

**Friends of Parks and Recreation**  
**Minutes**  
**June 20, 2023**

**Attending**

Ken Haines	Olga Loza	Laurie Mason
Doug Severs	Charley Fisher	Jenny Meisel
Mary Buckman	Stephanie Long	Audrey Hatch
Meredith Petit		

**Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order at 5pm. Minutes from the May 1 meeting were reviewed. Audrey made a motion to approve the minutes and Olga seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mary reported that we have received some donations for MLK and some for the CAC pollinator garden project. Mary and Vicki at A&S are working on some changes to the report which will make it more transparent. An \$80,000 donation of stock was made by Bob Rothschild for MLK park, Sam from Edward Jones will talk with Bob and take care of the transfer and sale of the stock. Meredith asked what the admin fee will be for this donation. Mary said it will be the standard 3% fee. Mary was uncertain about how much the admin fee will be for larger donations. Audrey said it should be 3% of the first \$500,000 and lower after that (1.5%). Laurie asked about the history of MLK park fundraising since it appeared that it started as a 2 million dollar project and is now 8.5 million dollars. She asked how this happened. Meredith explained that the majority of the money has come from grants, including a large grant from the state which went directly to the city. Also Bob Rothschild will be donating a total of 2 million dollars. Audrey said the scope of the project has grown. The city has seen more interest in honoring MLK and costs have gone up a lot. Charley added that there had been a series of community meetings some years ago and things were added to the scope of the work. Audrey explained this began as a partnership between the city and Friends after a feasibility study was done. Laurie asked if Friends ever votes when the price tag goes up. Olga said Friends accepted the project. The idea was that the project would give Friends recognition in the community. Meredith added that there is a separate fundraising committee because board members did not want to raise the money. Laurie suggested that the board should periodically approve the funding of the project,

Mary asked what other info we would like on the Treasurer's Report: the amount of money in CDs? Bank balances? The board agreed those would be good things to know.

There was a discussion about writing thank yous for donations. Mary currently sends thank yous for all donations, but she wondered if something more should be done when a large donation is received. Charley suggested that for donations over \$100,000, the president should write an additional, personal thank you. Ken suggested having thank you cards printed that could be used for large donations. Olga made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Ken seconded. Vote was unanimous.

**MLK Park**

Audrey gave some background on her request to the Board to contact about 22 people who had expressed interest in donation to MLK park back in 2017 when the Feasibility Study was done. These are people who will most likely donate to the project. They just need to be called. She also suggested

that a letter to the editor would be helpful to get more people to know this is happening. Laurie asked about the one million dollars that still needs to be raised and pointed out that taking that money out of the community affects other organizations. Ken said he totally agrees and the money could be used for neighborhood parks or the Majestic Theatre. Charley said that people give money to things they consider worthwhile and used the money given for pickleball as an example. Olga added that we are unable to do as many projects as we would like to do. Meredith said that the fundraising committee for MLK is raising awareness and the community is donation \$3 to \$10 at a time. Audrey stressed that we are talking about 22 people that need to be contacted. Laurie responded that the original request made it sound like every person with money in the city would be called for money for MLK Laurie expressed gratitude to Audrey for the huge amount of time and effort Audrey has spent on this project. Ken asked if we could see the script for these contacts. Audrey said yes, but the list of people should be viewed at the meeting and not shared. Laurie made a motion that we review the list at a future meeting. Mary seconded. The vote was unanimous.

### **Meredith's Report**

Audrey asked about deferred maintenance for trails and parks. Is there a plan to tackle this deferred maintenance? Meredith replied that the department would like to have a full plan for addressing maintenance. Currently there is no system for doing this, but they are looking at solutions. Parks maintenance is logging the work they do on a daily basis. This along with new software might be able to help track when things need to be don or replaced. Next week \$80,000 will be spent to replace the flooring (w.c.?) at the Starker playground. There was a discussion about donating much of our general fund money to help with Parks projects. Meredith said we can grow the general fund through a membership model. Having money sitting in the bank does not fulfill our goals as an organization. We need to talk about our priorities for the future. Charley said this is why Friends was set up. Mary said that in years where we have had a budget, we did that. Meredith cautioned that when people give money for specific things they would like done, sometimes those things can't be implemented. Ken suggested that in October we have a discussion about the membership model.

Meredith said things are going well at Osborn. Free lifeguard certification is working out. Otter Beach will open June 26. Summer camps are going on. Corvallis Community Band is playing in Central Park on Tuesdays. Hilltop Big Band is playing on some Wednesdays. Meredith talked about the tree burls being stolen in Willamette Park. The police are involved.

Stephanie left at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Long Mehlenbacher