

# Friends of Corvallis Parks and Recreation

1310 SW Avery Park Dr.

Corvallis, OR 97333

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## Board Meeting Minutes Annual Business Meeting February 23, 2016 5:00 pm

### Attendees

Charley Fisher  
Olga Loza  
Karen Emery  
Jess Beauchemin  
Ken Haines

Roberta Sperling  
Kristin Shreeve  
Jenny Meisel

### Absent

Mary Buckman  
Kent Daniels  
Bev Hill

### Guests

Phil Hayes  
Yuliya Dennis

**Meeting called to order:** Charley Fisher called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm and introduced Phil Hayes who was present to give a presentation about AFRANA—Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas. Phil is one of the founding members of the Friends Group.

We also have one guest present: Yuliya Dennis. She is interested in nature and connecting people, and wants to help with projects, grant writing, fund raising. Karen will send her the board application form.

### **AFRANA presentation**

Mission: To facilitate community supported projects to enhance recreation and connect people to their natural and cultural heritage. Have 501(c)3 status and were formed 4 years ago. They cover all parks in Benton County and would be willing to collaborate with Friends of Corvallis Parks and Rec on projects.

One of their main projects is restoring and moving the Commander's House at Ft Hoskins Park. They are currently raising funds for restoration.

Other programs/projects that they are supporting: public programs, weed pulls, creation of a Fort Hoskins ibook and walking tour info, outdoor schools, host and facilitate recreation managers forum.

The Mary's Peak Alliance is a committee of AFRANA formed to raise awareness of Mary's Peak. They lead an outdoor education event for middle school students from Cheldelin on Mary's Peak.

They currently have funds to help rebuild the boardwalk at Jackson Frazier Wetland. Other projects/funding categories include: trails fund, Natural Areas Stewardship Fund and the Commanders House Fund.

### **Approval of Minutes from last meeting:**

**Roberta moved to approve the January meeting minutes. Olga seconded. All were in favor. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.**

### **Center for Non-Profit Stewardship:**

Kristin went to the one day training on January 23. She attended the treasurer's portion and 2 other sessions. She stated that they provided a broad overview. The best thing about the conference was to see what others are doing and the differences in how their non-profits are working compared to ours. She reported that there were 750 people in attendance. She also learned that the Center for Non-Profit Stewardship has a lot of publications, they do individual board trainings and have online training opportunities.

### **Treasurer's Report**

In the printed report, Kristin is now including a note if there were changes in any of the categories. She hopes that we are done with the bulb sales.

She paid out to City for the Climbing Wall. There is about \$1000 left in the account. Karen says it can be used for installation.

Donations received: Owens Farm, Senior Center (from Mailing), general fund (from mailing), Washington Park Bench.

Would be good to consider what projects we should use our general fund \$ for.

**Jenny made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Roberta seconded. All were in favor. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.**

**Project updates, progress or additions:**

Karen provided an update on several projects:

**Climbing Wall:** The new wall is onsite. An engineer is providing calculations so that it will be attached to the concrete in a way that it can withstand the weight. Toyota and Friends Group are advertised on the panels on the wall. The Grand Opening will be April 2 and will coincide with April Pool's Day. Jess will climb the wall during the ceremony. We will invite Toyota to the grand opening. Charley stated that many of the employees who helped with the grant process are not there anymore, and corporate changed the program, so we are very lucky that we were able to get the funds.

Karen suggested making a t-shirt for Jess to wear when she climbs the wall. We should also try to get a child to join her.

Ken likes the T-shirt idea and stated that he would be willing to purchase a shirt for himself. He suggested that we buy more of them for the entire board.

Jess will look into purchasing shirts and will email info so we can get shirts before the next meeting. Jenny will send logo files to Jess.

There was a side discussion about the final design for Franklin Park.

**MLK newspaper article:** The City has \$295,000 for a project in MLK Park. They plan to conduct a public meeting in late spring to get ideas/input. The city would like to revamp the playground and add a bouldering/climbing element. They would also construct a patio off the south barn with arbors that would make it a more attractive event space and add connecting pathways from the playground to barn. They would also like to add several new trails within the park.

**Arnold Park:** the playground is almost finished. The last component is a swingset that will hopefully be installed before spring break. A \$25,000 donation for the playground equipment came as a result from a presentation that Betty and Karen gave to a local group in Corvallis.

**Franklin Park:** Final design of equipment is completed and will be ordered soon. Karen will send the design to Jess and Ken.

**Willamette Park Restroom.** The Rotary club would like to partner with The Friends Group to help raise funds for this project. Karen will be meeting with them soon to work out the details.

**Pump Track:** A Non-profit group called Team Dirt approached the City to construct a dirt pump track in Corvallis. The track is for bikes and is designed so that the rider doesn't need to pedal and momentum carries them through the track. The Parks Board/Department has already adopted the project and they would like the Friends to also adopt the project so Friends can accept the funds. Team Dirt will raise the funds for this project. The City is looking to place the track under the overpass because there is already a "roof". The cost will be \$35,000.

Roberta asked if the group is organized enough to raise the funds for the entire project. Karen is confident that they can do the project.

**Kristin moved that we accept funds for the Team Dirt Pump Track Project and we are willing to participate if asked. Jess seconded. All in favor. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.**

Kristin noted that we need to inform Team Dirt about the 3% fee that will be charged to the project.

**Friends of Majestic**

Karen stated that the Friends of Majestic Theatre wants to either dissolve or merge with the Friends Group. They want to merge instead of duplicating services. Karen provided a print out from a hand book on mergers and a formal document on the potential Majestic Merger. If the Group dissolves, they will lose future donations that are promised in wills. The group also doesn't want to be a part of our group, they just want us to take on the funds for the theatre.

Ken stated that there's been a lot of contention and politics behind the theatre group.

Karen wants us to read about the merging procedure and discuss at our next meeting.

### **Update on Electronic Presence**

Olga has been updating the website and created a page for meeting notes. She also created a google calendar on the website on the meeting schedule page.

She started adding minutes as an attachment to the calendar dates. She will add the Osborn grand opening to the calendar.

Olga would like a picture of everyone so we can add it to our website profile. She would also like pictures of projects.

Olga wants to know when we should announce projects and what ones should be public knowledge. Karen will send language to Olga when a project is public knowledge. Roberta suggested that we get before and after pictures of Franklin Park.

### **3% for all projects:**

Charley and Karen had a discussion about the 3% fee and Charley would like to make sure that this is charged to all projects. He wanted to clear this up to make sure we are all on the same page. There can be an exception where we may donate the 3% to a project, but it would have to be voted on to be an exception.

Karen stated that they can add 3% to the price upfront for benches, etc when they first start talking to the public about projects to reduce the confusion/hesitation about the additional charge.

Ken thinks that we should have a more specific statement to clarify and explain what the 3% admin fee is used for. Charley wants to make it clear that this is charged for every project/donation. Roberta will develop language for charging 3% for all projects and bring it to the next meeting. She will email it to everyone prior to the March meeting for review.

### **Other:**

Ken asked a question about his business donating funds for projects. He wanted to know if it was better to do it through the Friends or through the City. Karen stated it is easier to do it through the Friends. Ken would like to solicit funds from his neighborhood group for Franklin Park. Charley suggested that he use the Friends Letterhead to write a letter seeking donations.

Charley suggested that if there's a park or project that we have individual interest in, we should take the lead on it.

**Next meeting:** Next meeting was moved to March 29 because the regularly scheduled meeting is during spring break.

### **Action Items:**

- Roberta: develop language for charging 3% for all projects and bring it to the next meeting. Email to group for review.
- All: Send a picture to Olga for the Website Bio
- All: Send pictures of projects to Olga—ideally before and after photos.
- All: Read through paperwork that Karen provided regarding the potential merger with Friends of Majestic Theatre.
- Jess: Get information on T-shirts
- Jenny: Send logo files to Jess for t shirts
- Karen: Send the Franklin Park design to Jess and Ken

### **Agenda Items for next meeting:**

- Friends of Majestic Theatre merger
- Willamette Park Restrooms: partnering with Rotary to raise funds
- Language for charging 3% for all projects

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50.