

**Friends of Parks and Recreation**  
**Minutes**  
**April 20, 2021**

**Attending**

Doug Severs  
Audrey Hatch  
Olga Loza  
Roberta Sperling  
Mary Buckman  
Meredith Petit

**Absent**

Charley Fisher

**Guest**

Erik Swartzendruber

Ken Haines

Jenny Meisel

Stephanie Long

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 5:06pm. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Olga and was seconded by Mary. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mary reported that Friends received a \$20,000 donation from Ellen Wrangler (sp?) for the pickleball courts. Robert Thornberry from the Bottle Drop program said we may receive a \$2500 grant in May to support the Youth Volunteer Corps. Mary also reported that taxes are done and that she will pick them up. We owe a small amount to the state.

There was a discussion about the insurance we carry for the Board members. Does it cover people on committees? Do we need separate event insurance? Can the city attorney provide any information? Olga moved to approve the report, Doug seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

**Erik Swartzendruber**

Willamette Valley Regenerative Landscapes has planted a demo garden in Central Park. The group would like to enhance the educational quality of the garden by adding a permanent sign. The group already has \$2000 of the \$3000 needed for the sign. It will be located on the north edge of the park along the Monroe sidewalk and will be about 2 feet by three feet. Erik mentioned that this kind of work is definitely not in the average person's awareness. Audrey added that with a lot of work going into carbon sequestration, this would be a good educational tool. Mary moved to approve \$1000 for the sign, Doug seconded. All members were in favor, with Roberta dissenting. She believes that people will not read the sign and that somewhere else, perhaps Riverfront Park, would be a better place for such a sign. Jenny will work with Erik on getting info to the Board, including a sketch or a draft.

**NAPF Membership**

Olga reported that the NAPF has full day seminars for members to attend on weekends. Mary asked about the cost of the seminars. Audrey said there is no cost because we are new members. Audrey said the seminars involve strategic planning about the mission. These are facilitated sessions with Q and A. Mary added that Salesforce is having an event tomorrow about marketing and fundraising.

**MLK /MOU Draft Review**

Olga asked if it was possible to use the City Attorney to help us with this document. Meredith said the MOU is a document of partnership, drafted in that spirit. The City Attorney would be willing to make changes if need be. Olga said she would put the MOU and the RFP in Google Docs and let folks edit both. Doug said that was a good idea. Audrey suggested putting a date of about 3 weeks on it to get feedback. Ken said we need legal guidance and will throw this out to a lawyer he knows. Roberta said

she would also speak with a lawyer about fees for non-profits.

Regarding raising our profile: Roberta sent last year's ad that appeared in the activity guide. Meredith asked what the emphasis was on raising our profile. Olga explained that a consultant was hired and a study was done and it was found that people in Corvallis didn't know who we were.

### **Meredith's Report**

Meredith reported that she spoke to the folks at C3 and they said they intended to use about \$50,000 of money donated through Friends in the next year. They are on board for us to invest some of their money. The city budget process is happening. Jenny asked about the Parks budget. Meredith said her budget will maintain the status quo with shifting internal focus and projects in natural areas. Olga offered that parents are hesitant to sign up for summer camps because of all the homeless camps in the parks. Meredith responded that full enforcement will begin May 15. There will be a 50 foot buffer zone for trails and paths. Some areas are problems because camps are on railroad or ODOT property. Hopefully, some progress will be made.

Meredith said she would like to meet individually with everyone and hear their experiences.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher