

**Park Commission Meeting
August 10, 2009**

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

I. SIGNING OF WARRANTS

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: By John McLaughlin to approve the minutes of the meeting 7/20/09.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: By John Mercer to change the order of business to Green Dog Park Proposal

Second: John McLaughlin

Vote: Unanimous

V. PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

1.a. Green Dog Park Proposal

Joan B. explained what had been done so far, as far as looking for times in all of the Melrose parks. Joan and Greg Penta, dog park coordinator, walked the knoll across from the High School. On the backside of the East Knoll and an area on the front side corner of the East Knoll came of interest. Joan had a discussion with Dave Dickerson, president of the Ell Pond Committee, and he did not favor the backside of the knoll at all. If either had to happen he would prefer the front. Joan has also spoken with Diane Kukurian, animal control officer, about the Common. It has become a hotspot for dogs. Diane will alter her hours a bit to watch that the park is being respected.

Greg Penta, 183 Trenton St. spoke to the benefits of a green dog park. The proposal is to share space at parks with other users. There is a great desire for people to recreate their dogs. It is a people experience as well as the dog's experience. If all people knew the set times for dogs then Greg feels the parks could be shared without problems.

Joan feels if they do try this, then it should be started in only several of the parks, not all at once.

Diane Kukurian has concerns about the Common. She has seen several dogs run into the road. She would not choose this spot, but, the dog owners there are very loyal to this spot. She would love to invite the Common group to run their dogs at Morelli to get rid of the geese on the weekend.

Joan reminded Diane that starting this week fall sports start up and Morelli will probably be used. She noted that the back field of Conant Park may be winding down in its usage.

Connor McGuire, Cherry Street, says that while Conant sounds like a good idea, but may be too secluded for safety reasons. He realizes a public place might need to fence in, and this might not be popular either.

Mike I. commented that the user group of any area they would like to use for a dog park needs to be contacted and worked. Mike asked what the Dog Park Group is looking for from the Park Commission and how does the dog officer see this impacting her job?

Diane replied that if a responsible group were to develop a green dog park then she could spend her time on other issues that were bothersome to the community.

Joan asked Ell Pond Commission representative, Karen Hall, if she felt that dogs off leash at the east knoll evenings would be ok.

Karen Hall, 246 Tremont St, sees two problems with dogs off leash at the knoll. One that it would be unsafe and two that the Ell Pond water may not be safe for dogs to be in. The Ell Pond Commission does not see any of the knoll as a good place for unleashed dogs and would not like to see an area fenced in.

Greg commented that the goal to find a spot that is underutilized has been tough. If they could narrow down the number of possibilities to 3 or 4 and then list the pros and cons of each, maybe this would help. He realizes no perfect spot has been found and this is why he feels sharing a park is less invasive.

Joan feels the green dog proposal is something that could possibly be worked out. Using 2 parks, one at each end of the city, might be good.

Motion: By John Mercer to request that the superintendent will come forward with specific recommendations on the Green Dog Park Proposal after consultation with the dog group and user groups.

Second: John McLaughlin

Vote: Unanimous

More discussion was had about areas of possibility for a dog park. Greg asked for guidance on where his group should head at this point. Mike would like them to come back at the October meeting to go over their progress. The dog park people should have their own meetings with user groups and report back to the commission. Joan can help facilitate this.

III. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Status Report on Revolving Fund Account FY09

Not many changes in the budget for this month. Out of 30 summer parks programs offered, at least 25 ran. The most popular program was the Little Kickers Soccer. A second session was opened up for it. More than 60 children signed up for that.

The Navigators camp ended up with 50 children. The Navigators lowered their costs so recreation made about \$500. The Navigators game was very popular. Feedback has been very good about the whole clinic. Frank feels the program could double next year. He is working to get a write-up in the papers.

B. General Recreation Department Report

See above

C. Update on Community Events

D. Navigator Clinic

See above

E. Fall/Winter Programs & Events

The fall and winter program brochure will be released at the end of August. The programs are all starting at the end of September. The tennis program did so well this summer that recreation will be offering youth and adult tennis lessons this fall.

Frank has visited the Common Ground Teen Center at the Tremont St. YMCA. The city gives it \$20,000. Frank is going to have more to do with that this year.

He feels more able to balance the MBA and the Travel basketball this year. The practice times will not go past 9:30pm.

Frank is working the Park Association to run a Flora and Fauna event at Mt Hood this fall. It is geared toward youth. Someone from the DCR is giving the talk. Mike I. asked how this was being funded. He feels that Recreation should be funding it and that the Park Association should only help on a volunteer basis. They could supply something to give away, but not pay for the event. Mike would like Frank to put a budget together for anything that is run at Mt Hood. Mike would like to establish Mt Hood as an entity within itself as a community facility, funded by parks and recreation.

The Winterfest is another community event that will be run.

Lastly, Frank is working on a Bootcamp Challenge Event. The winner of which will donate to the non profit organization of their choice.

Frank met with EMARC. The city gives them \$3600 a year. He is going to try and include some of their people into recreation programs.

