



Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee

October 18, 2023

7 PM Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Committee Members: Nisha George (Chair), Nanda Siddaiah (Secretary), James Terwilliger, Hilary Blum, Jane Leo, Jacqui Orenda-Weber, Kate Nelson, Carolina Martins

Staff: Keith Watson (Support Services Manager), Leilani Garcia (Grants Administrator), Gery Keck (Planning Manager), Bruce Barbarasch (Nature & Trails Manager)

Board Liaison: Miles Palacios

Absent: Erica Soto

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Keith called to order @ 7:25pm

2. **Approval of Minutes from September 2023**
James motioned to approve. Hilary seconded. Approved as published

3. **Public Comment** - None

4. **New Business**
 - a. **Land & Water Conservation Fund: Letter of Support Request (Leilani Garcia - Grants Administrator)**
 - i. Following the Joint Advisory Committee meeting, our committee was joined by members of the Nature & Trails Advisory Committee for a presentation by THPRD Grants Administrator, Leilani Garcia.
 - ii. Leilani is seeking letters of support from both committees to include in a grant application to Oregon State Parks for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant.
 - iii. THPRD is applying for the grant to make improvements at Commonwealth Lake Park – a very popular, well-used park in the district. Improvements include weir/bridge replacement, ADA access, and asphalt repair/replacement.
 - iv. Requesting \$600K, which is half of the overall projected cost.

- v. James asked about alternative material around the weir and bridge. Gery Keck responded this would remain asphalt, to harden against the elements... yet, the bridge would be significantly wider than current which would eliminate some of the existing asphalt.
- vi. Nisha was looking at the grant and noted that THPRD was awarded a \$60K grant for a Commonwealth project about 5 years ago. Gery responded that it was for replacement of a different bridge at the park.
- vii. Both groups supported the project. Keith and Bruce will work with their respective chairpersons to have the letters of support signed and returned to Leilani.

b. 2024 PFAC Committee Planning

- i. New Member Recruitment
 - i. Application Deadline: October 23
 - ii. Interview Planning – Keith and Cam will be interviewing. Looking for a couple from the team to be involved in this process – let Keith know
- ii. Committee Roles for 2024
 - i. Need to replace Nisha as the chair and Nanda as the secretary. Carolina also will be stepping back from the committee. If existing members are interested in these roles – let Keith know

5. Member Check-in

Jane: would like to understand what's the plan for the plaque honoring the Biggis at the Biggi property (La Raiz Park)

Jane, Nisha: For parks district working with the developers – we should expect clearer and better criteria for the choice of land offered for parks (size, grade etc). Keith will bring back to the committee about the history and the process involved

Nisha: Trying to rely on levies repeatedly seems very chaotic and unreliable. Educating people about how beneficial prior levies were and including that in the regular funding cycle would be much better, as opposed to introducing new levies on each ballot

Jane: described her experience about some of the history and Oregon tax laws' complexities, and market realities inducing shortfalls that lead to entities having to rely on levies. This will get challenging as many other entities will also be relying on these levies, and the public will get tired of levies and increasingly may say 'no'

Kate: does have many questions regarding the Peterkort project proposal. Keith will find out more details, and if needed can bring in the project lead to the next committee meeting(s)

6. Old Business

a. Challenge Grant Proposal - Next Steps

- i. Congratulations to the team for getting this approval!!
- ii. Keith will keep posted on the next steps and work with Cam who'll pick up the lead role for this committee. If team members are interested in assisting with the coordination of this process, let Keith know

7. Wrap-up

- a. Next meeting
 - i. November 15, 2023 (6PM)

8. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned @ 8:00PM