

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

Board Meeting Minutes March 25 2017

Attendees:

Mary Buckman
Olga Loza
Karen Emery
Jenny Meisel
Roberta Sperling
Kristin Shreeve

Absent:

Yuliya Dennis
Charley Fisher
Ken Haines
Kent Daniels (on sabbatical)

(Note items in **bold** indicate an action to be taken by a Board member.)

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m
Approval of minutes of Jan 24 meeting
Approval of Treasurer's Report

Visitors: Stewart Wershaw, Audrey Hatch. Spoke to the Board about the May Ballot Measure 2-108. The visitors read the measure, which would change the City Charter. They handed out flyers which explained that the measure would require voter approval to sell or transfer parks or natural areas; or to change the use of parks or natural areas to non-park or non-natural area uses. (For the full ballot measure, go to Benton County Board of Elections website.) The visitors were aware The Board could not take a political position because of wording in our bylaws. However, since the Friends Board members are interested in parks and natural areas they asked our personal support. The visitors explained this measure came into being after there was talk of selling Washington Park. They mentioned arguments against the measure, for example some people feel the City Charter should not be tinkered with. Audrey and Stewart handed out small flyers explaining why the measure and why their group "People for Parks, thinks it is important. (See attached PDF of the flyer.)

Kristen reported on sizable donations. One from Ellen Ringler of \$10,000 for the Pickleball Court and another of \$1,000 from the Elks for our operating expenses. **Roberta will mail thank you notes to Ellen and the Elks.**

Karen reported on "Phase 2" of the Martin Luther King Park upgrade. She and the Rothschilds will meet with the MLK Advisory Board next month. She explained that the Master Plan concept for the project is not ready yet. Fund raising is on hold until the Master Plan, which will provide a picture of the park after upgrading takes place. A Seattle architect is interested in the project. Mr. Rothschilds has said he would pay for the Master Plan.

Karen reported on the Parks & Rec Dept Eclipse event, which will involve charging for camping spots at Crystal Lake Sports Fields and providing entertainment, food, beverages. (You may have seen a story about this in the Gazette-Times.) The intention is to raise money for parks maintenance. Special eclipse sunglasses have already been ordered and delivered. We had a chance to try them on and we all agreed they are quite cool. Board members discussed the option of donating money towards this event. No decision was made at this meeting.

Mary went over the list of Pending Items:

- Slide Show/Presentation. **Charley and Olga are continuing to work on this project.**
- Annual fundraising. The idea of a "Park to Park" event was mentioned.
- Beans for Bags: **Jenny will continue to take charge of this fund raising and awareness raising project through the Co-op.**
- Cultural Trust of Oregon. **Mary will continue to look into a connection here.**
- Master mailing list/fundraiser: Kristin and Mary will continue to update the Friends' mailing list. **Roberta will check in with the Majestic about a possible story to include with this year's fundraising letter.** It was reiterated that starting early on this is important – perhaps start in September.
- Rambling Rex Music Memorial. At the next meeting, we will ask Ken about this project.
- Ads in Chamber Promotion and G-T's Our Town. Mary said she sent in ads but they didn't get included. **Mary will continue to check if these publications are open to ads from Friends.**
- Board member recruitment. **All board members are asked to think of people who might become board members.** Two people were mentioned: Fred Hughes and Jim Schupp. Letters will be sent to them with information about becoming a board member.

Adjourned: 6:25p.m.