

North Gresham Neighborhood Association Board Meeting  
Monday, August 19, 2019, 6:00 p.m.  
Clubroom of Rockwood Village Condos  
18550 NE Wasco St. Portland Oregon, 97230

Attendance: Alesya Berkovich, Michael Elston, Kim Kovacs, Linda Parashos, Linda VanDeusen-Price, John Weigant, Tina Osterink

Meeting called to order at 6:11 p.m., quorum established

A movement was made by Mike to address Kirk Park issues first, so Tina & Alesya could leave early. John seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The city was approached by Wells Fargo, who wants to donate \$65,000 to a community-based project in the Rockwood neighborhood, and the Kirk Park Playground is to be the beneficiary. The sticky part is that the project must be completed by December 2019, hence the current urgency.

Tina called around earlier in the week because of a last-minute meeting with Ross Recreation Equipment at the park to discuss the proposed location of the playground. Ben Stanford from Ross was there, as was Ben Johnson (a landscape architect from Greenworks) and James Dunn (Gresham Parks Superintendent). Linda Parashos from our board was the only board member available.

The Gresham Master Plan from 1988 shows the playground's location at the end of the walkway, not so much by the trees, where we're currently discussing putting it. Tina wanted to have the landscape architect do a site assessment to confirm it's possible.

Mike said that he thought he'd be the one to talk to the contractors, but Joe Walsh (Senior Manager for Neighborhood Prosperity and Youth Engagement) wants to pass it to Active Children Portland. They already have a 501c3 and would let us share it. Mike thinks this is a great idea. He'd prefer it to be a Gresham-based group, but whatever it takes to get the job done is fine with him.

Ben Sanford will work with the general contractor. We won't be able to assemble the equipment ourselves, as planned, as it'd be much more expensive. Ross doesn't want us to do it based on safety concerns – they want to make sure the equipment is installed correctly. We can still help with woodchips and maybe some other small items. Pella Windows and Wells Fargo also want to provide volunteers.

Tina mentioned that Ben from Ross said installers are available for November at this point, but we'd need to get on their schedule right away. Phase I will be to excavate and do concrete work, Phase II will be installing the equipment.

Mike said that the design for the area will still be somewhat spread out, but can't be under the drip line of the trees. Bringing everything in more will reduce cost. We're right at \$85,000 now. We haven't heard from Nike yet (due to weigh in at the end of the month) or Owens Corning. We're hoping to have enough funds to add a sensory wall, although we could have sensory posts instead if needed. If we get additional money we can give it to Michael to give it to Active Children. Tina

disagreed, saying that we need to keep any funds out of city hands. Mike said that if Nike comes through we can have them make the cheque out directly to Active Children.

Ben at Ross is getting bids from subcontractors for Phase I and Phase II, but may end up awarding both at the same time. It would be helpful to have a list of those contractors approved by the city. Tina said the city can help with that. Tina would like Ross to handle the logistics, as that'll be easiest.

Mike added that we don't know how much the ground prep will be. Tina said that Ross will get us lots of quotes, and will work on highlighting cost savings (e.g., it will be \$800 less if the city will provide fencing).

She continued that this could happen really fast, we just need the funding. Week 1 would be site prep, Week 2 equipment installation, Week 3 volunteer activity such as spreading woodchips.

Mike believes that they'll only need to excavate 9" of ground, which will save us a ton of money. Tina cautioned that if they run into boulders they might be able to move some but if there are many it could raise the cost.

Tina needs to get a City Council report drafted as she needs to get formal approval by City Council to adjust the original 1988 master plan. She asked if there's a berm to the west, and Mike said there was. She wants to use the berm as the rationale for the adjustment.

Again, the location needs to be outside the drip line of the trees, but perhaps we could choose equipment with built-in shade or get some type of shade canopy. Mike said that any type of cover sets us up for campers; natural cover would be better.

Tina needs from the NGNA:

- Community engagement timeline
- Wellhead location

Regarding the community engagement event, the ONCE office is willing to do a mailing. The surrounding property owners, particularly the apartment owners, need to be on-board. Some may object because more children will equal more noise. They need the postcard content from us ASAP. Michael Gonzales will take care of the mailing and won't charge us for it. It won't interfere with the mailing for our general meeting in October. NGNA needs to determine a date for a rally. She suggested we also do a NextDoor post inviting the larger community, and to try to get more signatures on the petition the night of the rally. City Council wants to make sure we're getting as much engagement as possible.

Tina asked if we're comfortable moving fast on this; the NGNA agreed we were. She asked if a rally the week of 9/23 would be possible. Mike said that he likes the September time frame. It'll also allow us to get the word out about the October general meeting. Tina said that if we're shooting for 9/23, everything will need to be to Michael by 9/6, which gives him two weeks to get the postcards out. She thinks that's kind of tight though, and recommended getting the content to her by 8/23 and then she'd get everything to Michael by 8/26. Joe Walsh will be back from vacation on 8/26 and she'll run it by him as well.

John mentioned his church at 181<sup>st</sup> has a really nice memorial bench they put at 181<sup>st</sup>, but it's attracted homeless people so they were planning to move it. Would it be OK to donate it to the park? Tina said she'd check.

The discussion then moved to the wellhead location listed in the 1988 master plan. She promised Mike Whiteley, senior engineer for City of Gresham, that she'd check on this. Mike said we want it at "Option 1." We don't want it on 188<sup>th</sup>. Tina said that if we choose Option 1, it's in the location where the proposed tennis courts would be – part of the 1988 Master Plan. But maybe that's part of the rally – does the community even want tennis courts? Board members pointed out that there may be other options that would have a smaller footprint, such as a half-court basketball court or a futsal court. Tina wants to make sure tennis courts aren't an amenity the community wants.

John Weigant moved that we reject the idea of putting a tennis court in Kirk Park that had been part of the city's 1988 master plan and replace it with a smaller court for basketball or other use. Mike Elston seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Kim Kovacs then moved that we recommend "option 1" for a wellhead location in Kirk Park, even though this would interfere with the tennis court that was specified in the city's 1988 Master Plan. Linda Van Deusen-Price seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. Tina will look at the city's comprehensive sports data. She believes it'll show that baseball and tennis have less participants these days. She'll put that in the report as well. She further suggested that we take a look at the fire station at 192<sup>nd</sup> & Halsey to see what the wellhead would look like.

Mike said that the purpose of the wellhead is to reduce reliance on Bull Run water, which we purchase from the City of Portland. If we have our own wellhead it'll save us money in the long run.

Tina & Alesya left the meeting at that point.

There was no report from Linda Parashos re Land Use – nothing going on.

Linda Parashos moved we accept the minutes from the 7/22 board meeting; Mike Elston seconded. Approved unanimously.

National night out discussion: The group ran out of food and had to go get more, overspending by \$327.66. The total for the event this year was \$932. Linda Parashos suggested we look for a different vendor next year to reduce costs. She thinks Mexican food would be a lot cheaper than the chicken we provided this year. We had well over 200 people. The post cards also didn't get out on time. Last year they were way too early, this year, way too late.

General Meeting discussion: Mike requested that some of the postcards be in Spanish. Linda P felt that would be too hard to manage, and instead we should just make them all bilingual. Mike agreed. He'll be pushing the Latino Network to attend. 55% of our neighborhood is Hispanic, so they need to be involved. John will work on the banners and said he assumed they did not need to be bilingual, and Mike agreed that was fine. Mike wants to engage Play Grow Learn, and will ask them to come to the General Meeting. We'll also have the Park Project and Elections on the agenda. Linda V felt we need something else to draw in a quorum, and suggested bringing in the police. Linda P will contact the Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET) to see if they have someone available. Linda V agreed they'd be a good addition. So 20 minutes each to NET, Play Grow Learn,

and the playground update. That should leave enough time to cover admin tasks. Kim will clarify what, exactly, determines a quorum.

Linda P moved to adjourn the meeting. Linda V seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned 7:35.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, September 16, 2019, 6:00 PM  
Clubroom of Rockwood Village Condos  
18550 NE Wasco St. Portland Oregon, 97230

Rally for Kirk Park: Thursday, September 19, 6:30 PM  
Kirk Park  
1087 NE 188th Ave., Portland, OR, 97230

General Meeting: Monday, October 7, 2019, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Rockwood Public Safety Building  
675 NE 181<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Portland, OR 97230

Submitted by Kim S. Kovacs, secretary