

**Friends of Parks and Recreation**  
**Minutes**  
**February 16, 2021**

**Attending**

Doug Severs	Ken Haines
Charley Fisher	Audrey Hatch
Olga Loza	Jenny Meisel
Roberta Sperling	Stephanie Long
Mary Buckman	Jimbo Ivy
Meredith Pettit	

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Mary and was seconded by Doug. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**MLK Park Update**

Meredith and Jimbo offered an in-depth update on the MLK Park Interpretive Plan. The plan includes a dog park, wetlands, discovery zone, an overlook at the highest point, and an interpretive commemorative plaza. Jimbo explained what an interpretive plan does:

1. It gives context to the park.
2. It shows the purpose of the park.
3. It provides informational signage.
4. It contains sculpture and murals.
5. It educates people about Martin Luther King Jr.
6. It inspires by sharing his words which embody liberation and justice.

The committee is composed of people of color and indigenous people. There will be quotes on benches and walls. The overlook will feature a view of the entire park. This plan has included input from Grand Ronde and Siletz tribes and will include a basketball court, a community graffiti wall, and Freedom Trail signs.

The timeline going forward is to present the plan to the City Council in Spring of 2021 and finalize the design Fall 2021. Construction will begin Summer 2022.

**Board Questions**

Olga mentioned that when the project was first announced, it was not received well. How do interested parties feel about it now? Jimbo answered that the NAACP is now 150% behind the project.

Olga asked if anyone from the NAACP would be interested in joining the fundraising committee or Friends. Jimbo responded that he thinks it would be a good opportunity for someone.

Mary asked if Jimbo will be presenting this info to groups such as Rotary, etc. Jimbo replied that would be a good idea since this project requires huge community input.

Audrey asked if this park would attract people from outside Corvallis. Jimbo said yes. This park will bring in people from other communities.

Jimbo added that the Freedom Trail will have the ability to listen to audio about each of the stations.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mary reported that we spent \$1604.47 on pickleball wind screen, paid A&S, bought envelopes. Most of the money that we currently have, about 250K, belongs to the Community Center. The MLK fund has about \$3000 in it. Mary suggests we plan on about \$6000 per year for operating expenses. Olga mentioned that the MLK fund will not grow without a serious fundraising effort. Charley asked if most of the donations we receive go to the general fund. Mary said about 40% of money received is not designated, but she will check further.

### **MLK Fundraising**

Audrey reported that fundraising is on track. We need to spend money on marketing. We talked earlier about 30K to start for one year. Roberta noted that the 30K needs to be spent before money is raised. Olga said this is a commitment to pay for services and that the money will come from the general fund. Hopefully, that money will come back to us by collection our 3%. Mary asked if the 20-30K is for marketing or hiring. Audrey responded that 30K would involve both. Ken pointed out that we need people to invest in the park. There is a target of 3 million dollars to get it all done.

### **Investment Committee**

Ken said we hope to earn 7-15% per year. The first investment money will need to come from the Community Center money. We hope to invest with a local financial investor up to 100K. And we want to invest in socially conscious funds. Before we can invest, we need to know what the Community Center intends to do with the money and when. Meredith said she would talk to them and figure out the projects for the coming year.

### **Meredith's Report**

Meredith reported that not much has changed. Everything is still closed. The storm caused the loss of a lot of trees. One fell on the admin building, but did not do a lot of damage. She reported that enforcement of camping in parks has picked up and the tennis court at Cloverland Park will be resurfaced.

Jimbo asked if he could use Friends non-profit status to apply for a grant to improve accessibility for hearing and vision impaired. He has written the grant. Mary moved to ok this. Charley seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher