

Friends of Corvallis Parks and Recreation
1310 SW Avery Park Dr.
Corvallis, OR 97333

Board Meeting Minutes December 13, 2016

Attendees:

Mary Buckman
Karen Emery
Charley Fisher
Ken Haines
Roberta Sperling
Olga Loza
Kristin Shreeve

Absent:

Yuliya Dennis
Jenny Meisel
Kent Daniels (on sabbatical)

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.
Visitors: Bob and Sara Rothschild.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK:

Discussion took place about how to make Martin Luther King Jr. Park stand out. The idea is to have the project exemplify unity, become a place that brings people together. Perhaps find a way to share the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. there. It could be a significant project for people looking for something to work together on.

Project would include:

- Upgrading trails
- Removing invasive species from the creek area
- Formalizing the dog park area
- Paving parking lot
- Bringing in something special and unique—not sure what that is just yet.

(An "inspiration center" was mentioned later on in the meeting, i.e. a special gathering place around MLK's teaching.)

Comments from Bob and Sara Rothschild: They took on a library expansion in New Hampshire, in the town they lived in. Was a \$3 million project. A consultant was hired to help with fund raising. A selling point was that the town would be putting up money, as well as having donations come in from individuals, etc. There was a lot of participation. This happened in a small town, with a year-round population of 1600.

Bob is an OSU alumni. Based on business experience, he feels the kind of major upgrade to MLK Park is doable. He doesn't think we've gone to people to ask for funds/donations for parks in the past.

He thinks it's essential to have a professional fundraiser, someone familiar with a project of this scope. He's identified a person in Portland who has Eugene connections. Bob said this person seems "like a good fit." This person would identify major donors and then other tiers of donors.

Bob estimates starting cost would be \$10-20,000 (the fundraiser's initial fee to do an evaluation of the project, funding options. If it ends here, then lose is \$15,000 or so.)

He thinks because the park is large and the name is MLK is so important, there are lots of reasons for this to happen.

If approved, Bob suggest we get a strong timeline for the project.

Friends Role

The Friends would be the fiscal agent for the project. We would not be expected to be the fundraisers. Bob indicated he knew of donors to get the initial \$10-15,000 covered.

There would be a separate committee set up for the project, distinct from Friends. One or more of Friends Board members would be on the committee. The committee and professional fundraiser would be making phone calls, etc.

What's needed first is a budget. Karen indicated Parks and Rec supports the project, so does the city manager. She will be speaking shortly to the mayor about the project.

Subdivision nearby

An 82.8 acre subdivision has been approved near to MLK Park. Bob said he would talk to the developer on the project, if we approve the upgrade and move forward. Perhaps there could be connections made there.

The playground in MLK Park is already funded and will be built this summer.

Motion by Olga: To commit to the MLK KPark expansion project. Motion passed.

OTHER TOPICS:

Minutes of Nov. 13 meeting: Minutes were approved with a correction.

The Friends will be part of the Co-op's **Bags for Beans** program during July-Sept 2017.

Fund Raising Letter: Ken suggested perhaps do this in the Spring or Summer, rather than at the end of the year, when so many requests for donations come in. Consider an email letter.

Looking ahead, it was suggested we consider **2017 Priorities** at our next meeting. Include the idea of Board member recruitment. Someone mentioned possible candidates could be past members of the Parks Board.

Meeting adjourned: 6:40 p.m.