

Parks Advisory Board | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 10/14/2014 5:00 PM | Meeting location Community Center

Meeting called by	Chairman (Jessica Pelatt)	Attendees
Type of meeting	Parks Advisory Board	Jessica Pelatt, Jeff Warner, Mark Murphy, Tom Serface, No one from public
Facilitator	Jessica Pelatt	
Note taker	Tom Serface	Absent
		Jane Vincent, Linda Warner

AGENDA TOPICS

1. Public Forum
2. Open Discussion

DISCUSSION

Public Forum

- None
- **Open Discussion Parks Advisory Board Priorities**

1. Backyard Garden Project

Summary: Community Food for Creswell is spearheading a plan to create a community garden, playground, and park space on the underutilized property around the Cobalt building. They are willing to raise the funds and manage the project themselves.

Suggestions:

- Direct staff to work with the Community Food for Creswell Backyard Project Steering Committee.
 - Clarify the process for moving the project forward and supply information as needed.
 - Determine the necessity and usefulness of a separate meter to track water usage outside of the Cobalt Building.
 - Designate the land around the Cobalt Building as Park Property

Benefit to prioritizing this project:

- Improvement to the community.
- Additional resources for all Creswell residents.
- No requests for funding for this project.
- Moves forward with the Master Plan's intention to create park space in the Northwestern quadrant of the city.
- A "low hanging fruit" project that would require relatively little work on the part of the city and little to no funding, but would result in a new playground, community garden, and park space for the people of Creswell.

2. Trails on Creswell Butte

Summary: Larry and Sheila Hale would like to make their property on Creswell Butte available to the city for a series of public trails. They have placed it in trust that ensures that it remains available as forested open space and cannot be developed. It can also be used for educational purposes.

- Assist in the development of a master plan as appropriate.
 - Investigate the possibility of including adjoining properties for additional trail space.
 - Investigate sources of funding for the foot trails, such as the North West Youth Corps.

Benefits to prioritizing this project:

- Would make walking trails available to the Creswell community.
- Would create a "park space" that would be within walking distance of the southern residents of Creswell (even though it would not be city-owned).
- A potential "low hanging fruit" project that may not require many resources, but would result in great benefits to the city of Creswell.

3. Creswell Skate park

Summary: For several years, people in Creswell have been interested in the idea of creating a skate park. In order for this project to be completed within the next five years or so, the initial steps to begin this process need to be initiated. Although it has been called a "skate park," it would actually be intended to be multi-use, with the ability to accommodate bicycles and scooters as well. The area around the skate facility would also be designed as a "general use" park space with benches and green space.

Suggestions:

- Designate the two lots next to the Middle School at 565 and 575 W Oregon Avenue as the site of the future Creswell Skate Park.
 - Place a sign at the site: "Future Home of Creswell Skate Park".
- Begin work on a preliminary design; Design Bridge at the University of Oregon offers design service that may be a potential resource.

Benefits to prioritizing this project:

- Promotion of a healthy, active lifestyle.
- The location has high visibility, which will reduce vandalism and crime.
- Will create a location for kids of all ages to feel welcome and will give them an after-school activity to occupy their time, thereby reducing shenanigans.

4. Improvements to Garden Lake Park and Connecting Waterways

Summary: There are a variety of issues that have come up regarding the waterways leading to Garden Lake, as well as with Garden Lake itself. The park property also has some small improvements that should be budgeted for soon that could make a large difference in how the park can be utilized by the community.

Suggestions:

- More benches around the lake; also, turn around the bench on the west side that faces the bushes.
- More picnic tables in "friendlier" locations along with grills for public use.
- Drinking fountain with attached watering station for dogs.
- Work with the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council and other relevant agencies to determine what can be done to improve Mill Creek and Garden Lake water issues, i.e. algae blooms and low water in the summertime.
- Investigate the possibility of continuing the current trail around the lake to create a loop.
- Continue communication with the CPAB on issues regarding Garden Lake Park and the connected waterways.

Benefits to prioritizing this project:

- Possibility of improvement of long-standing water issues.
- Benches will make it easier for members of the community with trouble walking to take walks around the lake.

- More picnic tables will make the park more attractive and usable to the local community, as well as those wanting to use the park for events.
- Watering station for dogs will make it easier to prevent them from drinking the lake water when there are suspicious algae blooms. This can be installed on the bottom level of a drinking fountain for humans.

5. Park Land Acquisition

Summary: In order to provide park space to people in all areas of the city, as well as follow the suggestions in the Creswell Parks Master Plan, new park property of various sizes will need to be purchased in different areas of the city.

Suggestions:

- Continue investigation into potential properties to purchase for future parks.
- Investigate opportunities to invest in larger parcels of property.
- Create an inventory and map of property the city currently owns.

Benefits to prioritizing this project:

- Opportunities for park development will not be lost due to inaction.
- Advancement of Parks Master Plan.

6. "Mini" Pocket Park in Parking Lot Across from City Hall

Summary: As the parking lot across from city hall is built, there are plans for small green spaces to remain in the corner of the lot. Although there will not be much space, there is potential for these small spaces to be of use if they are constructed thoughtfully.

Suggestions:

- Depending on the space available, place trees and some benches or picnic tables in the available space.
- If placing benches, investigate the possibility of combining benches with planters to allow for flowering bushes or plants

Benefits to prioritizing this project:

- Would create a small green space for employees in downtown Creswell to go during breaks or for shoppers to rest.
- Would improve the overall look of the parking lot as well as that of downtown Creswell.

7. Airport Park

Summary: There is a small piece of grassy land at the Creswell Airport that could potentially be made use of as a pocket park by both the airport community as well as the community of Creswell.

Suggestions:

- Place a few picnic tables and benches
- Investigate possibility for future improvements and/or additions.

Benefits to prioritizing this project:

- Brings the greater community of Creswell together with the airport community.
- Would create a friendly space for watching planes and skydivers land.

8. Update Creswell Parks Master Plan

Summary: The last Creswell Parks Master Plan was done in 2005(?) and is now becoming outdated. There are a variety of new projects that are being considered for the improvement of the city's park spaces that are not planned for in the Creswell Parks Master Plan. In order to be able to move forward with these projects and make use of System Development Charges, we will need to update the Parks Master Plan to accommodate these new projects.

Suggestions:

- For example:
 - Include plans for Creswell Skate Park

- Remove plans for a ball field at Garden Lake Park (due to lack of feasibility)
- Communicate with Parks Advisory Board and city staff about other suggestions for necessary changes to the Parks Master Plan.
- Budget for this update to take place in the next budget cycle.

Benefits to prioritizing this project:

- Allows for use of city resources and System Development Charges for projects that are not currently included in the Parks Master Plan.
 - Removes the outdated and unnecessary elements of the plan.
- **Next meeting November 4th, 2014**