

Friends of Corvallis Parks and Recreation
1310 SW Avery Park Drive
Corvallis, OR 97333

Board Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2019

Attendees

Mary Buckman
Audrey Hatch
Roberta Sperling
Jenny Meisel
Olga Loza
Charley Fisher
Stephanie Mehlenbacher
Karen Emery

Absent

Ken Haines

Guests

Stewart Wershow

Meeting called to order: 5:00pm

Treasurer's Report

Mary reported that there are still communication issues with the bookkeeper. We might consider making a change if things don't improve. Charley offered that it has been almost a year since Ilene was hired. Mary said she wants to have one more meeting with Ilene. She stated we do not have a contract and we can get our QuickBooks file if we choose to make a change. Mary said she is sending thank yous for donations. She is also working to reconcile the budget in the next couple of months. And the liability insurance of \$787 needs to be paid by September. Update on Majestic fridge: Jimbo has purchased it.

Roberta moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Jenny. Accepted unanimously.

Stewart Wershow with People for Parks attended the meeting. He reported that the group is working on a goals statement. One goal of the group is to work with like-minded groups, like Friends. He will send final statement of goals once it is completed. Stewart mentioned that the more people who work together, the more success there will be in advocating for parks. He mentioned that the Mayor and City Councilors were not in favor of passing the Parks amendment. Mary asked if the group can lobby. Stewart said once the election was over, the group was free to do what it wanted to do. Stewart suggested that to raise the profile of Friends, we should look for photo ops where we can get the GT to come or the Mayor or even a local TV station. He also suggested raising the group's profile on social media. He also suggested periodically letting the City Council know what we are doing by making a one minute presentation at a council meeting. He said it is much easier to work with, not against, City Hall and that the City Council needs to hear from us.

Mary offered that since the GT has changed quite a bit and has less news from Corvallis, a lot of folks aren't paying attention. Audrey offered that we need the electronic presence but we also need specific events with other organizations. Stewart said that People for Parks tries to meet monthly on the third Thursday at 9:30am. He said people who value open space need to work together. He would like to see the City Council actually define what a park is. But from a political perspective, it is better to have it unclear. Mary stated that Friends has Osborn, the Majestic, and the Senior Center. Olga said we have Karen to help us and asked if People for Parks has good connections in the city.

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Mary asked that a change be made to state that she is working with Ilene on the books. Stephanie mentioned that QB is very forgiving and she should be able to create the reports we need. Olga said she could still do our taxes, while someone else does the month to month books. **Audrey moved to accept the minutes. Jenny seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Beans for Bags Update

Jenny is working to complete the application. Some ideas were thrown out about our mission. Karen suggested using wording like "support parks, Osborn, Senior Center, Majestic Theatre." Jenny said if we are accepted, the co-op will summarize what is on the application.

Rene Moye Complex Sign

Karen mentioned that it would be nice to update the interpretive sign on the boardwalk. This will cost \$1200-1500. Olga asked if the sign needs to be replaced. Karen said it is not urgent. Sunset Park has been changed to Starker Arts Park. It is all one park now. Starker Park is still in construction phase. There will be floating fountains in the new pond with a small waterfall area. Olga asked why the names of the two parks were combined. Karen said it is to better communicate that it is one area, not two. Charley mentioned that he had hoped to use the remaining funds for signs on top of scoreboards (Rene Moye east and west).

Jenny moved to use \$1200-1500 from general fund for updated sign on the boardwalk. Mary seconded.

Farmer's Market Presence

Olga said they ran out of brochures and bike maps. People loved trails marked with distance and accessibility. Karen said the new brochures are ready and they are marked for accessibility. Charley mentioned that we did not need to hand out “stuff” to get people to stop. Audrey and Jenny are signed up so far for the Farmer's Market during Fall Festival.

Parks and Rec Update

Karen said that the King Legacy board will donate \$250 to replace the flags at the Arts Center. The Senior Center construction is well underway. They are framing the expansion now and the parking lot is in the works. September 13 will be the last day people will be in the Center, then everyone moves out. Classes are being relocated. They are packing up 50 years of stuff. Everything will move back into the center in April. In January, Friends should consider donating for lobby furniture. Also, we should be part of the Grand Opening. Roberta asked if our annual fundraising letter should mention dedicating funds to lobby furniture. Karen mentioned that there was a grant to revamp the playground area with pickleball courts, outside exercise equipment, new restrooms, lots of benches. Also, some of the pickleball money will be used to add a sunshade at the pickleball courts nears the 509J admin building. Mary asked about progress on the MLK park work. Karen said it has been hard to get someone to be in charge of fundraising for the project. There are lots of people who are passionate about the project, but nobody wants to take on the fundraising. Roberta mentioned that if the money cannot all be raised, the park can be done in phases.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Mehlenbacher