



**PARKS ADVISORY BOARD**

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

1300 S Kodiak Circle

Cornelius, OR 97113

**Members in attendance:** Ben Romero, Janet Fleshman and Melanie Johnston

**Members Absent:** Chair Kailey Elliot

**Staff in attendance:** Mark Crowell, Public Works Director; Barbara Fryer, Community Development Director.

➤ **Open Meeting:**

Melanie Johnston opened the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

➤ **Review and Approval of Parks Advisory Board Minutes: September 6, 2023**

Janet Fleshman made a motion to approve the minutes from September 6, 2023. Motion was seconded by Ben Romero. Motion passed 3-0.

➤ **Administrative Announcements**

Mr. Crowell announced that on Saturday, November 11, the City will have a Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, at 1:00pm.

Ms. Fryer announced that the visioning project is underway. She reported there were visioning tables at the farmer's market and national night out. She noted that if anyone was interested in joining the visioning advisory committee, there will be six meetings, one every other month for the next year. She explained what role members of the committee will play. Interested people can email her. They are expecting meetings to take place on Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:00pm, starting November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Fryer reported on the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities appeal that is underway. She hopes there will be a decision by the end of the year. The Mayor, City Manager, and herself have made comments on the subject, concerning how it affects our community.

Ms. Fryer announced an upcoming workshop where she will advocate for an Urban Growth Boundary amendment. She noted some of the other public servants and board/commission members that will participate. Interested people can email here. A date has not been chosen yet.

Ms. Johnson asked who opposes the expansion of the City.

Ms. Fryer answered that because of the Grand Bargain, (House Bill 4078), that was adopted in 2014, the land that surrounds the City is in Rural reserves. That means the City cannot expand the Urban Growth Boundary for 50 years without a legislative decision.

Ms. Fleshman asked about a recent situation that happened, where it might be acceptable.

Ms. Fryer answered that there was, and there is, a situation like that, and the City of Cornelius was specifically excluded. She discussed Hillsboro's situation briefly.

➤ **Citizen Participation Items not on Agenda:**

None

➤ **Presentations:**

None

➤ **Reports:**

a) **Status Update on Combining the Public Works Advisory Board and Parks Advisory Board (Fryer)**

Ms. Fryer reported that staff is working on an Omnibus Municipal Code update. It is not just for the one item, it is for several. One of the items is to combine the two groups. She briefly explained some other municipal code changes being proposed: removing fee amounts, purple pipe water, conduit for municipal broadband, potential food cart updates, property owner responsibilities for right-of-ways, and other similar amendments.

Mr. Crowell explained that purple pipe water is treated sewage. Discussion continued about the uses being considered for purple pipe water, and the benefits, specifically for park irrigation. Discussion continued on the purple pipe water and the industrial region of Cornelius.

b) **Park Maintenance (Crowell)**

Mr. Crowell reported typical park maintenance is being completed. All park irrigation has been shut off, even those irrigated from wells. Winterizing irrigation systems will begin soon. In the City of Cornelius, staff goes to every park with an irrigation system and, with an air compressor, blow all the water out. This ensures water doesn't freeze in the system. It takes a week or two to complete all of the parks.

c) **Council Creek Trail**

Mr. Fryer reported there haven't been any recent meetings. She explained the trail alignment will be in the center of the tracks. She shared the timeline.

Ms. Fleshman asked if TriMet has taken over the trail.

Ms. Fryer answered not yet. She explained she believes it is still under ODOT control and the details are still being worked on.

Mr. Crowell added that before TriMet takes it over, the railroad has a few things to complete. For example, the railroad is required to remove the rails, ties, and crossing at railroad crossings. There are several in the city of Cornelius. The Railroad is completing five crossings in Forest Grove, and then Cornelius is next. The City will partner with them to remove the stop signs and pavement markings. He projects this will occur in the beginning of spring. Discussion continued about traffic at the railroad crossings and possible needs for enforcement. He explained that once the road crossing are removed, the Railroad will have to remove all the rails between streets.

Ms. Fleshman asked if TriMet was unable to take over until the rails are removed.

Mr. Crowell answered that is correct. He noted that the Railroad expects to have all of the rails removed by the end of next summer. Discussion continued about the tracks and removal.

Mr. Fryer discussed the timeline, explaining that construction will begin in July 2026.

Ms. Johnston asked for clarification on when the railroad street crossings will be removed.

Mr. Crowell answered they will likely be removed before summer of 2024.

Ms. Johnston asked how wide the trail is going to be.

Mr. Fryer answered that the trail is expected to be as wide as the raised part of the railroad bed. They won't know for sure until the final design is complete. She mentioned that if in the future TriMet decides to build a light rail, they will be responsible for building the rail and the trail.

Mr. Crowell added that whoever owns the trail will keep the existing 60ft right-of-way, 30 feet on either side of the tracks.

Ms. Fryer used the presentation to show where the right-of-way is, and explained that some people have encroached on the right-of-way by parking, building, and growing things in the area.

Mr. Crowell added that the Railroad will coordinate with the City to schedule closing 19<sup>th</sup> avenue, for the removal of the railroad, at the same time as the road closure for the roundabout construction. All of the traffic control and detours will already be in place. The Railroad expects about a day for each road closure. Fourteenth Avenue only has one way into that area of town, and closure of that road will require a temporary access on 13<sup>th</sup>. Discussion continued about the different detours for each road closure.

**d) Park Tour Takeaways**

Ms. Fryer shared aerial photographs of the different parks visited and the Metro Grant applications for each location. She briefly described each project. The Cherry Street Islands proposal includes raised garden beds, compost, interpretive signs, a fence, and will cost approximately \$240,000. The Tarrybrooke Park proposal will include a tree area and a walkway, and will cost approximately \$198,000. The King's Bend proposal include restoring the flood plain, and doing a natural area planting, and will cost approximately \$162,000. This project is not in City limits. The Steamboat Park proposal includes a shade structure, picnic tables, bird boxes, ADA trail, fishing pier, and canoe lodge. It will all be inundated every year.

Mr. Crowell added that the park floods every year. He noted that the pier could work if it is the type that raises with the water. He does not believe the available money will cover that. He also noted that there are limited park resources, and each of the proposals will include additional work for staff.

Ms. Fryer added that the Steamboat Park proposal includes a first foods and medicinal garden and ADA surfacing (decomposed granite). Because of the flooding, it will have to be repaired every year. The proposal is estimated to cost \$227,000.

**e) Metro Grant Update**

Ms. Fryer reported on the schedule for the Metro Grant projects. The proposals the Advisory Board saw are going out for a final vote, that will take place from October 7<sup>th</sup> to November 7<sup>th</sup>. Anybody over the age of 11 can vote. There is a design group made up of community members, and some Metro staff, that will make a funding recommendation to the Metro Council. They estimate that approximately half of the projects will be funded, and the recommendation will be made to Metro Council by the end of the year. She noted that the Cities will be expected to take over as a capital asset and use the money to build the project. The City's position is that staff is not finished vetting the project; there are details and logistics

that may not work. She committed to sharing a link to the Advisory Board members, for the project vote, when it goes live.

f) **Emerald Ash Borer**

Mr. Crowell reported that there are several areas in Western Washington County that have the Emerald Ash Borer. He explained where the bugs live and how they affect trees. The City is working with the Oregon Department of Urban Forestry and the Department of Agriculture to identify and inventory Ash trees in City owned properties. From there, they will determine the status of the tree, if it is at risk, dying, or dead. He described what happens to the bark in an infected tree. He explained there is a treatment; the treatment costs \$50, every year per tree, for the life of the tree. The City is working with an arborist on a plan for treatment and/or removal. He noted that the tree work in Tarrybrooke Park, for five trees, was approximately \$9,000.

Ms. Fleshman asked if the City was able to get money from legislature.

Mr. Crowell answered that the Department of Agriculture is looking at providing some sizeable grants.

Mr. Johnston noted that there was a very informative article in the Oregonian. She asked what the City is asking homeowners with ash trees to do.

Mr. Crowell answered homeowners can work with an arborist to determine what stage it is in; if it can be treated or if it needs to be removed, then replanting to keep the tree canopy. He discussed the expense of having trees removed.

Ms. Johnston asked if the City will require residents to remove the trees.

Mr. Crowell answered that the City is waiting to see what arborist and Department of Agriculture says to come up with an overall plan.

Ms. Fryer added that it wouldn't be the City that requires the trees to be removed; it would more likely be the Oregon Department of Forestry or Department of Agriculture. Discussion continued about accessibility to the various Ash trees. Discussion continued about possible options and outcomes.

➤ **Adjournment:**

Ms. Fleshman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Romero seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.