

**Park Commission Meeting
March 11, 2009**

Present: Bob Christiansen, Bill Gardiner, Mike Interbartolo, John Mercer, Joan Bell, Frank Olivieri, Cindy Brickley, Mike Farrell, Phil Friel and Tom Friel

I SIGNING OF WARRANTS

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Beverage Cart Request

Mike I. introduced the request. Mass. Laws changed recently to allow serving alcoholic beverages on a golf course. If the PC approves GMC's request for a beverage cart at Mt Hood then the PC would have to petition the BOA to amend the city ordinance, 173-2. If approved by BOA then GMC would have to go before the Melrose Licensing Commission for their approval to amend their liquor license to allow operation of a beverage cart on the course.

Phil Friel explained that GMC runs golf courses in NH as well as Mt Hood. Prior to beverage carts at their courses in NH their alcohol problems were greater than after they started with beverage carts. A beverage cart should help control alcohol on the course. It is a source of revenue, and a way for GMC to provide a service to customers. The beverage cart would not serve on holes 1, 2 and 3. It would start serving on the 4th hole and stop serving on the 15th tee. It will only sell beer in plastic recyclable bottles. Servers would be 21 or over, and trained. The cart would serve food and soft drinks also. The cart looks like a big golf cart. Only one beer can be bought at a time.

Ralph Sarni (75 Altamont Ave) representing the Mt Hood Park Association spoke. They had a meeting last week. 6 out of 8 members were there. They decided that their board was against the beverage cart. "When in doubt the answer is no".

Rebecca Bloomenthal(50 Stillman Rd) asked if it was only one cart that was being requested. Mike I. answered that they would have to check that out. She also wanted to know if there would be any communications between the cart and the bar. Her concern is over drinking. Phil responded that there would not be communication, but it should not be needed considering that a golfer will not see the golf cart so often that too much alcohol will be served them. Her third concern is how to control an over 21 person giving a minor alcohol. Tom and Phil explained having a beverage cart would actually expand their responsibility from the bar area to the whole course and they would police it the same. Their liquor license is at stake. She is not for it or against it, just concerned because she is an abutter.

Chris Spaulding(6 Potter St) is a member. At every hole the trash cans are ½ full of beer cans. He related his experiences at golf courses where there are beverage carts. It is no big deal at these courses. He feels it is much more of a problem here where people sneak beer.

Craig Sarni(75 Altamont Ave) has lived on the 2nd hole for 50 years. He is against any drinking on the course. He submitted 2 pictures.

Rebecca Bloomenthal asked about facilities on the golf course. Mike I. responded that there is one outhouse, but this will have to be addressed also.

Tom Friel made the points that MT Hood is competing with other courses in MA on this issue. Many outings may be affected. Also a percentage of food and beverage goes to the enterprise fund.

B. Farm Direct Co-op

Representatives are requesting permission to operate at the Knoll June-Nov, and 1 day in Dec. They would like 2 days this year(Tues and Th). They have support from Supt. Casey and the school committee's permission to operate on 2 days. Melrose has been unbelievably supportive in the 4 years they have been here. Melrose has the longest wait list out of all their locations. The "MEAT" program is not related to them at all.

C. Special Olympics

Pat Montone(111 Woodcrest Dr), a member here, and volunteer for Special Olympics would like to request to put a brass plaque approximately 30-36" x 18-24" on the building. It would say "Mt Hood Golf Club Home of Special Olympics Golf" with the Special Olympic symbol on it. He would like it by the Pro Shop door. Joan has discussed this with Mike Farrell.

D. Melrose Girls Softball

FrankBarbaro has been with the youth girl's softball 5 years. They would like to add 2 more boxes at the Common. The maintenance materials get mixed up with the equipment and ruins the equipment. They would like to be able to separate the two. Pictures were submitted and their request of where to put them was submitted.

Motion: By Bob Christiansen to close Public Participation.

Second: Bill Gardiner

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: By Bill Gardiner to approve Food Direct Co-op's request to expand the hours and use the Knoll for their operation.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: By John Mercer to approve the Special Olympics plaque.

Second: Bob Christiansen

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: By Bob Christiansen to allow the 2 additional boxes at the Common with the stipulation that their location and color (green) will be worked out with Joan Bell.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

III. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Status Report on Revolving Fund Account FY09

Frank Olivieri spoke to the FY08 money reported to be \$16,000. It is really money collected for the summer programs and is actually FY09 money. This means that FY09 started with \$0 having to cover the recreation director's salary. Also the line item N Shore Navigators shows in the red because recreation had to purchase the Red Sox tickets in FY09. This will be moved to the FY10 budget report which is when the N Shore Navigators Camp will run. FY09 figure is really \$1000-\$1500 away from covering the recreation director's salary. In FY10 recreation will also try to cover his benefits, approx \$8000. On the FY10 MUNIS budget every program will have a line item. This will be easier to understand.

B. General Recreation Department Report

Included in other reports.

C. Report on Winter Programming

1. Travel Basketball

All but one team have finished their travel seasons. One team has a tournament left. All teams have been given evaluations. By next meeting Frank should be able to give a report on the evaluations from travel and MBA

D. Report on Spring and Summer Programming

1. Healthy Alternatives

This is a sub division of the Health Department. Recreation and Healthy Alternatives are going to run 2 free events. March 21st and March 27th. These are in conjunction with March Madness.

2. Peak Software

Recreation is up and online, just not linked to the cityofmelrose web page. This will be done and ready for summer program signups!

3. Bob Christiansen asked if Friday Night Lights might happen again. Feedback from Healthy Alternatives is that they need to go another direction, as this did not draw kids.

E. Report on Recreation Dept. Budgets

1. Recreation Salary FY10- see above
2. FY10 Budget- see above

IV MOUNT HOOD REPORT

A. Mount Hood- GMC

1. Report on membership list for 2009

33 memberships in for 2009. This is the lowest dollar amount since GMC has been here. There is 1 new member.

2. Outstanding Gift Certificates

Have to get the figures from Kevin.

3. Monthly Financial Report

Food revenue is up. Membership revenue is down about.

2009 Total Revenues:

MTD \$11,580.00

YTD \$14,250.00

4. Marketing Plan Update
The new web site was up today. This is the first day GMC has had access to it. By April they plan to have their request run certain promotions. Several ads are being run.
5. Report on General Operations of Golf Course
 - a. Report on staffing
There is currently 4 staff on hand.
 - b. Copy of Maintenance Log and Current Certification
A copy was submitted and is on file.
 - c. Update on kitchen plans
Joan Bell noted that a sub committee still needs to be formed.
 - d. Dog Park
Joan and Mike attended a meeting at City Hall with the ad hoc committee, Ruth Clay and the Dog Officer. They presented 5-6 sites that they are looking at. One site is the plateau up by the 11th green and on Mt Hood property. One site is adjacent to Mt Hood property by the Maintenance barn and city owned. Joan believes that the 11th green area was of no interest any longer. The 2 areas that appeared to be of most interest were Bowden Park, by Ganiss's Market and an area between the tennis courts and Lewis Monk Field on Tremont Street. Joan noted that the Bowden Park may have historical stipulations. This will be looked at more. Joan needs to speak with Churchill American about the bleachers that are in the area on Tremont St. Mike I. made note that whatever the ad hoc dog park committee would like to do would need to come before the PC. The neighbors would have to be notified etc.
Added note: A list of the activities that take place on the range was sent to Joan. A wedding is scheduled this Spring up at the range, Special Olympics uses it. The Mayor's Conference may take place up there.
 - e. Update on Feasibility Study
Six proposals were received. Mike would like to establish a sub committee to follow the study. He suggests to have 2 PC reps, 1 GMC rep, 1 BOA rep, 2 reps from user groups and 1 inner club member. First the PC needs to choose the company. Bill Gardiner suggested to wait until they pick a company before they put a committee together.

Motion: By Bob Christiansen that the PC sub committee of Mike I. and John McLaughlin will review the 6 proposals and come up with a short list(max of 3). The sub committee has the authority to determine whether interviews are wanted or not. If so determined then the interviews will be set up and all PC members will be notified.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

f. Mass Liquor Law- Beverage Cart

Mike I. spoke with Henry Hooten. A letter from Henry brought up the following issues: more bathrooms on the course?, is only beer being served?, how many can be bought at one time?, are people required to buy food when buying a drink?, can they drink on the putting greens?, will there be more rangers on the course?, will the person serving be trained?, and who is responsible to monitor underage drinking? Some answers were: there is one bathroom on 15th hole and would be good to find a place for one more, drinking is not allowed on the putting greens and this is an area that presently is difficult to police, and will continue to be so. The city solicitor, Rob Van Campen, gave the PC the new language that he recommends to change ordinance 173-2 with.

Motion: By Bob Christiansen for the PC to request that the BOA amend ordinance 173-2 with the language that Rob Van Campen indicates is necessary that would allow the PC to approve a beverage cart at Mt Hood.

Second: Bill Gardiner

Vote: Unanimous

Alderman Boisell gave his recommendations on how to expedite the process. Discussion of the process was had. Have all information ready for the BOA meeting on March 17th.

g. 19th hole roof repair

Pantera, Mr. Cunningham, is ready to do the work as soon as the weather breaks.

h. Special Olympics Plaque Request

See above

B. Report on requests for rentals of clubhouse, league play, golf tournaments

Most all golf outings are coming back. GMC has just started contacting the leagues.

C. FY09 Budget

No discussion

F. FY10 Budget

No discussion

Additional note: Joan is going to speak with John Scenna about pricing out some signs to direct people to Mt Hood. A lot of people can not find Mt Hood coming from Rte 93.

V. PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. General Park Dept. Report

1. Girls Youth Softball

See above

2. Farm Direct Co-op

See above

B. Update Mowing and Maintenance Contract

An addendum went out with 25 questions answered. The due date has been moved. Hopefully the award and contract signing can still be done by April 1st.

Spring permits are done and Pine Banks permits are on line. All of Joan's permits will be sent to the user groups by Friday. Joan is concerned about lining fields, since it is going to be done in house.

A subject that came to light at the PB meeting and is a concern is the lights at Pine Banks. Kezer field and the rugby field lights are not controlled by John Burgess/computer. He calls a company to come and reset the timers any time a change has to be made which costs \$250.

Joan also noted that at the Spring Pine Banks meeting she spoke with someone about a coaches clinic that sounded interesting. She gave Frank the information.

Discussion was had about using Mt Hood for more activities. The skating party event was discussed. Joan has spoken to Mike Farrell about other ideas that could take place at Mt Hood, games on the range, movie nights, park cleanup/barbeque with aldermen, etc.

- C. Financial Report on Park Department
- D. FY09 Budget
- E. FY10 Budget

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Winter Concession Stand/Lions Club

Joan does not have the check yet, but, \$4124.35 was grossed. \$2270.76 is left after food was bought. The stand was opened about 20 games, 10 dates, 4-5 hours a date. Joan wants to know how to take in the money and how to disperse it.

Motion: By Bob Christiansen to split the net proceeds 50/50 from the winter concessions. 50% will go to the Lions, 50% will go to the Athletic Department.

Second: Bill Gardiner

Vote: Unanimous

Morelli Field Scoreboard

The scoreboard that Babe Ruth got donated has to be put up. 120V wiring needs to be run from the football scoreboard to the baseball scoreboard. Sorrentino, from the school, says the cost is \$1000 to lay underground wire. Joan has priced it for only \$300-\$400. Mike I. suggests getting a list of materials needed and shop it around.

Motion: By Bill Gardiner to adjourn

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous