

Friends of Parks & Recreation  
Minutes  
October 21, 2025

**Attending**

Christel Birdwell  
Doug Severs  
Laurie Mason

Tom Kirch  
Ken Haines  
Charley Fisher

Jean Scott  
Ruby Moon

**Absent**

Stephanie Long

The meeting started at 4:35 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre.

**Review Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved.

**Minutes**

Laurie made a motion to postpone the approval of September minutes until the November meeting so the Board can consider corrections offered on the circulated draft. Ruby seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

**Treasurer's Report**

Laurie reported that an \$85k CD matured on Sept. 8 and – with interest and available cash on hand – was reinvested in a \$90k CD that matures 6/22/26 at an annual rate of 3.85%. She also noted administrative fees are suspended for a year, so **all** earmarked donations now go entirely to selected programs.

**Parks and Recreation Funding Requests**

Christel Birdwell, theatre director, shared that last year's Majestic Gala – sponsored by Friends' general fund for \$6,500 – raised enough money to enable local youth to attend a variety of theater programs with enhanced equipment and staffing. She asked if Friends would extend its support for a third year. Charley moved to allocate \$6,500 from the general fund, Laurie seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Laurie noted a request by The Majestic to use the Friends' Give Butter platform to host its Gala online auction. The request received unanimous board support.

**Parks and Recreation Update**

- P & R is pleased to announce the appointment of Heather Dimke from Salem as Senior Administration Specialist. Heather will be responsible for overseeing general customer service operations at Corvallis Community Center (C3).
- The upcoming Halloween events will include trick-or-treating downtown, a Majestic movie screening, and a children's Halloween party at the library.
- Four seasonal positions with P&R will conclude on October 31, 2025. Next year, there will be five seasonal positions available.
- The City and School District recently hosted a community meeting at Osborn Aquatic Center (OAC) to gather feedback regarding future steps for OAC funding. The estimated funding gap for "priority 1" repairs is approximately \$750,000, with an overall need of about \$6 million. The City and District plan to reconvene to establish repair timelines. A recording of the presentation is available on the school district website.

- A celebration event for the Martin Luther King Jr. Park Project is scheduled for Oct. 28th at C3. The curator will deliver a presentation, and the event will honor those who contributed to the project.
- The annual Turkey Trot at Crystal Lake Park will take place on Thanksgiving Day as P&R's featured special event.

### **Bylaw voting**

Laurie moved that Article 4, Section 13, of the Friends' bylaws be amended to add two final sentences: **Motions emailed to all Board members and affirmed by each – to all – shall likewise constitute Board approval. An exception to the requirement of universal approval shall be granted in cases of incapacity preventing a Board member's participation.** She further moved that Article 10, Section 1, be amended such that the phrase **at their annual meeting** be replaced with the phrase **at any board meeting**.

Both motions were passed unanimously.

Laurie then moved to strike the third sentence in Article 4, Section 1, thus eliminating minimum age as a qualification for board membership, and to change Article 5, Section 2, **(Any member of the Board of Directors may serve as officer of this corporation)** to add **except the office of Treasurer, which must be held by a board member aged 21 years or older.** A friendly amendment changed this last motion to add, instead, **provided they are age 21 years or older.**, thus including the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary to the original motion.

With this amendment, both motions passed unanimously.

### **Board Elections**

No board members retired; any positions, whether board or officer, that had reached expiration were renewed. The office of Secretary may, however, shuffle in coming months as the current officeholder considers redirecting her efforts toward Board telecommunication.

### **Native Garden Budget**

Ruby requested reimbursement for the Central Park Native Plants Demonstration Garden from the Bulb Account, which holds \$12,191.06 raised by the former CBUF – Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry advisory committee – of which she was an active member. The board agreed to pause a decision until Laurie obtained a list of expenses from the group performing the work. (The board, via online vote, approved in late October the expenditure of \$5,170.90 from the Bulb Fund account.)

### **Draft Annual Letter**

An appeal letter was shared with all board members for feedback, which was provided to Jean after the meeting. The committee will finalize and send the version to donors.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Scott

