

**Park Commission Meeting  
June 8, 2009**

**Present:** Bob Christiansen, Mike Interbartolo, Joan Bell, Frank Olivieri, Cindy Brickley, Mike Farrell, Phil Friel, Tom Friel, Bill Gardiner, Mike Ford

**I. SIGNING OF WARRANTS**

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

**II APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** By Bob Christiansen to approve the minutes of the meeting 5/11/09 as amended.

**Second:** Bill Gardiner

**Vote:** Unanimous

**III. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**A. Status Report on Revolving Fund Account FY09**

Fund balance is approximately \$19,000. Will finish with \$2,851 in revenue for the year FY09. There is some question about the starting balance in FY09. When Frank began work the revolving account was at \$16,000. It is unclear if this is all FY09 monies or a mixture of FY08 and FY09 monies. This will not be a problem in FY10.

**B. General Recreation Department Report**

**C. Summer Positions**

All 70+ kids were interviewed. All acceptance/non acceptance letters have been sent out. Recreation will be employing 15 kids. All are college and high school age. A park director and tennis director were hired and are adults.

**D. Community Events**

Frank met with Mayor Dolan. He would like to run a community event in 6 different parks this summer. He will fund most of the events. Slush and games will be offered. Fourth of July event is in the planning. Class of 2022 event will also be run at the Common for a second year.

**E. Athletic Clinics**

The high school wrestling and football coaches approached Frank to partner up with recreation to run summer clinics. Frank is optimistic that these are somewhat established programs and the coaches feel they will attract a good amount of participants. It was discussed that the guidelines for a clinic like this has been approved by the Park Commission, but, a budget and proposal should be presented for approval each time a new clinic is taken on. It was suggested that Frank check with Pop Warner to make sure there are no conflicts. Frank will bring the proposal information to the next meeting.

The Navigator Baseball Clinic has 35-40 kids signed up. 75 are needed to break even. Next year Frank will reassess. It begins July 27<sup>th</sup>. Recreation has been actively advertising and trying to get more signups.

F. FY09 Budget

No questions

G. FY10 Budget

No questions

H. Tennis Program

No discussion

**Motion:** By Bill Gardiner to change the order of the agenda to Mt Hood/Wind Study

**Second:** Bob Christiansen

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### IV. MT HOOD

##### Wind Study/Wind Turbine

David Shakespeare, Chairman of the Melrose Energy Commission and Susan Murphy, Conservation Commission, spoke about doing a Wind Study at Mt Hood. David spoke with the PC 3 years ago, and there was another presentation by Bradley Michaels. Seems there were miscommunications about the results of the meetings. Basically, at that time Mass. Renewable Trust(EMRET) had some competitive grants available. EMRET had some very strong proposals and the wind at Mt Hood was marginal, hence funding could not be given. David wrote to Susan Lawson-Cann and Nick Gove that the pursuit was being tabled. He apologized if the information did not get to the rest of the PC. In the past 2 months the mayor has seen the wind turbine in Bedford and has come to the Energy Commission. As well, a Board of Alderman and a member of the PC have expressed interest in a wind turbine at Mt Hood. There is also a new grant program from EMRET and this time the name is Commonwealth Wind. They have a block of competitive grants until July. After July they will open it up to be a non competitive program. David would like the PC to know that there is money available for a site assessment, for a year long feasibility study and for the design and construction of a wind turbine. EMRET will pay for a free site assessment. This would include to assess if there is enough wind, then if there is, a site that is worthy. The grant process is in transition and their FY10 budget is not settled yet. David feels the PC should go forward with applying for a site assessment. It does not cost anything.

The Energy Commission did an assessment of the energy used at Mt Hood 3 years ago. The lowest usage of energy was in the winter, midpoint in the spring and fall and highest usage in the summer. The highest wind is in the winter. Commonwealth Wind wants to see that a wind turbine would supply at least 50% of the electricity used on site. If the demand is less than 50% then the location is less appealing. Note energy use might go up due to AC being installed and the possibility of an athletic facility being built

Excess electricity can be sold back into the grid, called Net Metering (a recent law passed). Rates have not been finalized yet.

As a show of faith, \$500 is requested for the feasibility study (second part of the process).

Mike I. commented that they would have to be careful not to conflict with any building that might come out of the Beals and Thomas Feasibility Study.

The application for a site assessment is a 2 page document, very simple to fill out. The turn around time is 1 to 2 months. Joan has the form. There is no commitment if after the site assessment the PC does not want to go forward.

**Motion:** By Bill Gardiner to pursue the request for a site assessment. Joan will fill out the application.

**Second:** Bob Christiansen

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### IV. MOUNT HOOD REPORT

##### 5.f. Update on Feasibility Study

The subcommittee met again last week. They are recommending to the PC that they have an open meeting for the golfers at Mt Hood to start with. Tentative date for that meeting, Tuesday, June 22, 7:00pm.

Secondly, the subcommittee will report back at the next meeting with a progress report and hopefully locations/activities that they would like to pursue. Mike I. reported that he feels the meetings are productive. Phil Friel commented that the big issue that came out last meeting was the lack of parking and the traffic flow. The subcommittee's position is that one of their priorities would be to accommodate those facilities that Melrose does not have and that they know can not be done anywhere else. One being a regulation sized track. Improvement of the golfing experience is high on the priority list too. Bob C. spoke about a synthetic course for novice golfers in York Me. It is on Rte 1 in York. It does not take up a lot of room and might be something to look into.

##### A. Mount Hood

###### 1. Report on membership list for 2009

Members in 2009- 203, \$186,000. Last year 237 members, \$215,000. 10 Junior Members joined today.

###### 2. Outstanding Gift Certificates

\$28,000

###### 3. Monthly Financial Report on Golf Course

Overall Mt Hood is close to last year financially. Mike Farrell stated that in total they are down approximately \$2000 from last year. Memberships are down \$30,000. Greens fees and carts are up \$25,000 and food and beverage is up approximately \$10,000.

###### 2009 Total Revenues:

MTD \$197,731

YTD \$496,435

###### 4. Marketing Plan Update

GMC participated in a WEEI email blast last Friday. They promoted the weekend twilight discount (after 3pm) and extra discount. 55 people signed up, 7

people actually used it. Mike Farrell commented that they had 288 rounds on Sunday. 300 is sold out. They are solid until about 4:30 on weekends. A lot of the people golfing on the weekends are new to the course as shown by an increase in the 18 hole non resident fees

5. Report on General Operations of Golf Course

a. Report on staffing

There is currently 14 staff on hand.

b. Copy of Maintenance Log and Current Certification

A copy was submitted and is on file.

c. Update on AC

Mike I. and Joan are going to set up a meeting with the Engineering Firm, RW Sullivan. Joan found the plans Mike I. was looking for.

d. Update on 2<sup>nd</sup> hole tree planting

Ralph Sarni did not attend. The trees have been planted. Ralph requested that one tree be moved. Joan responded that this would probably not be done.

e. Update on Aeration of First Pond

The fountain is working 100%, however Mike Ford said they have to clear out the algae every few days. As well, the algae is getting worse and getting into the irrigation lines and threatening to damage the whole system. Aquatic Control has given a proposal to use a different type of algaecide, a copper carbonate, non toxic to fish and can be used to irrigate as soon as applied. Cost is \$1040 per application. Aquatic Control did not give a schedule. Mike I. would like some sort of parameters, some sort of plan as to how many treatments they think will be needed. GMC feels when the lilies were deleted then the algae took over.

**Motion:** By Bob Christiansen to approve up to \$3500 for Aquatic Control. The PC would like to see some plan of action set out by Aquatic Control.

**Second:** Bill Gardiner

**Vote:** Unanimous

g. Membership Refund Request

The wife of a member came to GMC requesting a refund. Her husband is a senior suffering from Alzheimers. He joined without his wife's knowledge. He will not be able to play now or in the future.

**Motion:** By Bill Gardiner to approve a full refund to John Moulds upon doctor's documentation.

**Second:** Bob Christiansen

**Vote:** Unanimous

B. Report on requests for rentals of clubhouse, league play, golf tournaments  
League information given to PC. Mike Farrell will get function information tomorrow.

C. FY09 Budget

No discussion

D. FY10 Budget

All are very happy to see the FY10 budget information that Joan was able to get.  
Copies enclosed.

V. PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. General Park Dept. Report

1. Update Hesseltine

Mayor gave between \$9,000 and \$11,000 to fix a lot of safety issues. Columbia Cascade was brought in to do safety checks on the equipment. From that it was determined that a lot of the work can be done by the city. The equipment necessary was replaced, the playground was sanded, power washed, and stained and safety mulch is being brought in next week.

Bill brought up complaints about rocks and unlevel areas that users have noticed. Joan has looked into this. Credits are still being held on the company that built the park. PTS has looked at it and has a plan for the grass. The rocks and unlevel areas are going to be worked on after little league finishes their season.

2. Update Morelli – Sod

Joan and John Scenna are going before the BOA on the 15<sup>th</sup>. In March the Mayor gave \$40,000 to Hired Equipment to sod Morelli field. This is not going to happen so Joan and John would like to use the money on several other projects, sod at Cabbage Patch, (since the school has agreed to put irrigation in at the Cabbage Patch), Morelli infield and outfield. Joan would like to fix up the infield before winter and then fix the outfield in the spring.

3. Conant Fence

The fence in front of the 2 bleachers is too short. Several people have been hurt. National Little League is willing to pay 50% to extend the fence upward. Several options were looked at. The fence seems to be the best solution. It would be \$2400 split. Parks would pay \$1200.

**Motion:** By Bob Christiansen to spend \$1200 on Conant fencing.

**Second:** Bill Gardiner

**Vote:** Unanimous

4. Dog Park

The Mayor has indicated to Alderman Madeiros that the Tremont St site is not a desirable place for a dog park. Joan met with Greg Penta and they looked at areas at Mt Hood and at the Knoll. The dog park will request to be put on the agenda in the future when they have done more research.

B. FY09 Budget

Budgets are very close to zero. Joan is concerned that electric keeps going up. She is meeting tomorrow with John Scenna to map out the last FY09 expenditures.

C. FY10 Budget

No discussion

Misc.

Bob Christiansen asked about the Morelli Light project and geese control. The last seven lights are going to be replaced shortly. Then all lights should be working. The goose control program is in place. The dog officer is training dogs, the Dept Of Agriculture has been here. There has been progress seen and it is an ongoing project. Mt Hood is not included in the contract for goose control. Mike Ford does not feel they are a big problem. GMC is in charge of it. Mike I told Joan to put "goose control" on the agenda next meeting.

Mike I. brought up the FY10 Budget Summary Sheet again and would like Joan to find out why Mt Hood is spending \$27,000 on auditors and \$18,000 on IT.

**Motion:** By Bill Gardiner to adjourn

**Second:** Bob Christiansen

**Vote:** Unanimous