



CITY OF TROUTDALE PARKS & FACILITIES

AGENDA PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kellogg Community room
234 SW Kendall Court
Troutdale, OR 97060
July 17, 2024
7:00 PM

The PAC meeting will be held in person in the Kellogg Room and will also be available on teams.

1. Roll Call
2. June meeting cancelled – no minutes – review and approve May 15, 2024, Minutes.
3. Communication from Staff
4. Public to be heard (remarks shall be limited to five minutes for each speaker)
5. Election / appointment of committee officers
6. Discuss Imagination Station surface issues
7. Committee concerns and initiatives, future agenda items, closing comments
11. Next month's meeting August 16, 2024, has been cancelled
12. Adjourn

This meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities.

A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made in writing at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to Jona Jacobsen 503-674-7271 or by email to: Jona.Jacobsen@Troutdaleoregon.gov

SUMMARY
PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Kellogg Community Room
May 15, 2024

Members Present: Jeff Hutchinson - Chair, Carol Allen - Vice Chair, Brenda Austin, Shelly Reynolds, Victoria Rizzo, Sherilee Winters, Robbie Cantrell, Jim Hill

Members Absent: Zach Andrews, Michelle Craver (Alternate)

Staff: Jona Jacobsen, Parks and Facilities Superintendent

1. **Roll Call** – Jeff called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. **Review and approve March Minutes** – Unanimously approved as presented.
3. **Communication from Staff** – Jona reported on the Parks crew's activities and personnel hires, the successful Earth Day event, and ADA improvements to the ball fields at Columbia Park.
4. **Presentation from Mollie King on current goings-on in Troutdale Recreation.** – Recreation Department programs were highlighted, and questions were addressed about Wilderness Wonder Camp.
5. **Review of 2024-25 Budget Approval process and its effects on planned Parks & Facilities improvements and projects in the coming year.** – Jona and Victoria explained how the City's need to hold money in reserve for next year's police and fire contracts resulted in a majority of Parks projects being cut from the budget.
6. **Discussion of the need to establish a small enclosed "dog rest area" at Glenn Otto Park, as well as a request from Marlee Boxler to allow leashed dogs at Mayor's Square and Depot Park to promote tourism, economic development, and City-sponsored events.** – After discussion, the PAC consented to continue discussions about the dog rest area, but not make a recommendation to City Council. Better signage about the rules regarding dogs was needed in the parks.
7. **Committee Concerns and Initiatives, future agenda items, closing comments** – Key comments regarded the delay of the skate park and addressing a hole and a hanging branch on [the trail](#) coming down from [SB 4](#). [1:29:57] PAC members and City Councilors were invited to meet with Jona and tour the Parks facility.
8. **Hold or cancel next month's meeting, Wednesday, June 19, 2024** – No June meeting would be held.
9. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

**MINUTES
PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Kellogg Community Room
May 15, 2024**

Members Present: Jeff Hutchinson - Chair
Carol Allen - Vice Chair
Brenda Austin
Shelly Reynolds
Victoria Rizzo
Sherilee Winters
Robbie Cantrell
Jim Hill

Members Absent: Zach Andrews
Michelle Craver (Alternate)

Staff: Jona Jacobsen, Parks and Facilities Superintendent

1. Roll Call: Jeff called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Review and Approve March Minutes

Robbie Cantrell moved to approve the March 27, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Victoria Rizzo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. Communication from Staff

Jona reported on Parks activities and events as follows:

- Parks crews were working on vegetation management programs, seasonal staff were onboarded this week, and the hanging baskets for the Downtown light poles came in today.
- The April 20th Earth Day event at Columbia Park was a huge success with excellent volunteer turnout of a little under 50 people and a huge amount accomplished. A lot of beautiful plants were planted in the Columbia Park Woods area that support insect and bird biodiversity.
- Facilities had hired a new in-house, full-time custodian. In response to a security issue a few months ago with the former contractor who was providing security services, the process of moving cleaning services in-house had to be accelerated. The full-time employee (FTE) position had been in the budget for multiple budget cycles.
- Sports' seasons were very active. The beginning of the soccer season had multiple clubs using the Columbia Park soccer field. Little League season was ongoing. ADA improvements had been made to one of the ball fields at Columbia Park at the request of East County Little League. The gates of both dugouts were replaced with wider, 4-ft gates so team members in wheelchairs could access the field.
- Parks was gearing up for a busy season at Glenn Otto Park. He reminded that the water temperatures were still quite cold, and that no lifeguards would be on duty at Glenn Otto Park for the next few weeks.

Jona would be watching for the communication from Dee Archie [8:52] about cleaning up the woods area by the dog park where kids were going to do drugs and have sex. He would be happy

to be in closer contact with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office school resource officers that work in Columbia Park and appreciated the tip.

Jeff called for public comment.

Tiffany Long [10:00], resident, asked about the decision-making process for Earth Day, noting her surprise at the new plants and trees planted inside the dog park because the dogs dig them up. She also noted her dog jumped over the tiny fences, which seemed to hinder dog movement, conflicting with the purpose of a dog park. She also asked if there were any plans to get water into the dog park, such as having a water hose available on busy weekends to refill the existing water dispenser.

Jona replied he had decided to plant the new plants and trees in the dog park in response to the removal of a huge amount of trees and vegetation in the process of configuring the area for the dog park. The tiny fences were not permanent and were only there to prevent dogs from running through to allow the plants to get established, not to stop the dogs. The fences would likely be removed at the end of the summer. Historically, the Earth Day event had been organized by one of the Parks workers. The general strategy was to rotate the event on a year-by-year basis from one park to another.

- He confirmed there was a budget allocation for finishing the dog park installation, primarily to put in a water line and create a water station for dogs and people, which was planned in the coming fiscal year.
- Given the activities going on in the Columbia Woods right next door, he was hesitant to put out a hose with open access to the public. Until the dog park got the water station, Parks would do its best to refill the cooler in the dog park and recommended people bring a water bottle for their dogs.

4. Presentation from Mollie King on current goings-on in Troutdale Recreation.

Recreation Manager Mollie King presented an update on the Recreation Department via PowerPoint, highlighting the many different programs provided to various age groups, some of which had become a staple within the community, and many were provided free of charge. She reviewed changes within the Play Park program, which would begin meeting again once a week, and the Wilderness Wonder Camp, which would be provided in-house this year. Dates for Movies in the Park were provided, as well as details on Merry Movie Night, the Little Trout Kid Zone on First Friday, and other annual events. The new half-time FTE would learn everything about her job in case of illness, etc., and would work with all the events to help support the whole program, not just Recreation specific events.

- She addressed questions, noting 16 kids were signed up for the Wilderness Wonder Camp with a few on the waitlist. This year was an experiment in making the camp affordable. Residents always pay less than non-residents, and the registration system was delayed for a week to allow for registration only to residents.
 - Overnight camping would not be considered this year. Parents could perhaps volunteer to be chaperones and camp with the kids. No overnight camping was allowed at Glenn Otto, but maybe an exception could be given for a night.

Adrian, resident, [30:48] stated he was still willing to help with a family board game night and apologized for missing Mollie's message. Both agreed to connect soon.

5. Review of 2024-25 Budget Approval process and its effects on planned Parks & Facilities improvements and projects in the coming year.

Jona reported on the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget discussion which was primarily centered on the need to hold a large sum of money in reserve as the City waited to see what happened with next year's police and fire contracts.

Victoria and Jona explained the Budget Committee made cuts in several areas due to the police and fire contracts, noting close to 90 - 95 percent of the cuts made from the General fund were made from the Parks Budget, which included the skate park and the Beaver Creek improvements. The City was still trying to get the grant for the Beaver Creek Bridge. If everything went well with the contracts, which expire in June of 2025, some projects could be added back into the budget.

Jona clarified the Parks FTE in the budget was hired last fall after being a seasonal employee for the past three summers. While he understood and accepted the Budget Committee's decision, the PAC must understand none of the removed projects would happen this year.

Jonah addressed questions from the Committee and provided additional comments as follows:

- The 5 percent of project dollars that remained included sun sails for Imagination Station and a grossly reduced amount for surface improvements at Imagination Station, which would not be sufficient. Spending the money to repair the surface with patches would mean ripping the patches out to completely resurface Imagination Station in a few years.
- A last-minute addition of \$50,000 to the Parks Budget was to contract security services at Glenn Otto and Columbia Parks. He provided background information on the process of considering security services, noting the services might not be contracted until summer of 2025.
- Bringing in volunteer labor to help at Imagination Station would be unwise given the history of the previous surface's failure. The City would be better off going with a contractor who offered a warranty. The cost paled in comparison to a lawsuit from serious injury. Volunteers were in general a great idea but not for something of such scale.
- The project with Trailkeepers on the Beaver Creek Trail restoration would still be completed, as the project was funded in the current fiscal year's budget. Rebuilding the aging, rotting boardwalk at the bottom of the stairs was his next part of the project with Trailkeepers and would be good for community buy-in, but would not be addressed until next year.
- The Budget Committee approved \$350,000 for Beaver Creek North Bridge replacement; however, \$40,000 for Beaver Creek Canyon trail and rebuilding the rotting stairs and boardwalk was cut from the budget

6. Discussion of the need to establish a small enclosed "dog rest area" at Glenn Otto Park, as well as a request from Marlee Boxler to allow leashed dogs at Mayor's Square and Depot Park to promote tourism, economic development, and City-sponsored events.

Jona described Staff's concerns about how prohibiting dogs at Glenn Otto Park could cause people to leave their dogs in a hot car to go to Sugarpine or the park. The City did not have the ability to govern policies on the part of the park Sugarpine rented from the City. While no recommendation or vote was expected tonight, the Committee was asked to discuss establishing a fenced-in dog relief area on the small grass area at Glenn Otto between the lifeguard statue and Sugarpine. The area would have clear signage stating, "No dogs on the beach."

- Mayor's Square and Depot Park were areas people go into as an extension of the street when enjoying First Friday, frequently with their dogs on a leash. Marlee was concerned that prohibiting dogs in the two parks could hobble tourism when people want to go into the small parks with their leashed pet while walking downtown, and she would potentially discuss her concern with the City Council.

Key discussion points regarding a dog rest area at Glenn Otto and allowing leashed dogs in Mayor's Square and Depot Park were as follows with questions addressed as noted:

- Jona confirmed Mayor's Square had a dog fountain installed but not a waste station.
- Leaving dogs in cars was criminal. Why would a person bring their dog if dogs were not allowed in the park?
- People have walked their dogs in Mayor's Square on First Fridays since day one and having an ordinance would not change anything. How could the Council object, especially when people were doing it anyway?
- Allowing on-leash dogs in the two downtown parks would make it more dog-friendly for tourists, as would a dog rest area at Glenn Otto. Having waste and water stations was a good idea.
- Jona described how Glenn Otto became a bargaining chip in the Council's consideration of the dog ordinance. [59:20] He understood if the PAC was not comfortable making the recommendation and continuing the discussion with the Council, but was concerned about safety for dogs. The conversation could be tabled until an acute need or incident arose.
- The PAC to think about it and put the discussion on next month's agenda and then decide whether to present it to the Council.
- If the PAC agenda got out soon enough, perhaps the Committee could do some kind of request for residents to attend and voice their opinions so Council could see the interest.
- At the moment, the dog ordinance was not enforced. Jona had been instructing his staff to actively talk to people who were violating the code around domestic animals and informing them of better options. He did the same himself and people were generally receptive so far. Questions had been asked as to whether the ordinance even mattered if it was not being enforced. He did not want to see tickets being written to dog owners enjoying themselves at First Fridays.
 - Such laws make people feel unwelcome, which was Marlee's point about the downtown events: dog owners would feel unwelcome and therefore not come and spend their money.
- Jona agreed the budgeted allocation for security could also include signage and enforcement for the dog rest area. He would ask security patrolling the parking lot to keep an eye on cars with dogs in them. The budget discussion seemed to be more geared toward public safety. Three things needed daily enforcement at Glenn Otto: parking, dogs, and alcohol, which had made traffic and parking worse because people stayed longer.

- The PAC had already agreed Glenn Otto would remain a dog-free park. Once the City opens the little area near Sugarpine, the owners would not stay there but go into the park as they already did. A responsible dog owner would not take their dog where dogs are not allowed. Sugarpine patrons should not bring their dogs or not go to Sugarpine if they have to leave their dogs in their vehicles.
 - A security presence was needed and people with dogs in the park where dogs were prohibited should be ticketed.
 - People out hiking and doing things with their dogs could decide to stop at Sugarpine on their way home and currently have to park across the street.
 - Sugarpine had outgrown its location, given the issues with traffic, parking, dogs, and alcohol.
 - SugarPine knew Oxbow Park was no-leash, yet they advertised everywhere to “bring your dog” so who was really not listening to the rules.
 - Because Sugarpine was its own independent business entity as the current contract was written, City management would not step in.
 - Traffic at Sugarpine also took away from events at Glenn Otto Park.
 - Sugarpine was not the cause of the problems; it was a perfect storm of contributing factors and Sugarpine was one of them.
 - Sugarpine's lease was just renewed this last year, which was believed to be for five-years. In some ways, the City had contributed to this situation by not putting together a good lease.
- The PAC would not solve the dog issue even if discussion continued next month. The Committee was not serving the residents well by focusing only on Glenn Otto. Some parks were large enough to have fenced dog runs. The City should give people a place to let their dog run off-leash inside the park. The PAC may need to come up with a holistic solution which might take six months to a year.
- Jona believed Council would flat-out reject the “dog rest area” proposal at this point, describing tensions already ran high between the Glenn Otto Park caretaker and Sugarpine's staff. Spending some money on changing the traffic pattern in the parking lot to having only one way in and one way out so traffic flows in only one direction would help tremendously; however, the required budget allocation would likely prevent that change from happening and the parking lot needed other improvements anyway. A lot of stakeholders would need to be involved, including the County probably.
- Larger signs that actually stated dogs were not allowed were needed in the parks, especially in Glen Otto.
 - Jona apologized, noting he still needed to update the signage in the parks, which was on his list.
- Mayor's Square and Depot Park should be left as is and the PAC should focus discussions on what to do with the dog situation at Sugarpine as a priority.
 - Council could pass an ordinance allowing dogs in Mayor's Square and Depot Park. Marlee will do a great presentation.
- The City now had an off-leash dog park that people had worked to get for a long time, which was a win. Residents had neighborhood parks to walk dogs on leashes. It was especially important in the neighborhood parks to get signage posted that leashes were required.

Jona confirmed the consensus of the Committee was to revisit the subject throughout the summer, but not bring any recommendations to the City Council at this time.

Tiffany Long said when she moved to Troutdale two years ago, she wondered if the City hated dogs because she noticed a lot of "no dog" signs. She asked how residents could support Marlee's efforts.

Jona explained Marlee Boxler works in the City's Community Development Department. Her primary focus is promotion of tourism, economic development, and community events. He invited Tiffany to email him at jona.jacobsen@troutdaleoregon.gov and he would put her in touch with Marlee.

Shelly noted the agendas for every City Council meeting were posted on the website. Tiffany could keep an eye out for the subject and attend the meeting to support Marlee and have the opportunity to address City Council directly.

7. Committee Concerns and Initiatives, future agenda items, closing comments

Carol asked why she was listed as one of the interviewers for the Council interviews on May 21st. Shelly explained Carol had to do the interviews because Jeff would be an interviewee since his term was up. Carol said she was delighted the skate park was put on temporary hold, noting it was a headache for Reynolds High School, which did not want the skate park there. It was not a good thing for the kids.

Jona apologized for not getting back to Sherilee about the hole in the trail coming down from SP 4 near Evans. [1:28:50] He would have it checked out tomorrow. Sherilee noted it looked like someone had filled the hole with rocks, adding one of the branches had come down, but the other one was real large and was still hanging down by the bench.

Shelly said she looked forward to seeing if the indoor pickleball stadium would eliminate the pickleball games in Llewellyn Park at 9:00 am on Sundays.

Victoria thanked Councilor Sandy Glantz, Adrian, and Tiffany for joining the meeting. She thanked Jona, too, adding the parks looked good.

Jeff reported on his meeting with Jona last month and his tour of the Parks facility. Jona invited PAC members and City Councilors wanting to see the Parks office, get to know the staff, do walkthroughs at parks, or discuss concerns to contact him.

The Committee commended Jona for doing such a great job.

8. Hold or cancel next month's meeting, Wednesday, June 19, 2024

The PAC discussed whether to hold next month's meeting, noting efforts to pick priorities from the Parks Master Plan was probably a moot point after the budget decisions. Jona noted continued discussion on the dog rest area was the only agenda item that came up in discussion, adding the PAC could always talk about what can be done to improve parks or visitors' experience of parks, even if there was no funding for large projects.

Jona clarified the path had not yet been resurfaced at Sandee Palisades, but the project was kept in the budget and was still going to happen. Shelly noted the path was not ADA-compliant and was dangerous. Jona said the resurfacing would be a huge project and the layout would need to be changed due to many large tree roots. Without removing the old trees, the path could not continue in the same place.

Victoria noted the PAC would have to meet in July to pick its new chairperson.

Shelly Reynolds moved to cancel the June Parks Advisory Committee meeting for 2024. Robbie Cantrell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Tiffany asked if the PAC would have a presence at any of the First Fridays. Jona acknowledged the PAC had discussed doing so noting First Friday was June 7th. If anybody wanted to have a table for the PAC, they should email him. He clarified anyone who saw an issue at a park could call City Hall and the concerns would be forwarded directly to him.

Shelly noted the chat box on the Zoom app was disabled. The Committee could not hear Brenda, who was on mute.

Victoria noted with no June meeting, this was Jeff's last meeting.

Jeff thanked the PAC, noting he had served almost five years on committees. The Town Center Advisory Board would meet tomorrow, which he would attend. He appreciated how passionate the PAC members were about the Committee's work.

The Committee thanked Jeff for his service.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Jeff Hutchinson, Chair

Date

Attest:
