

FoSPB Monthly Meeting June 26, 2013 Eliot meeting room 6 PM to 7:00 PM

Attendees:

David Newman, Co-Chair
Gunnar Sacher, Co-Chair
Asa Arden, Park Ranger
Carole Barkley
Rebecca Todd
Elka Grisham
Nancy Catlin
Ian Nicol
Suzie Downing
Mike Boyer, ONI

Agenda:

- The month(s) in review
 - Weekly Foot Patrol – 6:00 pm on Mondays, Wednesday 9:00 am, 3:00 pm on Fridays
 - Picking up a lot of litter
 - Transitional Youth continues handing out dinner
 - Homeless population trending upward
 - Added third foot patrol
 - Have additional vests
 - FoSPB, ONI, PDNA, Transitional Youth meetings
 - Composed resolution – Carole, Jinny, David, Gunnar
 - Submitted to Mike Abbate, Parks and Recreation on June 8.
 - No official response yet
 - Garden Work Parties
 - Bench painting, 6.8.
 - Planting of native plants in the Lincoln Block, 6.22.
 - Participated in discussions about landscaping in the Rough Rider Block
 - No agreement of proposed design was found
 - Parks and Recreations restarting the initiative with more input from PAM, OHS, PDNA, and FoSPB (see communication from Jennifer Yocom, Parks and Recreations, and City Commissioner Amanda Fritz in the appendix of these minutes)
 - Contact PAM and OHS for a meeting (**Gunnar, David**)
 - Contact Peter Mark and ask if he wants to donate for Park projects (**Gunnar, David**)
- Park update
 - Transitional Youth Dinners
 - Dinners continue unpermitted
 - Meeting between Park Rangers (Asa and Hassan) and Mike Boyer, 6.27.
 - Looking for long-term solutions
 - Moratorium on having more feeds in the downtown
 - Camping along First Christian Church

- Camping continues with growing numbers of homeless people in the loo area during the day
- Pastor Amy hard to get connected with but seeking discussion (Mike Boyer, 8.1.)
 - Spill over on sidewalks and parks
- Loo usage not always proper
 - Public urination in park or at First Christian Church has been observed
 - Incident rate comparable with other loos in town
- Unwanted bird feeding
 - Audubon material provided by Asa, Park Ranger
 - Add link to website and create some printouts (**Gunnar**)
- FoSPB communication strategy
 - Vet rumors
 - Call executive meeting to confirm strategy
 - Communications referring to FoSPB or Friends should be brought up for discussion before publishing
 - Involving the press or City officials should be discussed with the broader group
- 2013 FoSPB project objectives - Update
 1. Trash Ordinance - Modify City litter code to include cigarette butts as litter
 - Covers litter, i.e. cigarette butts
 - Reach out to PDNA to ask for a neighborhood position about smoking in the park
 - Invite PDNA board member and propose to discuss at board meeting (**David, TBD**)
 2. Label for rose varieties in the rose beds
 - Secured labels but need to identify varieties (**Paul**)
 3. Improve irrigation systems in all SPB
 - PP&R to identify opportunities
 4. Business recruitment for Shemanski Park (**Elka, Gunnar**)
 - Follow up with Brian A who wanted to FoSPB in touch with Jackie about vending at Shemanski (**Gunnar**)
 - Understand permit policy
 - Understand guidelines for businesses supported
 - Recruit businesses
 - Approach Arlington Club
 - Present plan to PP&R
 5. Funding – register Parks Foundation or Neighbors West/Northwest to act as fiscal agent (**Marjorie**)
 - Identify project to raise funding
 - Columbia Sportswear incentive program
 6. Reduce skate boarding traffic
 - Update stickers (Bryan)
 7. Loo – add sticker what number to call for issues
 - Update stickers (Bryan)
 8. Advertisement / Promotion (**Alan, Marjorie**)
 - Start raise money
 - Prepare proposal and submit to PP&R (two step process)
 - First step: Write one pager (**Alan, Carole??**)
 - Park Proposal Process: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/46373>
 - Application deadline: Fall
 - Brian A to help with application
 9. Member recruitment
 - Arlington Club – contact president, need to follow up
 - University Park – have three contacts

- 2013 Accomplishments
 - Member recruitment – PP&R Spring Guide
 - Card with important phone numbers for distribution – Back of FoSPB cards
 - Discussed the installation of cigarette trash containers with Park's and Rec's department
 - Portland Streetcar to install trash container at Streetcar stop on SW Market in SPB
 - PBOT agreed to clean SW Park and SW 9th streets along SBP south of SW Jefferson
- Communication
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSouthParkBlocks>
 - Website: www.fospb.org
- Action Item update (see below)
- Upcoming Events
 - Foot Patrols - Mo at 6:00 pm, We at 9:00 am, Fri at 3:00 pm;
 - Deadheading roses and watering of new perennials - Tue, Thu, 10 AM, Sa 9 AM
 - Q3 meeting with Parks & Rec – September 20., 2:00 pm
- Future Topics
 1. Install Pet Stations
 - Look at North-Park installation
 - PP&R did not like design
 - Built by CleanScapes
 - Not the biggest problem
 - Needs funding / sponsors
 2. WiFi In the Park - Establish WiFi hot spots in the South Park Blocks
 - Low priority for now
 - Cost issue – look for business support
 - Most people use smart phones
 - Move to future topics / opportunities
 3. Event planning
 - Social events in the park
 4. Fundraising and fund needs
 5. Determine projects and need for funding; make contact with potential local business partners including PAM, OHS, Safeway
 6. Vest replacement by T-Shirts
 - Have business sponsoring T-Shirts
 - Have business sponsor incentives

Next Meetings:

Last Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM, Eliot 3rd Floor Meeting Room (7.31., 8.28., 9.25., 10.30.)

Appendix

Response from Jennifer Yokum, PPR

To the Friends of South Park Blocks and interested parties,

I met with many of you on Wednesday morning; thank you for attending that meeting. At this time, Parks is not moving forward with changes to the perennial beds. We may want consider changes at a later date but the first step would be that we would begin the conversation again. We will continue to keep an open line of communication.

I have captured the below notes from the meeting; please let me know if you have any questions:

- 1) Parks staff cleared up a rumor that Parks was taking roses out of South Park Block #9 – We are not, we love the roses, we are thrilled they are thriving and are grateful to the Friends for the work they do caring for these roses.
- 2) We talked about the idea of looking at the symmetry of this block (as it is laid out differently than others) and looking at the landscape collectively with the surrounding institutions. Is there an opportunity to unify? Friends also would like to make sure any unifying includes looking at the park blocks as a whole.
- 3) Some of the information we heard:
 - a. Many Friends like the native plantings in the perennial beds and their naturalistic appearance, we did clarify that drought tolerant or sustainable perennials that will thrive in some of these beds are good options as well (i.e. plantings at South Waterfront Park were pointed to as an example).
 - b. There was discussion of issues with dogs getting into the beds (red pepper was suggested as one solution for that); discussion of the issue of cigarettes (the Friends are currently working with Parks staff on this issue); discussion of the opportunity to label or educate tourists, Portlanders, and children on the plants in the beds.
 - c. If Parks is to move forward with any changes to the perennial beds a public process should involve: the Friends, the surrounding institutions, the Downtown Neighborhood Association
 - d. One question that I heard asked that I didn't know the answer to was regarding the pruning of the elms, as in can they be pruned in a way (and at a time) that is still healthy for them, aesthetically in keeping with the park blocks, and allows more light on the beds. We will get back to the group with an answer to this, after discussion with the City Forester.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer

Date: June 26, 2013

Response from Commissioner Fritz to Friend Carole Barkley:

Dear Carole,

Thank you for your message, and for your work volunteering to maintain the South Park plantings. I'm impressed with the volume and insightful nature of the comments I've received on this topic, in just one week since I was assigned to lead Portland Parks. It is clear that neighbors and visitors alike have significant views on this community gathering space.

Parks Director Abbaté gave me a short briefing on this proposal on Friday, as we traveled to Piedmont to celebrate the renovation of the city's oldest rose garden in Peninsula Park. No changes will be made in the Park Blocks plantings until Friends of the South Park, the Neighborhood Association, and interested residents and businesses have been duly involved in the decision-making. In both of my new bureaus, Development Services as well as Parks, I will be reviewing current protocols that guide staff on community engagement at the best times in decision-making processes, to help promote good outcomes. Equity, inclusion, and community participation will continue to be my guiding core values.

Parks staff will be meeting with leaders of FoSP on Wednesday morning, with Dora Perry attending to represent my office. Depending on my schedule, I hope to attend the more formal meeting that will be set up later for all interested community members and Parks staff to discuss the South Park plantings. Because you contacted me, Parks staff will add your email address to the list of interested Portlanders for this project, and we will invite you to that meeting.

I appreciate your concern for public space and community partnerships, which I and my new colleagues in Parks share.

Sincerely,
Amanda

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner, City of Portland

Action Items

Detail	Update	Owner	Date	Status
Governance of FoSPB: Study other Friends groups and then decide on FoSPB Governance structure		Carole	5/28/2012	Open
Governance of FoSPB: Study other Friends groups and then decide on FoSPB Governance structure		Gunnar	5/28/2012	Open
Governance of FoSPB: Provide contact for ByLaws example		Mike Boyer	5/28/2012	Open
Create FoSPB Task List	Created for 2013	David / Gunnar	5/28/2012	Closed
Membership solicitation - University Place		Bob	5/28/2012	Open
Tree Cutting	What happens with cut wood? What is replacement plan?	David	7/31/2012	Open
Smoking Ban	Follow up with Parks and Recs – next meeting to be discussed 4.5.	David / Gunnar	7/31/2012	Closed
Event sponsoring	What is the procedure for FoSPB	David / Gunnar	8.29.2012	Open
Garden Work Party	Schedule event Schedule bench cleanup Events planned for February, March, April	David / Gunnar	8.29.2012	Closed
Phone number	Create phone number card of important number	Jinny	11.28.2012	Closed 3.28.

FoSPB Meeting Minutes

Date: June 26, 2013

Spring PP&R Guide	Get some copies	Gunnar	3.28.2013	Closed 4.24.
Meetings	Schedule meetings for second half of the year	Gunnar	5.29.2013	