keeping this a standing topic every month on the agenda
    - Tony-seems like you'd use up your 2 hours fairly quickly
    - John-I like to hear about what's going on here as well
    - Michelle-With the standing topic, that's good, but I think there's a lot of momentum on this, and we need to get people together sooner otherwise we wait another month. What we've done with other things is get this group together and go to the DAB, but we are going to have to meet more frequently or organize a subcommittee
    - Matthew-I don't want more meetings. It's not rocket science, and it shouldn't be hard to come up with a solution. Michelle, hook us up with the right people at the County. We are the spokespeople for a really angry neighborhood and the County needs to hear that. I think it would be important for the decision-makers to meet with us. We should have a proposal, but they need to see our faces and hear what we have to say.
    - Michelle-I'll go back with this today and find out what the next steps should be for us
    - Eric-I tend to think that working as a small group is more effective, it's quite difficult to get the whole group together for a lot of meetings

- Tony-think we should have that meeting with a small group and with the decision makers on the day of a tournament so everyone can hear what “really loud” means
- Rosemary-You’re not going to get the Parks District here on the weekend
- Tony-why not? They’re here now after business hours
- Matthew-we would really like to know whom we need to talk with
- Neighbor-I want to say how rewarded I am by hearing how serious you are taking this issue, but also make sure you take a group up on the hill to hear noise
- Eric-would everyone be comfortable with Michelle finding out who we need to talk to and scheduling a meeting?
- Michelle-I’d like to go back and talk to Dan, I know he’s interested in it and really wants to be part of the discussion
- Eric-are we at a place where we feel comfortable stopping the meeting? I suggest we adjourn

*Action: It was agreed that this discussion will be tabled until the next meeting.*

### **Ombuds Activity & Reports**

Updates on horse arena renovation and the photo shoot.

#### **Horse arena renovation**

*Discussion:*

- Michelle-the horse arena proposal is being sent to the City of Milwaukie, as it was accepted as proposed by horse stakeholders
- Kevin-we’re waiting on paperwork to get an okay to start the construction

#### **Photo shoot**

*Discussion:*

- Eric-I have one question about the ball fields - one of the conditions was establishment of a 50-foot buffer around Mt. Scott creek in the project area on south side; area around water gauge does not have buffer, and this is where people parked during filming (picture in packet handed out today)
- Michelle-We have tried to contact them, and they have not returned any phone calls. Originally they said one car would be there parked by the maintenance shed, and then they came in the way they did with lots of cars parked all over in the buffer. Needless to say, they will not be getting a special-use permit in the future.
- Kevin-I would have taken care of that too if I had known. We have since put up a no unauthorized vehicle sign on that access road.

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Tony made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan seconded the motion.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.**

**Next meeting will be held on August 22, from 4 to 6 pm at the Milwaukie Center.**