F. FY10 Revolving Budget

No questions

G. FY10 Budget

No questions

IV. MOUNT HOOD REPORT

A. Mount Hood

1. Report on membership list for 2009

1 refund, 1 Resident Weekday joined

2. Outstanding Gift Certificates

see enclosed

3. Monthly Financial Report on Golf Course

July was down more than June ytd. (\$12,000 down in June, \$32,000 down in July). Have gained a lot in August. As of today they are down \$17,000. Passed the 1 million mark on the 10th of August last year. This year it looks like that will happen in 4 days, the 14th. Not bad with all of the previous rain

2009 Total Golf Revenues:

MTD \$194,137.39

YTD \$902,137

4. Marketing Plan Update

Tom Friel spoke to the complaint that came by email from a member. He said it was two different problems. One, that the weekday members don't feel they have enough time to play on a weekday membership and two, that there is slow demand at twilight times. The solution is to try and offset those problems. To add on to the weekday membership, weekend hours doesn't seem fair to the full week memberships. The emailer felt that because of outings and leagues he can not get out. Mike Farrell said that if a league does not use tee times it promises consistently then it loses some of its tee times. Bob Christiansen feels that the email is from one person with a handful of people behind him. Tom says that they are not marketing the 3:00pm tee times well. They only have 10 in the month. Tom feels this should be addressed in the winter and not change the rules in the middle of the year. He feels that they should charge \$22 during twilight hours, which is a discount.

Motion: By John Mercer for GMC to move forward with their proposal to offer a twilight rate of \$20 this coming weekend only and after that offer a twilight rate of \$22 for residents and \$24 for nonresidents. In the fall revisit the structure.

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

The plans should be ready for advertisement for bidding at the end of the week.

d. Update on Feasibility Study

A memo from the Conservation Commission and the responses from Beals and Thomas are included. The leaves need to be gone when the surveying is done and the vernal pools need to be checked in the spring. No vote will be taken tonight. Joan should check to see what the Park Commission can do before the September meeting so that Beals and Thomas can wrap up their plans.

e. CIP Plan

Tom handed out his comments on the Beals and Thomas's plan D. He says the new hole 17 is not a great hole. It is a long walk from the 16th to the 17th. Hole 17 was discussed more. Safety is a concern here too. All agree to do plan D and make hole 17 a worse hole is not a good idea.

Tom handed out aerials of the 10th and 11th holes. They are thinking of taking out the hump. He described GMC's thoughts on this.

Tom went over the Inner Club's Suggestions with GMC's comments. See document.

Tom handed out the GMC's capital Improvement – practical list. See document. It goes from near term to long term. He already talked about the 11th and 12th hole hump long range project. Tom explained their list of ideas for the Commission to decide on and vote on.

On Medium Range Improvements, Tom said that this needs to be a priority for the health of the golf course's irrigation system. Joan has been researching dredging vs. hydro raking. She will get a ballpark figure for hydro raking and dredging.

The Long Range Improvements and Club House Improvements are suggestions that GMC feel are important. GMC has gotten prices for the kitchen several times, but, it has not gone anywhere. John McLaughlin commented that people he has spoken with like the patio the way it is. Tom is unsure if the \$50,000 per year can be combined and used together. Tom would like some direction from the Park Commission. Mike I. thinks that GMC needs to come up with the priority of the projects. Tom says that on his list likelihood of getting done is the same as the range of time to get done. John would like to see the windows replaced. Tom said there are double paned windows that look similar to what is there. He would like to see screens and maybe electric windows. It was suggested that several at a time could be done to avoid the \$25,000 limit where a bid would need to go out. The estimate is that there are 15 windows and 4 sky windows. Tom will come back with Phil's numbers for the kitchen renovations. Joan will come back with estimates for the windows and the awning (to cover from snack bar to pro shop). Discussion was had about leaks in the roof in the kitchen area. Joan does not feel it has to do with the roof, she feels it is near the chimney and stone.

e. Bench & Table Proposal

Mike Farrell did a listing of benches that are on the course, granite or wood. Replace wood with granite? John McLaughlin suggest the synthetic material Joan would like to balance the benches at First pond with one more and would like a 4 seater table by the fire pits at 3rd pond. The cost of the two would be approximately \$2500. The wooden benches can be repaired.

Motion: By John Mercer to encumber \$2500 for benches and the like at Mt Hood.

Second: John McLaughlin

Vote: Unanimous

The Mt Hood Welcome sign has been designed and ordered. There is not news on the wind turbine.

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

See enclosed

C. Outside Auditors Report

Powers and Sullivan canceled for tonight. They will come to the Oct. meeting

D. FY09 Budget

No discussion

E. FY10 Budget

No discussion

Tom asked if there is action going on to help the First Pond. Joan will try to get estimates on hydro raking and dredging. Mike suggested checking with the Conservation Commission on dredging or hydro raking.

V. PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. General Park Dept. Report

1. Green Dog Park Proposal

See above.

Mowing and Maintenance will be coming next month with PTS to explain what is working and what is not.

All of the parks have been spruced up and in good shape. Work continues in several of them.

Fall permitting is done; lining the fields will be done next week.

DHT Golf Services is doing the cabbage patch irrigation and sodding. Joan is very happy with them.

C. Celebrate Melrose – Fire Works Approval

Celebrate Melrose is the weekend of the 12th, along with the Victorian Fair. The mayor wants to keep people around Melrose. The dog show will be on Sat and fireworks will be Sat night. The fair is Sunday.

D. FY09 Budget

No discussion

E. FY10 Budget

No discussion

The dog park was discussed again.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

See above

VII. NEW BUSINESS

none

Motion: By John McLaughlin to adjourn

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous