

City of West Linn
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Summary Notes
October 15, 2015

Members Present: Don Kingsborough, Steve Millage, Roger Shepherd, John Linman, Sarah Silvernail and Vicki Handy

Staff Present: Ken Warner & Ken Worcester

Council Liaison:

Guests: David Baker

Meeting called to order by Don at 7:02 pm

1. Approval of tonight's agenda – Approved by the Board with addition of 1 item by Don Kingsborough

2. Community Comments

David Baker – 1/24 Pumpkin Carving Contest at Robinwood Station, 1-4 pm with prizes at 430 pm. juniors and adults. Guest Judges will be onsite to determine winners.

3. Approval of Summary Notes

Notes of the September 10 , 2015 meeting were reviewed. Steve made a motion to accept Notes and was seconded by John. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Proposal for all Park Off Leash Hours at Mary S Young Park

David Baker presented information about the proposal for Mary S Young to be off leash at times. A brochure from Portland Parks & Recreation – Portland's Wildlife and your dog was presented. The brochure discusses how people can help protect wildlife by keeping their dogs on leash. David also explained that he went to the Bolton Neighborhood Association for input on this topic:

Highlights from NA: A flawed plan, already an area for dogs off leash, Bolton NA borders many parks, many people enjoy parks, a small dog was killed at Mary S Young in the past, dogs wander into the streets, dogs off leash chase wildlife, last week a lost dog off leash in Mary S Young Park, fences for dogs should be the norm, but the biggest take away was the safety of all people in the park.

Ken Worcester explained that many years ago the concept of fencing was discussed and shot down by dog owners. Maybe a fenced area for smaller dogs?

Don – As a 10 year participant with a dog (a lot of it off leash) everybody has a story. Dogs can run to parks and/or away from park. All dogs are different.

Ken Worcester briefed the Board on conversation with John Mullen, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD). The current lease for Mar S Young Park does not dictate that West Linn must follow Oregon Administrative Rules but anytime West Linn proposes something new we need to go back to OPRD to update Master Plan. Off leash dogs in state waterways and natural/wilderness areas are not allowed by state statute. The lease will be cleaned up at the next renewal.

Roger – Consider a section of park off leash? Another park or open space somewhere else? Maybe not a solution but let's take a look.

Steve – Argument for is so dogs can be dogs. Arguments against are that peoples safety trumps dogs, the number dog bites are rising statistically and he has personal experience with small dog and dogs off leash. Dogs are allowed on trails (on leash) and in the off leash area already.

Sarah – Very against this idea, it is arrogant of dog owners to attempt to take the park away from people and not follow the rules, very inconsiderate to the rest of the community. Experienced dogs charging people and

owners laughing. Sarah actually stopped using Mary S Young due to this reason. They want prime hours when people should be the priority to use the park.

Ken Worcester pointed out that one fear is that it would bring many more people from the region. The petition submitted was already 50% West Linn and 50% non-West Linn.

Vicki – In the past loved to run with dog. When her son was young they were attacked by an off leash dog.

Visited park to interact with dog owners and non-dog owners:

#1 response was that people love their dogs off leash but do not want trails off leash because you can not trust dogs.

#2 Those that wanted dogs off leash were more aggressive individuals.

#3 If off leash on trails people said they would not be able to bring dog to park.

#4 Other local cities strongly keep off leash laws and enforce them.

#5 Possibly explore a fenced area for dogs to keep all safe (people and dogs).

Whether owners are nice or not it is not a safe venture with dogs off leash.

Vicki made a motion and it was seconded by John

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board recommends to City Council the denial of the off leash petition for Mary S Young Park and continue off leash enforcement, per City ordinance, at all city parks.

The motioned passed 5 yes with 1 abstain.

Ken Worcester did point out that the Department needs to address the current City ordinance as it does not allow dogs off leash anywhere on public property.

5. Proposed Board Zip Line Tour

The Board would like staff to explore the opportunity to visit local zip line facility to see how it interacts with the environment and surroundings as it may pertain to the proposal for Mary S Young Park. Staff will present ideas.

6. West Bridge Park Master Plan

Ken Worcester reminded the Board that his plan is a City Council goal for this year. The park master plan is a stand-alone item and not connected to the Arch Bridge Plan. The City lost an opportunity to buy land on Territorial Drive so we want to move forward with a plan that works for the area. This has been a park since the bridge went in and is a part of our system. The goal is to create a timeline and how to approach the project. Ken would propose that this park is planned like all others over the years: let Neighborhood association know about process, mail to locals in the area and involve community who are interested in the area.

The Board felt that we should start with the original plan and go back to the community to re confirm or adjust. The concept would be to hold a summit with flip charts, define purpose, feel and solicit feedback at an open house type event. Initial thought is to host at Mclean House on a Saturday. Notify Neighborhood Association and mail to all within about 1000 feet of park along with website, newsletter, social media etc.

Funding could be possible from the National Water Trail movement or other sources in the near future.

7. Other Projects

- a. Cedaroak Boat Ramp project: Funding from grants is almost finalized. Will now utilize drainage area as a type of plaza to drop kayaks etc.
- b. The expansion of the Adult Community Center started and will be done in January.
- c. Willamette Trail – City Council awarded the Contract, move in next week and completion date set for December 15th. Art project is also in the works. Ken Worcester met with WL Paper t let them know we are building to their lease line.
- d. Rosemont Trail – getting easements for bikes now.

- e. Field Bridge – Shelters are not to bid yet, costs rose as we are now building in metal versus wood to deter staples, nails etc.
- f. White Oak Savanna – Nature based playground coming soon to utilize area.

Don reminded the Board that it is election season and to make sure if you take a position to do it as an individual.

Steve has been appointed to the City Surplus Property Task Force.

Next meeting – End of Year Report and discuss December meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 pm