

Friends of Parks and Recreation
Minutes
May 13, 2023

Attending

Ken Haines
Doug Severs
Mary Buckman
Meredith Petit

Absent

Olga Loza
Charley Fisher
Stephanie Long

Guest

Laurie Mason
Jenny Meisel
Audrey Hatch

Phil Hays

Minutes

The meeting began at 5pm with Phil Hays introducing himself as a long time City and County Parks Board member. The Board also accepted Laurie Mason formally as a member of the Friends' Board. Laurie was unable to attend the meeting due to a previous commitment.

Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. Olga made a motion to approve the minutes and Doug seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mary reported that expenditures during the past month were for the plants purchased for the Parks clean up days. We now have four different CDS, all earning about 5% in interest. Small amounts of donations are trickling in for the Corvallis Arts Center landscaping. The Central Park Neighborhood Association is finishing the pollinator garden in Central Park in memory of Courtney Cloyd. They have requested \$1000 to partially pay for signage and \$1100 for plants. Olga made a motion to approve the funds. Stephanie seconded. The vote was unanimous. There was a discussion about donations made through PayPal and making sure the correct people were getting notifications when a donation is made. Charley moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Doug seconded the motion. The report was accepted unanimously.

Garfield Park

Stephanie gave some information about Garfield Park. She talked about its ownership by the Corvallis School District, protecting it from future development, how the park serves a diverse and underserved community, and its lack of amenities. This led to a broader discussion of other Corvallis partnerships with 509J, including the Aquatic Center, Wildcat Park, and the former Western View property.

Owens Farm

There will be a tour of Owens Farm June 7 at 5pm. Owens Farm is a partnership among the City, the County, Greenbelt Land Trust, and Good Samaritan. Phil Hays has been involved in the Jackson-Frazier boardwalk campaign. Jessica McDonald was able to procure a \$500,000 grant from ODOT to help build a pedestrian overpass over Route 99W connecting Jackson-Frazier and Owens Farm. Union Pacific will not allow pedestrians to cross the railroad tracks. There will be a public campaign to raise money for the project. Friends for County Parks currently has \$327,000 for related projects. Fundraising will be a major undertaking as millions of dollars are needed. Friends is being asked to be the fiscal sponsor for the Owens Farm project. Friends originally raised the money to move the house to the Owens Farm property. Ken suggested that money raised could be funneled through us, but we would not do the fundraising for the project. Phil agreed, saying that Friends should not volunteer to raise the money for the project. Mary pointed out that the MLK project started that way. We need to be clear about what our role is. Ken suggested that there should be a document laying out expectations.

Phil said that an MOU is being created showing what each entity will do. He added that fundraising will begin this summer. Olga asked why AFRANA can't collect the money? Phil said they don't want to do it. He recommended that Friends be the conduit for funds for the project, but not be the fundraiser.

Meredith's Report

A postcard about MLK park was sent to promote general awareness about the project. About \$40,000 has been raised from the postcard so far. The playground at Starker (formerly Sunset) Park will be resurfaced by the end of June. Parks and Rec was able to use operating funds saved from other areas to complete the project. About 50 people volunteered for the Central Park cleanup. The department is transitioning some seasonal positions to year round positions. Participation in classes and camps is back to pre-pandemic levels. Currently, the department has a vacant park planner position.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm..

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher