

**Park Commission Meeting
June 13, 2007**

Present: Sue Cann, Mike Interbartolo, Bob Christiansen, John Mercer, Bill Gardiner, Phil Friel, Tom Friel, Mike Farrell, Mike Ford, Nick Gove, Chuck Person and Joan Bell.

I. Signing of warrants

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

II. Approval of the minutes

Minutes were not approved.

III. Mount Hood Report

A. Mount Hood Operations

1. Membership list for 2007 /outstanding gift certificates for Mount Hood
2007 Members: 263 including 103 Junior Members.

2. Monthly financial report on the golf course operations
Year to date: \$463,041. Month to date: \$171,687.48

3. Marketing Report
Soft time promotion: Unable to determine effectiveness of advertising campaign due to high number of rounds i.e. lack of unreserved rounds.

4. Report on general operation of golf course
a. Report on staffing levels

There are presently 16 employees on staff.

b. Copy of maintenance log and monthly certifications
A copy was submitted and is on file in the Parks Dept. Office

c. Report on request for rental of club house, league play tournaments.
An updated calendar was submitted and is on file in the Park Dept. Office.

Motion: By Bill Gardiner to open the meeting to public participation.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

IV. Public Participation

A. Farm Cooperative

The Farm Cooperative has requested use of the Knoll Parking Lot for the weekly distribution of organic products to their members. The Farm Cooperative has obtained the necessary permission from the School Department at the June 12, 2007 School Committee meeting. Note: Joseph Casey, Superintendent of Schools provided Nick a letter granting the request. The following residents were in attendance on behalf of the Farm Cooperative: Julie Pottier-Brown, Chris Vander Rhodes, 237 Grove St. and Jim Stringer, 54 Goss Ave.

Motion: Bill Gardiner to approve the Farm Cooperative's use of the Knoll parking lot in compliance with the agreement with the School Department as submitted.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

B. Broken window off Hole #2

At approximately 2:00 PM on May 2, 2007 a golf ball broke a window at #17 Plymouth Circle. The resident, Ms. Florence Melchionna, has filed a claim with the City of Melrose.

Motion: Bill Gardiner to have Ms. Melchionna's claim addressed by the City Solicitor with in two weeks.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: By John Mercer to approve an expenditure of no more than \$2995.00 to replace the netting on the 2nd hole.

Second: Bill Gardiner

Vote: Unanimous

C. First Pond

Alderman Peter Mortimer along with a group of residents from Ward 6 addressed concerns about flooding in the area of Mt. Hood; specifically citing First Pond as a contributing factor. Note: The claims and concerns of each individual varied. The names and addresses of the residents in attendance are formatted in a separate document attached to these minutes. Alderman Mortimer submitted the following concerns in writing prior to the meeting:

- § "The First Pond has an underground connection to an aquifer that runs under and through the neighborhoods West of the First Pond.
- § When the surface level of the First Pond reaches or is kept at a certain level water flows from the First Pond, underground, into that aquifer.
- § There is a coffer dam in the woods on the Southeast side of First Pond that can be used to lower the level of the Pond by removing a four foot board.
- § If the aquifer in the neighborhood is already full and a significant rainfall occurs household flooding will occur from both rain in the neighborhood and underground overflow from the pond.
- § If the pond is at a high level and a significant rainfall occurs the pond can not act as a retention pond for the sheet flow and streams that run into the First Pond, instead, the water will run into the aquifer causing household flooding.
- § Many residents have observed that in the past ten years the pond has been kept at a higher level than in past decades.
- § In the past people could walk from the woods to the island in the middle of the pond for fishing or sightseeing. The present level of the pond prevents this.

- § There are two artificial pools behind the Slayton Garages that were not there in past decades. A look at the trails and the trees makes this clear.
- § When a board is pulled these pools dry up in two days. They stay full for over ten days if it is not.
- § Many residents and homes which did not get flooding in the 70's and 80's have been getting significant and damaging flooding in the past ten years.
- § A board was pulled during the last two significant rainfalls and people who expected flooding got none. It must be noted, however, that the level of the pond before the rain started was at the bottom of the board.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely yours, Peter Mortimer'

The Commission instructed Nick to contact the Conservation Commission with a summary of the issues before them and request feedback on a proposed, temporary solution. They also instructed Nick to speak with the City Engineer regarding a long term solution which may require obtaining services from an outside firm specializing in storm water management. If the Conservation Commission agrees to the temporary solution of removing the boards, the Park Commission will implement the temporary solution pending input from the City Engineer and or any outside services rendered for such purpose. The Park Commission requests this agreement be in writing from the Conservation Commission. Nick will contact the Conservation Commission for more information on the filing process.

Motion: John Mercer to request the Superintendent obtain in writing the opinion of the Conservation Commission relative to the issue of raising the boards at the First Pond sluice way in advance of a major rain event as a temporary solution to flooding issues in Ward 6.

Second: Bill Gardiner

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: By John Mercer to request input from the Department of Public Works on how best to proceed with the potential flooding issues identified; specifically how to implement a long term solution if necessary.

Second: Bill Gardiner

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: By Bill Gardiner to close public participation

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: By Bill Gardiner for a two minute recess

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

Note: Return to Mt. Hood Operations

III. Mount Hood Report

A. Mount Hood Operations

Motion: By Mike Interbartolo to not sign the warrant to pay the indirect cost until the City Auditor comes before the Park Commission to discuss in detail his rationale for the dollar figure given.

No second

5. Capital Improvements

Nick received 3 fence bids for the work on 18th and 13th holes:

\$6004.00 La Rovere

\$6,900.00 Palermo

\$2,700.00 Reliable Fence

Motion: By John Mercer to accept Reliable Fence's bid of \$2,700.00.

Second: Bill Gardiner

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission, Nick and Mass. Golf Mgmt. discussed the list of proposed FY 08 capital improvement list. The following questions were raised:

- § Is air conditioning in the clubhouse still a priority?
- § Should the clubhouse be insulated prior to installing air conditioning?
- § What is the status of the kitchen design? Is this a priority?

The Commission agreed the front patio and steps is a life safety issue and should be made a priority. This project must be designed prior to bid. Nick will contact several landscape architects. Mass. Golf Mgmt. would like to see the clubhouse insulated prior to installing air conditioning.

6. Membership Refund request: Alexander Demeter

Mr. Demeter is requesting a partial refund due to health concerns. He has a Doctor's note identifying these health issues.

Motion: By Bill Gardiner to approve Mr. Demeter's request by allowing him a 50% refund credit to be used as specified under the 2007 Membership Policies.

Second: By John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

7. FY 07 Mt. Hood Budget

Budget was submitted and reviewed.

V. Parks Department Report

A. General Parks Department Report

- § Gooch Park will be closed for renovations on June 11, 2007.

- § The bench replacement program appropriation was approved by the Board of Alderman. Twenty new benches have been ordered.
- § Fred Green Football Field and the West Knoll Soccer Field have been closed for repairs. They will reopen prior to the start of fall sports.
- § On behalf of several residents in her Ward, Gail Infurna is requesting a “No Ball Playing” sign be erected at Bishop Park.
- § Hesseltine Field Renovation Project: The initial cost estimate was significantly over budget therefore Nick abandoned the proposed parking alternate.

Motion: By Bill Gardiner to table the Hesseltine parking plan.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

B. FY 07 Parks Dept. Budget

Nick stated he intends to expend almost all remaining funds by the end of the fiscal year.

C. FY 08 Parks Dept. Budget

The FY 08 budget was approved by the Board of Alderman. The Mayor is funding an additional \$15,000 to maintain the “A-1” School Sites previously removed from the Mowing and Maintenance Contract. This work shall commence the week of July 16, 2007.

VI. Recreation Department Report

A. Summer Recreation Programs

Eleven park instructors have been hired. Programs commence next week.

B. 2007 Park Instructors

Motion: By Bill Gardiner to adjourn

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous