

Friends of Corvallis Parks and Recreation Monthly Board Meeting March 18, 2025

Meeting began at 4:40 p.m. at Avery Park office. Attendees at the start:

Ruby Moon

Olga Loza

Tom Kirch

Laurie Mason (acting secretary)

Doug Severs

Meredith Petit

Arriving during treasurer's report: Ken Haines

Absent: Jean Scott, Stephanie Mehlenbacher, Charley Fisher

Minutes

Laurie moved, and Tom seconded, for approval of previous minutes. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report and business

Laurie gave Doug a form to return to Citizens Bank, along with relevant minutes, for his inclusion as person authorized to sign checks for Friends account 2237 4289 62. It was agreed that Olga would remain as a signer along with Laurie and Doug.

Laurie presented the treasurer's report for February. Funds under Friends' control at the end of February total \$623,713.60, distributed as follows:

- \$401,726.73 at Edward Jones, \$330,000 in CDs and the rest in money market;
- \$221,681.73 at Citizens Bank checking, of which \$189,424.15 went March 4, 2025, to Parks and Recreation to further the MLK Park project;
- \$305.14 scattered at WellsTrade, PayPal and GiveButter.

Olga questioned the interest rate Friends is getting for its money market account; Laurie said she would speak to Helen Bennet, EJ funds manager.

Laurie presented, and Meridith explained, two requests from the Corvallis Community Center for Friends to sponsor, from general funds, (1) a Mothers' Day tea (\$500) and summer concert (\$500) this fiscal year, payment asap, and (2) two summer concerts (\$1,000 total) next fiscal year to be funded after July 1, 2025. Laurie moved to approve these requests, Ruby seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Ken noted that this money, while coming from the general fund, could be viewed as money earned from investments on C3's considerable account (\$185,590.74) and discussion followed about possibly investing C3 money separately from other funds and directing that interest into the C3 rather than general fund. No action was taken.

Guest Presentation

Dave Eckert spoke for 40 minutes, peppered with questions, about the activities of the Water Action Team, a subset of the Sustainability Coalition, that was formed in 2009 to regenerate former wetlands that once generously covered what is now Corvallis and which now represent merely 1% of their former glory. Wetlands, he explained, filter and regenerate groundwater, provide flood control, and act as natural fire prevention. Since the mid-1800s people have rerouted surface water to meet their agricultural aspirations. Involving hundreds of volunteers of all ages, the Water Action Team has regenerated wetlands in MLK Park and Bald Hill areas.

Ken asked if the team might want funding assistance that Friends could provide for wetland restoration in Corvallis parks. He and Dave planned to continue talks.

Parks and Recreation update

Meredith, Parks and Rec director, said consultants continue work to assess best options for rehabilitating the Osborn Pool roof and facility, and predicted crystallization of those options in one to two months. Meanwhile, the outdoor pools are open and plans are set to widen the offerings for outdoor lap swimming and springtime swimming lessons.

She said the city might buy property between Chip Ross Park and Timberhill for the Bike Park Project, proposed to chiefly host mountain bikers and perhaps also street bikes on an asphalt roller-coaster style “pump track.”

June is Pride Month; last year Parks and Rec celebrated with a paint-the-bones event in Avery Park that drew many people. This year the plan is to invite folks to wrap trees in Avery Park with rainbow ribbons made from fabric bought at steep discount at the Joann Fabric going-out-of-business sale. She asked Friends to sponsor this 6/1/2025 event -- \$1,000 for fabric and \$500 for donuts. Ken moved to sponsor the event from the Friends general fund; Doug seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Downtown Beautification

Ruby gave a brief history of CBUF (Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry) efforts to raise money to enhance plantings downtown. Friends yet holds \$12,191.06 in a fund for that purpose. CBUF has disbanded; Ruby and two other CBUF members will present at our next meeting a plan to use some of all of that money on a native plant garden, with signage, along 8th Street in Central Park.

The meeting ended at 6:10 p.m. Our next meeting will start at 4:30 p.m. on April 15 **AT THE AVERY PARK OFFICE**