



CITY OF TROUTDALE PARKS & FACILITIES

AGENDA PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kellogg Community room
234 SW Kendall Court
Troutdale, OR 97060
December 20, 2023
7:00 PM

The PAC meeting will be held in person in the Kellogg Room and will also be available as a Zoom meeting.

1. Roll Call
2. Review and approve September 20, 2023, meeting minutes
3. Communication from Staff
4. Public to be heard (remarks shall be limited to five minutes for each speaker)
5. Presentation from PW Engineer Scott Waddell on the Beaver Creek Bridge replacement project
6. Review of City Council's process with the Dogs in Parks Ordinance; Discussion of PAC-recommended parks for allowing dogs on-leash in 2024
7. Review of 2022 PAC Council recommendations for Glenn Otto parking
8. Committee concerns and initiatives, future agenda items, closing comments
9. Hold or cancel next month's meeting January 17, 2024
10. Adjourn

This meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities.

A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made in writing at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to Jona Jacobsen 503-674-7271 or by email to: Jona.Jacobsen@Troutdaleoregon.gov

SUMMARY
PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Kellogg Community Room
September 20, 2023

Members Present: Carol Allen - Vice Chair, Brenda Austin, Jeff Hutchinson - Chair, Zach Andrews, Shelly Reynolds, Victoria Rizzo, Sherilee Winters, Robbie Cantrell, Jim Hill, Michelle Craver (Alternate)

Members Absent: None.

Staff: Jona Jacobsen, Parks and Facilities Superintendent; Travis Hultin, Public Works Director; Nik, Ramstad, Assistant Planner

1. **Roll Call** – Jeff called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. **Review and approve August 16, 2023, meeting minutes** – The August 16, 2023, minutes were approved as presented.
3. **Communication from Staff** – Jona reported on the progress of the dog park, plans for the PAC to revisit the City's parking plan, continuing discussions on adding full-time Parks positions, Public Works' planned improvements to a sidewalk at Imagination Station, on Trailkeepers of Oregon events, plans for a tree-planting event in February, and the plans for the dog park's grand opening event.
4. **Public to be heard** – Concerns were expressed, and questions asked about the dog park's impacts on the housing development to its north and how potentially impacted citizens were not notified about it; plans to repair the Beaver Creek Bridge, a need for increased bike and trail etiquette signage in the park system's trails, and the status of the skate park.
5. **Final Review of Dogs Draft Ordinance, before making recommendations to City Council** – Sherilee did not support the ordinance banning dogs from Beaver Creek Canyon. The motion to accept the dogs ordinance passed 8 to 1 with Sherilee Winters opposed.
6. **Final Review of Native Names for the 40-mile loop Trail, before offering recommendations to City Council** – The motion to accept the name Ch'akch'ak Trail for the 40-mile loop and forward it to City Council passed unanimously.
7. **[This number was skipped on the agenda.]**
8. **Committee concerns and initiatives, future agenda items, closing comments** – Jona confirmed the basketball nets would go up next week. Other topics included public concern about communication from the City and a request that a Beaver Creek Bridge update be added to next month's agenda. Jeff handed out Portland's park rules for consideration in drafting the dog park rules.
9. **Hold or cancel next month's meeting October 18, 2023** – The decision was made to hold next month's meeting.
10. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

**MINUTES
PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Kellogg Community Room
September 20, 2023**

Members Present: Carol Allen - Vice Chair
Brenda Austin
Jeff Hutchinson - Chair
Zach Andrews
Shelly Reynolds
Victoria Rizzo
Sherilee Winters
Robbie Cantrell
Jim Hill
Michelle Craver (Alternate)

Members Absent: None.

Staff: Jona Jacobsen, Parks and Facilities Superintendent; Travis Hultin, Public Works Director; Nik Ramstad, Assistant Planner

1. Roll Call: Jeff called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Review and approve August 16, 2023, meeting minutes

Victoria Rizzo moved to approve the August 16, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Robbie Cantrell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Communication from Staff

Jona reported that the Parks Division had been busy over the past month, including support for the final First Friday event of the season. The events for the summer went well most part all, and the City was represented and promoted successfully through the events.

- Work continued on the new dog park at Columbia Park for its October 21st or 22nd grand opening. Parks crew prepared the ground and removed brush. On August 26th a successful volunteer event took place in the dog park with East County Serve, a few different faith congregations that do an annual volunteer event in Troutdale. He was grateful for their help and excited to show the PAC what Staff had been working on in the dog park.
- A future agenda item for the Committee will revisit the parking plan for Glenn Otto Park and the rest of the city. City Manager Young would like to take another close look at a pay-to-park system at Glenn Otto. Jona had reviewed past minutes from meetings when the matter was discussed by the Committee and saw a lot of concern about making sure parking at Glenn Otto Park remains free for Troutdale residents. He would like the PAC's input on reaching a solution.
- He had been dealing with something of a staffing shortage. While the Parks Division has enough people to get the job done, there is still room for additional staffing. As a high-maintenance site like the dog park is developed and acreage is added to the Troutdale park system, he would like to continue discussions this year with the PAC, Budget Committee, and City Council about adding some full-time positions to the Parks Division.

- Public Works will begin major construction to the sidewalk surrounding the concession stand in Imagination Station soon. The plan is to replace the existing sidewalk with a wider one and add wheelchair ramps and a wheelchair-accessible viewing platform for the playground as part of the ongoing work to make the city more accessible to people with mobility issues.
- Today a successful volunteer-supported trail work event was held with the Trailkeepers of Oregon. He thanked Jeff for attending. Another trail event will be held on September 30th. Hopefully this fall, weather permitting, the stairs coming down from Weedin Park on the same trail will be replaced with the help of the organization.
- He had been putting together plans for a tree-planting event to be held in February with some support from the Friends of Trees who will provide between 20 and 40 trees at very low cost to Troutdale residents who applied to receive a tree on the Friends website. A day in February will be designated when people can collect their trees from a location in Troutdale, likely the Parks office on 18th Way. If any PAC member is interested in receiving a tree or in participating in the planting event, he had more information available. He hoped to utilize many of the trees to replace street trees that have been removed in the past, using a list of removal sites and addresses from about the past five years to do some public outreach about the event as it draws closer.
 - He confirmed the City is making sure the trees are the type that will not cause sidewalk uplift issues 20 years later. He was in the process of crafting a street tree manual for the City. The current list of approved trees did not include trees sorted by the planting strip width and suggested species. He planned to work with the Friends of Trees in crafting the manual.

Zach [13:15] asked for more information on the tree planting event, which he wanted to participate in, adding, he could think of a couple of businesses that would be interested in potentially helping out as well. He asked about updates on the dog park grand opening. Jona stated he met on Monday with Marlee and Kimberly about the dog park grand opening event, which he believed was ultimately scheduled for October 22nd. They had contacted the Humane Society about having a tent and a booth at the grand opening to do an adoption event. He did not believe any dogs or cats would be brought out to the park for the day, but some pet profiles would be available for people to look at. Marlee had also invited some local pet supply businesses to participate and sponsor the grand opening event. He believed there would be live music. Marlee was also hoping to do a dog Halloween costume contest. She was considering having a contest to name the dog park. He believed the City would just call it the Columbia Dog Park or Columbia Off-Leash Dog Area. If the PAC was interested in discussing some possible names, the Committee could do so at the October meeting, although the meeting is right before the grand opening event.

Carol [16:02] suggested involving some of the area schools if input on the dog park's name is being considered, perhaps have a contest for the students. Jona replied finalizing a permanent name for the park could happen after the opening since work would probably continue for another year until the dog park is completely finished. Carol added the City should keep in mind the idea of the next generation being committed to and taking ownership of keeping the park clean, etc. Jona noted the Multnomah Youth Corps will be helping Parks crews in a few weeks.

Unknown [18:35] asked how the PAC could promote ongoing budget funding for the additional staffing needed the new areas like the dog park that Parks would maintain.

Jona suggested the PAC members would continue to promote budget support for the dog park, Parks staffing, and increased parks maintenance with their colleagues on various other committees and City Council. Such support would not necessarily have a big impact on the City's budget. This year, a good portion of the \$45,000 budgeted for seasonal labor for Parks went unspent as hiring and retaining quality employees was a big challenge. Also, additional full-time employees would not only reduce the need for overtime hours from current full-time employees but enable people's schedules to be staggered to have Parks workers in the parks seven days a week. He would continue having the conversation with the various stakeholders.

4. Public to be heard

Sally Wright, President, Cherry Ridge Owners Association, spoke of her concerns about impacts of the dog park to Cherry Ridge, which was directly north of the dog park.

Jona addressed several questions from Ms. Wright, noting the City is still in the process of crafting the rules for the dog park that will be posted at all entrances. As it stands now, the dog park will only be open during regular Columbia Park hours. He did not believe there were Staff plans to lock or secure the perimeter fence every night, as the gates to Columbia Park proper are not locked every night. He assumed she did not want to hear dogs at 10 pm or midnight.

Ms. Wright acknowledged that the barking does carry in the area, adding she was especially concerned about Cherry Ridge owners directly north of the access road. If there was a problem, she was not certain what the solution would be. Having a dog, she was excited about the dog park, but as the representative for the Owners Association, she was concerned because of the constantness of dogs and the barking. She asked if the entrance to the dog park from the access road going towards Columbia Park and Reynolds High School would remain closed so people do not think they could drive up to the park. She was concerned about the residents, congestion, and potential confrontations. Jona replied he shared her concern. He was not sure if the existing vehicle gate could be closed because of emergency vehicle access issues, but he would look into the legality of keeping the gate shut as well as other solutions and keep Ms. Wright in the loop.

Ms. Wright noted a Cherry Ridge resident attended last month's PAC meeting and talked about the neighborhood not feeling like they were informed about the dog park. Jona clarified The Champion as well as the City's website and various social media accounts were the sources used to inform the public when Parks meetings are held.

Ms. Wright suggested the City have direct communication with neighborhoods when there were projects with the type or level of impacts like the dog park. Jona agreed, adding the City is aware of the public's desire for an increased level of information. He believed City Manager Young's response after last month's meeting was that given the distance between the park location and how it does not immediately abut any member of the public's property, the dog park was not quite in the same category as, for example, disruption to mandatory services, such as water or electricity. The City would work to do more outreach in the future. Ms. Wright thanked the City for the dog park.

Connie Post stated she recently bought a house on SE Evans Avenue, right across from the Beaver Creek trailhead and was disappointed that the bridge was out. The trail was one of the

main reasons she bought a house in Troutdale. She wanted to know what was going on with the repair of the bridge. She had tried to get onto the trail from down below, but an unfriendly sign saying, "We do not want you coming in" was displayed. She realized there is a homeless problem, but everyone as part of a society must deal with it. It is not a reason to prevent people from getting out into the community.

Robbie explained the status of the Beaver Creek Bridge repair, noting the price had quadrupled since the recent plan in the late 2010s. Geological surveys were needed and are in process. Every PAC member is an advocate for the bridge being built, and addressing the need for the bridge is in progress; however, not too much can be done at the moment.

Jona [37:07] clarified he had personally not heard the consideration of a suspension bridge for Beaver Creek and added that Scott in Public Works/Engineering was working on the project. Ms. Post said the longer the City waits, the more expensive the bridge will be. Jona agreed with her, but if the City just throws a bridge up for \$100,000 that could get washed out by the next flood or burned up in a fire, it would be looking at the same issue all over again. The City's main concern for the bridge is public safety. He was due for another meeting with Scott to discuss the status of the project. He assured that the PAC and Staff had not forgotten about the bridge.

Ms. Post added a note about the dog park. In Idaho [39:20], poop fairies patrolled the dog park and cleaned up the poop that did not get cleaned up. People actually dressed as fairies and drove vehicles that had "Poop Fairy" on them.

Adrian Koester expressed concern about people using public multi-use trails not being respectful trail users, particularly with the advent of e-bikes which unleashed a lot of people not used to bike etiquette on trails and roads. He asked if anything could be done on the trails that are part of the Troutdale park system to increase signage for things like bike etiquette, multi-use trail etiquette, and for public education where possible. Jona acknowledged in the past few months a PAC member expressed concern about the Sunrise Park walking trails. He spoke about observing and stopping people using electric vehicles on the trails. The City could certainly post more signage with the City ordinance related to the use of motorized vehicles in city parks and do its best to bolster the enforcement aspect. Mr. Koester replied the problem is not only people going too fast, but going too slow and not moving over, which is a bigger problem in the Gorge than on public trails.

Sherilee [46:34] stated if she were going through Sunrise Park on her bike, she might go faster than an older person casually riding their e-bike because their e-bike assists them up a hill. Jona responded that he would not stop an older person riding an e-bike at a reasonable speed while he would stop a person on a traditional bicycle going at a dangerous speed on a walking path. He clarified the ordinance prohibiting motorized vehicles included e-bikes. Sherilee noted that walkers using headphones cannot hear a bicyclist saying, "on your left" and are not paying attention, making it dangerous to try to get around them safely.

Paul Wilcox said he had not heard anything or seen on the agenda regarding the skate park schedule. Jona replied he had no news to report as no movement was happening on the skate park currently. The current fiscal year budget does contain a line item for the skate park, but nothing had changed in the skate park in recent months.

5. Final Review of Dogs Draft Ordinance, before making recommendations to City Council

Robbie said he had no changes or anything to add to the redlined version of the dogs ordinance.

Travis shared the redlined ordinance to the Zoom screen. The PAC read through the draft ordinance.

Sherilee [58:05] asked for clarification about the language saying dogs are not allowed in the Beaver Creek area. Jona confirmed his suggestion was people could not bring their dog into the Beaver Creek area because the river is so close, and is a critical habitat for many creatures, including salmon. Hundreds of dogs in there would be detrimental and pose wildlife concerns. He acknowledged dog waste bags were placed at the entrance which basically says dogs are allowed. Sherilee replied that for 20-plus years she has taken her sister's dog into the area and seen other dogs, and the area still has so much salmon life, etc. Jeff [59:55] replied he did not know about that. Sherilee said she did not believe it had changed in the time of her going down there and what she had seen. She believed the area suffered from motorcycles and homeless people living there first. Jona said he could do some research. Sherilee stated she had a problem with the part of the ordinance banning dogs from the Beaver Creek area.

Connie Post [1:00:23] said she lives next to the trail and does not see many dogs going down there, noting she sits by the window a lot but does not know about the other side. She sometimes sees one dog a day.

Zach stated he would hesitate to remove the part prohibiting dogs from the Beaver Creek area since it applies to more than just Beaver Creek Canyon. It is basically a general guideline for the high-water line, river stream, and other surface water bodies, unless otherwise posted. He urged the Committee to keep in mind the ordinance is a framework and not meant to be super specific. The ordinance gives the structure and ability to make changes. Ecological research and surveys have gone into the decision to include the language which he believed is important to protect.

Jim noted several other points give the Director latitude and suggested adding a latitude statement in the D. line, saying [inaudible] or something about the Director having the ability to [inaudible 1:03:22] specific areas. He agreed such arguments could be had about any park.

Zach [1:03:40] agreed and noted the statement in the draft that the Director retains the authority to establish dog exclusionary zones wherever determined to be necessary is good; maybe language could be added to say the Director also retains the authority to remove those zones. Jim added, selectively and with [inaudible 1:04:09] research.

Travis explained one reason Beaver Creek in particular has always had restrictions on it is because of the creek's specific listing for bacteria, the City must have mitigation measures to try to reduce bacteria discharge to the creek, and one of the very few measures available to the City to satisfy the state-required stormwater permit is to say it will keep domestic animals away from the creek because of the pet waste and the associated bacterial load.

The Committee confirmed they had finished reading through the ordinance.

Jona [1:10:58] confirmed the Director mentioned in the ordinance would currently refer to Travis Hultin, Director of Public Works.

Shelly said the ordinance read fine.

Paul Wilcox stated he noticed the ordinance uses the County standard 8-ft leash for the City on-leash which makes sense for consistency. He had mentioned to Jona he would prefer 6 ft at the state parks. He suggested reminding people about the 8-ft leash since he had seen leashes advertised that go to 26 ft.

[1:15:56]

Sherilee asked if Staff believed people were not going down into Beaver Creek when they want to. Travis replied he did not believe that, but the City can make rules. Enforcement is always a problem, so a lot of it relies on the honor system. Sherilee asked how long the prohibition of dogs in Beaver Creek had been in place. Travis responded it had been in place for many years, he believed since the inception of the City's MS4 permit, which was in the 2000s. Sherilee questioned why sewer lines or big pipes ran down into the creek. Travis replied the lines predated the MS4 permit and do not concern DEQ unless the City has a spill. Sherilee noted one of the pipes smells terrible. Travis clarified a bad smell is not the same as releasing sewage into the creek.

Travis confirmed a sewer line runs down into the lower end of the canyon, the Sandee Palisades interceptor built in the late '80s, early '90s and several stormwater outfalls discharge into the canyon. He clarified the old sewer pipe just passes through there on its way to the Beaver Creek pump station and confirmed the pipe is intact and not leaking.

Jona noted if people were more responsible picking up their dogs' waste in the city parks in general, less storm runoff with the same dog waste would result which is an issue in Beaver Creek in terms of the stormwater permit. Travis added this was another opportunity to remind people that when it comes to water, everything is connected. A lot of people do not realize that whatever goes into the catch basin on the street goes to the creek and does so untreated at present, which is a problem he and his successors will be working on for some time.

Jeff noted the option for flexibility in the future in Line 4 that states "within 100 ft of the ordinary high-water line of a river stream or other surface water body" and then at the end says "unless otherwise posted." Jona added the additional phrase was intended to provide flexibility for other surface water bodies, not just Beaver Creek. If the prohibition were to be removed in the future from the stormwater permit, the buffer could be reduced to 50 ft, 25 ft, 0 ft, whatever folks felt was appropriate.

Carol Allen moved to accept the dogs ordinance. Robbie Cantrell seconded the motion.

Shelly suggested a roll call vote.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Carol Allen, Brenda Austin, Jeff Hutchinson, Zach Andrews, Shelly Reynolds, Robbie Cantrell, Victoria Rizzo, and Jim Hill. Nays: Sherilee Winters. Abstaining: None. The motion passed 8 to 1.

6. Final Review of Native Names for the 40-mile loop Trail, before offering recommendations to City Council

Jona reported on his brief communication with Greg Archuleta, member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. He asked if Mr. Archuleta wanted to seek input from the people in his community on other potential names for the stretch of the 40-mile loop trail, names more appropriate than what the PAC discussed or something they would like to represent the area. Mr. Archuleta's response was Walla Walla Wind and Ch'akch'ak ("bald eagle"), the two names that were the favorites of the PAC, were totally acceptable to him, and he would be happy to see either on a sign. He mentioned he could offer a few other terms, but he felt their pronunciations were a bit too difficult. He expressed thanks to the PAC for the opportunity to participate in the process of naming the trail.

An informal vote was taken to see which name the PAC preferred. Jim liked either one. Robbie, Jeff, and Brenda voted for Walla Walla Wind. Sherilee, Zach, Victoria, Shelly, and Carol voted for Ch'akch'ak with Zach noting it is a unique name.

Robbie stated he likes Ch'akch'ak even though he voted for Walla Walla Wind.

Jona confirmed the spelling as "Ch'akch'ak," noting he believed it to be a phonetic spelling. He clarified the naming is in the beginning stages. He believed the matter will next go to City Council and he will probably be the one to present the recommendation to the Council. He did not know at which meeting it will be addressed but will keep the PAC in the loop.

Zach Andrews moved to accept the name Ch'akch'ak Trail for the 40-mile loop trail and forward it to City Council. Robbie Cantrell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jona thanked the PAC for their participation in the process of recommending a name.

8. Committee concerns and initiatives, future agenda items, closing comments

Robbie asked if the basketball nets had gone up. Jona replied the nets were in his office, having arrived in the mail Friday last week. He clarified they cost about \$5 or \$6 each if they get ruined in the winter. The nets will go up next week. Robbie expressed his appreciation.

Jim noted over the last several meetings, a consistent concern has come out about communication with the citizenry and how to share things that are coming up. He did not know how to solve the concern but hoped the PAC will continue to discuss it. He did not want to debate the matter now but would like to explore ways of engaging the public.

Sherilee said if people contact the City Manager about matters, she wished the City Manager would direct the people back to the committees, to give feedback to the committees so the committees hear what the people are saying, too.

Zach asked that an update on the Beaver Creek Bridge be added to next month's agenda, after Jona's meeting with Scott in Engineering. Jona stated he had an interesting lead on an affordable prefabricated bridge made of aluminum and fiber glass which is light enough to be carried in sections by three or four people down a trail. He planned to follow up with Susan Chen of Trailkeepers of Oregon about the company that produced the bridge and reach out to them for more information. Travis updated that the final report on the alternatives analysis of the bridge is due from the consulting firm at the end of this month. By the next PAC meeting, Staff should have more information to share.

Jona confirmed he and Travis had worked on a draft of the rules for the dog park but had not put together a sign yet. Jeff handed out the rules for City of Portland Parks which has a number of dog parks, noting the rules are the same for every single park. He asked the PAC to review the rules, which would be a good guideline for Troutdale. Jona replied he was influenced heavily by the Portland city parks rules, many of which also comply with Multnomah County rules. Jeff noted one important Portland rule says, "to display tag showing proof of current license and rabies vaccination." They also say, "if your dog is in heat, do not bring it in the park," which is actually probably not a bad idea. The Portland rules also talk about not bringing any more than three dogs to the off leash at any time since a person likely would not be able to manage four or more dogs. Jona liked Travis' suggestion to not bring small children to the dog park.

9. Hold or cancel next month's meeting October 18, 2023

Jeff said with an expected update on the Beaver Creek Bridge, it would be worthwhile to have the meeting.

The PAC agreed to hold the October 18th meeting.

Jona confirmed he will update the cards and paperwork to reflect the current PAC officers and membership. He confirmed he had inquired with the City Recorder about distribution of the official Parks Master Plan, but they are still waiting on a final approved version. The version the PAC saw that went to City Council that was approved will essentially be the final version with removal of language related to camping at Glenn Otto Park.

Travis clarified the section of 40-mile loop trail the City has the opportunity to name will essentially commence at NE Harlow Road and then proceed north along the levy, wrapping around to Sundial Road and then on over to Fairview, basically the section in North Troutdale. He added the Port [1:45:21] had gone out to bid on the project and were hoping to start construction in the near future of the remaining segments. He believed the part that goes through the Urban Renewal Area will be called the Sandy River Greenway Trail, but the name is up to the planners and the City Manager's Office, who may decide to extend the name the PAC recommended, presuming City Council adopts it.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Jeff Hutchinson, Chair

Date

Attest:
