

**Friends of Parks and Recreation**  
**Minutes**  
**April 18, 2023**

**Attending**

Ken Haines  
Doug Severs  
Mary Buckman  
Meredith Petit

**Absent**

Olga Loza  
Audrey Hatch  
Stephanie Long  
Jenny Meisel

**Guest**

Laurie Mason

The meeting began at 5pm with a tour of the Majestic Theatre. Stephanie introduced Laurie Mason, who is very involved with the Majestic Theatre and is curious about Friends.

**Minutes**

Correction to minutes: Plants purchased for Clean Up Days did not total \$1500. Rather, each Day planned will need \$1500 for a total of \$3000.

With that change, Mary moved to approve the minutes. Olga seconded. Acceptance was unanimous.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mary reported that a large sum was paid out for pickleball. \$5500 was received for the pollinator garden in Central Park, which was started in memory of Courtney Cloyd. This money is intended to be used to finish the project. The tax return will be done in the middle of May. Doing taxes cost \$300 which is a good deal. We have two CDs currently, totaling \$100,000. One is at 5% and one is at 3%. Stephanie suggested putting another \$100,000 in CDs. Meredith said the Community Center has no specific needs right now. Olga made a motion to invest another \$100,000 in CDs. Doug seconded. Mary said she would talk to Sam about it.

**Membership Model Update**

Olga reported on a discussion about Memberships for Friends with some members of the Board. They agreed it should start small. Members would receive a twice a year or quarterly newsletter. Membership levels could be \$15 for students and seniors, regular membership - \$20, sustaining membership with recurring donation, family membership - \$35. Automatic reminders could be configured in Salesforce or in PayPal. This should start with a survey to see if people want to join. Mary asked if the Board decided to do this. Audrey pointed out this is an ongoing discussion, the benefit of which is community engagement. Stephanie asked if a yearly membership meeting would be required. Meredith said it depends on the definition of member. Jenny added that the membership is tax deductible. There could be membership events during the year. Laurie Mason pointed out that our by-laws do not allow for membership. The Board would need to change the by-laws. Ken said people need to know what the goals are. There was a discussion about a signature event, such as theater in the park at Starker.

**Owens Farm**

Meredith talked about the barn and schoolhouse and the house moved to the property 20 years ago. This was acquired by a group of partners (Greenbelt, Samaritan, City of Corvallis, Benton County) but is still not open to the public. A conceptual trails plan has been developed to make the trails safer and there have been some invite only tours of the property. The plan is to do targeted outreach and open this up for broader community input. There is a potential \$500,000 ODOT grant to build a pedestrian

bridge over 99W to connect Jackson Frazier Wetlands to Owens Farm. The barn on the property has fallen. The house has been mostly cleaned out and the schoolhouse is in the best shape of the three buildings.

### **Meredith's Report**

Personnel have been moved around at Parks and Rec. Christel Birdwell is the permanent of Cultural Arts and Community Engagement. With Christel moving to this position, the theatre admin position is now open, as well as the Aquatic Center supervisor position. Summer class and camp registrations have been very successful. There is a wait list for camps and swimming lessons. Staffing at the pool is better. Fifty people turned out for the first park cleanup day, in addition to 15 to 20 staff. The next event is May 6 at Central Park at 9:30am.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm..

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher