

**Park Commission Meeting
July 20, 2009**

Present: Bob Christiansen, Mike Interbartolo, Joan Bell, Frank Olivieri, Cindy Brickley, Mike Farrell, Tom Friel, John Mercer, John McLaughlin

I. SIGNING OF WARRANTS

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: By Bob Christiansen to approve the minutes of the meeting 6/8/09.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: By John Mercer to approve the minutes of the meeting 6/23/09 as amended.

Second: Bob Christiansen

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: By John Mercer to change the order of business to Mt Hood/

Second: Bob Christiansen

Vote: Unanimous

IV. MOUNT HOOD REPORT

5.g. Update on Feasibility Study

Robert Weidnecht from Beals and Thomas Inc. presented their report on the status of the feasibility study being done by Beals and Thomas. The feasibility study includes, but is not limited to, improvements to the golf course, passive recreation possibilities, athletic field possibilities and an access point analysis. Beals and Thomas Inc. has also been keeping in mind the safety and comfort of all people using Mt Hood Golf Course and Park.

Robert showed an aerial map of the park and course. He explained the process from which they (Beals and Thomas) came up with their ideas. Robert spoke to access possibilities that they have researched. Their recommendation is to use Slayton Road still. After looking at the whole park there were 2 areas that Beals and Thomas thought most possible to expand/build on.

One area is where the jr driving range is. This is the area of the fill from several years ago. There is the possibility of expanding the driving range with netting and such to allow adult usage. Also a parking area might be a possibility here.

The other area is around the existing 17th hole. He had 5 concept sketches of a track, an athletic field, more parking, and hole changes that he showed and explained. Certified vernal pools and potential vernal pools were found. Beals and Thomas has been in touch with the Conservation Commission over the many conservation issues that are potential issues. Beals and Thomas suggests that the

first thing to look at if any of these plans were to be of interest would be to wait until spring and study these vernal pools.

Robert spoke to the “cost premium” (basically the cost of preparing the land for a track or a field). He estimates that the cost premium for the track and field plan would be 3 million dollars and the cost premium for the multi-purpose field plan would be 1 ½ million dollars. The cost of a synthetic field is approximately \$8 per square foot (approximately \$700,000). Concession, lighting, facilities, bleachers, roadways, etc are all additional costs.

The Public was invited to ask questions:

Bob Christiansen, Park Commission, could the tot lot be moved to allow for additional parking? A discussion was had about this and whether or not moving the 17th hole is a good idea.

Myran Ditmere, 93 Altamont Ave, asked if special roadwork would have to be done to prepare for the construction equipment. Mike I. responded the roads are plenty wide to accommodate trucks etc. and that a construction mitigation plan would put together. Anything bringing in fill would have to be brought in through the main road. Robert Weidknecht said the best solution would be to blast and process the blasted material on site and use for fill. He added that there is a big grade change at the tot lot.

Joe Sullivan, Melrose Mirror, Birch Hill Road, asked for verification that any non golf construction that would take place would be by the 17th hole. Robert Weidknecht verified that this area had the most potential. Joe asked for verification on a few other ideas that Beals and Thomas presented.

Tom Friel, GMC, would like to know the effect that these proposals would have on the 16th hole. He is concerned about the safety of the people playing on the 16th green. Also about how to get from the 16th green to the 17th tee, couldn't this be a problem? Discussion was had about several safety issues.

Ralph Sarni, 75 Altamont Ave, would like to see the tower fixed up. There used to be lights that would come on when a barrier is broken. He would like to make sure a field is absolutely necessary before it is done.

Questions were raised about whether a track meet could be held on a track that wasn't regulation size. If the track at the High School is redone are there any rules that disallow the high school from holding a track meet even if it isn't regulation size?

John Mclaughlin expressed that a multipurpose field could be of great help to the recreation department.

Mike I. added that the money made at Mt Hood is supposed to stay at Mt Hood and hence building at Mt Hood would make sense.

Mike I. reported that on August 3rd the public would be invited to a similar presentation and for input from them.

Joan brought up the concept of the field being put were the 17th hole is and moving the 17th hole. These are concepts, plan D or E. Robert had not gone over these as they were recent suggestions. He will look at these plans more. Mike Farrell said that the idea would be to wait until the fall to survey where the 17th hole could go. Much discussion was had, Beals and Thomas will get back to the Park Commission on this.

Mike I. asked GMC to have their comments and responses to the Inner Club's list of recommendations by the Aug 3rd meeting. The Inner Club came forward with this list at the last meeting, June 23rd. Also, could GMC comment on the suggestion brought up before about moving the 11th tee back towards the 10th and eliminate the mound for safety reasons.

Myran Ditmere asked if the algaecide treatments were still going on in First Pond. Joan responded that they are on a watch and see basis. The first treatment did a lot to clear the pond.

Cheryl White, mother of Colby White, is requesting for her son to get a membership for the rest of the year. Colby broke his foot last summer and played only once last year. She realizes she is way overdue with the request.

Motion: By John Mercer to allow Colby White a junior membership for the rest of the 2009 year, ultimately giving him a 50% refund from last year. GMC would like Colby to fill out the customary application for their record keeping.

Second: Bob Christiansen

Vote: Unanimous

Mike I. told the Dog Park people that the Park Commission would like to table the Dog Park discussion until the next meeting after they have had a chance to go over the information they were given.

Motion: By John McLaughlin to table the Dog Park discussion until the next regular meeting, August 10th.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

IV. MOUNT HOOD REPORT

A. Mount Hood

1. Report on membership list for 2009

a. Colby White Refund Request
see above

b. Bruce McDonald member letter

Mike I. would like Bob Christiansen to report back after reviewing his letter and going over it with Mike Farrell

2. Outstanding Gift Certificates

see enclosed

3. Monthly Financial Report on Golf Course

Mike I. requested that the Food and Beverage history be included in these reports.

Down about \$12,000 in total, includes \$30,000 down in memberships.

The rain has a lot to do with this. The weekend rounds are up if it doesn't rain, overall though rounds are down. Only one outing had to be rescheduled due to rain.

2009 Total Golf Revenues:

MTD \$211,565

YTD \$707,999

4. Marketing Plan Update

a. Welcome to Mt Hood Sign

The Inner Club has offered to pay for half the cost of a welcome sign. A picture of the proposed sign was handed out. Denise Gaffey has a grant application that could come off the side of the Inner Club ("friends of") in the amount of \$1000. Discussion followed and it was decided that granite posts would be best. The total cost would be a total of \$3766 with the Park Commission paying \$1883, Inner Club paying \$883 and the grant \$1000. The sign would be able to have a notification sign (eg "course close") hang off of it.

Motion: By Bob Christiansen to approve up to \$1883 for a welcome sign upon verification that the \$1000 grant is approved.

Second: John McLaughlin

Vote: Unanimous

5. Report on General Operations of Golf Course

a. Report on staffing

Currently 15 on staff

b. Copy of Maintenance Log and Current Certification

A copy was submitted and is on file.

c. Update on AC

Joan is setting up a meeting with the RW Sullivan engineers to go over the AC plans. John Mercer voiced his displeasure that the AC has not been moved on sooner. He would like to see it get moving, and set specific deadlines on all projects.

d. Goose Control

Mike Farrell and Mike Ford were not interested last year in joining with the Department of Agriculture to control geese at Mt Hood as Mike Ford feels geese were not that much of a problem. Bob Christiansen feels there will be an issue in the fall when migration occurs. Joan will call Eric, Dept of Agriculture to see if Mt Hood can be put on the account for the fall.

e.. Wind Study

The application is in for the grant for the wind study. Haven't heard back.

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

See enclosed

C. FY09 Budget

No discussion

D. FY10 Budget

No discussion

III. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Status Report on Revolving Fund Account FY09

Frank handed out his FY10 budget report. Recreation carried over \$2926.24 from FY09. Only 2 programs are running in the negative. Navigators Camp should end up even or have a little profit. MOT Summer basketball is \$148 negative. Mike I. would like to see the program's cost in the "NOTES" column. The tennis program will make \$5000. This has been a great success.

B. General Recreation Department Report

Frank will be putting out a fall brochure at the end of August or very beginning of September. Frank is seeing 30 kids a day at a park where there were 1 to 2 last year. He is very happy about this. It is very expensive to pay the staff though. Typically Frank has seen other communities run summer day camps, not drop in day programs. Melrose has had park supervisors for years now. This is their tradition. It is very exciting to see the number of kids increasing though. Joan commented on the number of compliments she has had.

Frank would like to let the Park Commission know that because of the enrichment program that the school is going to run this year he could have trouble with gym time. So far he has not lost time, but, is worried he might.

D. Update on Community Events

Recreation, GMC and the VFW are running the Annual VFW jr golf tournament tomorrow. There are 90 kids signed up! Cost is only \$10 per child. Looks like it will be a success.

The mayor's events have been very successful. Four have been run so far. Frank has an event staff he hired that have been great. The mayor is paying their salaries up to \$1000. After that recreation will cover the event staff's salaries.

Recreation and Kathy Piget-Brodeur are working together to offer 3 free movie nights at Memorial Hall in August. This is to promote their new AC also.

E. Athletic Clinics

The Lacrosse Clinic had 34 kids. Recreation made \$1500. Frank feels it could be much better and will grow to much more next year.

Mike I. asked if Frank had the proposals for the other athletic clinics that he asked for last month. Frank said he can have it next meeting.

F. FY09 Budget

No questions

G. FY10 Budget

No questions

V. PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. General Park Dept. Report

Joan just finished ordering benches and barrels through the “Bench and Barrel” program to freshen up some of the parks. Mayor Dolan is going to go over it to see if there is anything else he wants to add.

Horace Mann School playground has been brought up to code for safety and has been stained It needs a little bit of fence work done for safety code reasons.

Lincoln School tot lot has just been stained also

Gooch is next to be stained.

The mowing and maintenance contract is working well. Most complaints are that the grass is too long. PTS has suggested to keep it longer than usual. With all of the rain it is growing very thick and long. It is hard to keep up with the cuts. PTS is working out well. Bob Beshara and John Scenna are coming to the next regular meeting (Aug 10) to go over the mowing and maintenance program from their end of things.

Joan ordered parts to repair some swings and playground parts in various parks.

There has been problems in the skateboard park with vandalism and tagging. Joan had a conversation with a large group of skateboarders. She has thought of having a contest to paint it in a good way. Joan may have police get involved a bit.

Fall permits are almost all worked out.

Bob Christiansen would like the benches at Mt Hood to be reviewed. The 11th hole has a new bench. Where did it come from? Joan would like one at First Pond and at the tower.

Joan met with the Garden Club who would like the parks to go more green. The mayor is on board with their effort. Joan is going to get together with GTA and PTS to talk about it. Joan will attend the Park Association Conference again this September, which is all about going green.

C. FY09 Budget

No discussion

D. FY10 Budget

No discussion

Motion: By John McLaughlin to adjourn

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous