

**Friends of Parks and Recreation**  
**Minutes**  
**November 19, 2024**

**Attending**

|                |                |            |
|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Laurie Mason   | Charley Fisher | Tom Kirch  |
| Doug Severs    | Olga Loza      | Jean Scott |
| Ruby Moon      | Stephanie Long |            |
| Meredith Petit | Ken Haines     |            |

**Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order at 4:30. Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes. Tom seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Laurie passed around a statement for insurance purposes stating that Board members have not been arrested for members to sign. Laurie reported that Tom Wirth (insurance agent) has been extremely helpful. He is currently helping to determine whether we need to wait a year to change policies or whether we can do that mid-year. Laurie reported that 2 of our CDs have been reinvested and she is awaiting a big rush of checks from the donation letter. Laurie also reported that she and Doug have two meetings on Friday: 3:00 meeting with Meredith about MLK, and 3:30 meeting about Owens Farm. Roby offered that MLK is not a neighborhood park and that poor people will not be able to access it. Tom asked Meredith if the idea is to make MLK Park a destination. Meredith said that is the idea: the park is 30 acres and will serve the community at large. Ken remarked that he would rather see the focus on smaller neighborhood park improvements instead of spending large amounts on one park. He pointed out that Audrey Hatch put a lot of time into MLK park, but it is inaccessible to many in town. Tom asked what Friends has contributed to MLK park. Laurie replied that we supplied \$30,000 in seed money that was, hopefully, going to come back to us in admin fees. But we have earned about \$6000 in fees because the majority of the money went directly to the City and we are still awaiting the rest of the primary donor's pledged 2 million dollars. Meredith said that the agreement with Bob Rothschild has become more difficult since they relocated to the east coast and that he has been working with park planners and landscapers. Charley moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Stephanie seconded. The report was unanimously accepted.

**Parks and Rec Update**

Meredith reported that they are switching gears for the winter, closing some restrooms, turning off fountains, etc. Meredith suggested that any downed limbs in parks from storm activity be reported to Parks and Res for removal. Regarding the Osborn closure: there is corrosion in the steel beam that supports the roof. Currently they are shoring up the building and preparing for the forensic engineer to come in. The facility remains closed, class fees have been refunded, memberships have been paused. The school district and city are cooperating. There is potential to recoup some of the money from insurance. The Turkey Trot will be held again at Crystal Lake sports park. The Chip Ross Park interpretive sign has arrived, but has not been installed yet.

### **Owens Farm Project**

Charley addressed a concern expressed by several Board members who have suggested that this group does not/should not do projects on the scale of Owens Farm. He said that just because we don't do many big projects, we should not automatically reject this one. Meredith added that taking this on would grow the general fund. Laurie pointed out that MLK is a project entirely in Corvallis while Owens Farm is not. The Owens Farm Group could easily set up their own 501C-3 to handle the donations. She said also it would be good to know why the other groups who were asked to partner in this said no. Meredith answered that the City considers itself to be the main entity in this project. Charley mentioned the bike and pedestrian bridge that would connect Owens Farm to Jackson Frazier. Ruby asked about an animal bridge. A discussion ensued.

### **Consolidating Account Balances**

There was a discussion about further consolidating small amounts of money left in project accounts. This was done under the last Treasurer in 2023 Ken suggested using leftover funds for maintenance on the projects instead of eliminating the accounts. Meredith added that the remaining funds could also be moved to other accounts. Laurie cautioned that we cannot arbitrarily assign money donated for specific projects to other projects.

### **Yearly Donation Letter**

Ken said the yearly letter will not be ready before Thanksgiving and will possibly be four pages long.

### **Our next meeting will be held on December 17 at 4:30.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher