

Historic Milwaukie NDA Minutes
February 13, 2023
In person at Milwaukie Floral, 3306 SE Lake Rd, Milwaukie
And via Zoom:

Present:

NDA Team: Vice Chair and Land Use Rep, Val Hubbard; Secretary, Debbie Liptan; PSAC Rep, Lenny Bennett; Land Use Rep, Gary Klein (via Zoom); and Land Use Rep and Communications, Zackary Pacholl

In Person Participants: Carla Pletka, Ray Bryan, Ryan Burdick, Glen Suchanek, David Hedges, Adam Moore, Lenny Bennett

Zoom Participants: Ceci Denovo, Ross Lehman, Kelly Stewart, Nicole Perry

Announce resignation of NDA Chair and preview officer elections - Val Hubbard reported the resignation of Chair Rich Recker. She also explained that officer elections are coming up in May. She mentioned that the NDA officers work together as a team and, on average, devote about two-three hours a month (not including the monthly NDA meeting) to officer responsibilities. We are especially looking for NDA Chair candidates.

Presentations & Discussions

- Public Safety Notices and Community Announcements
 - Behavioral Health Specialist (new position) - Glen Suchanek shared his background, experience, and new role within the Milwaukie PD working with community members experiencing crisis and connecting them with local and regional resources. He's been on the job with MPD for 3 months now, but has been doing this work within Clackamas County for many years. Right now, he's focusing a lot on crisis management and houselessness issues, connecting people in crisis to local resources such as LoveOne and Our Father's Heart (in Oregon City). The MPD has some resources they can provide for temporary housing or transportation on extremely cold nights, but are not generally equipped or trained to handle people in these kinds of emergencies. Hopefully, MPD will be able to add an additional position to take on the houselessness response and give Glen more time to work on mental health support resources. Feel free to contact Glen through the non-emergency number at 503.786.7500. If you see someone experiencing immediate crisis, feel free to call him at 503.347.3411.
 - Public Safety Advisory Committee - Lenny Bennett asked for input from folks in the neighborhood about safety concerns they have. He will take the concerns to the monthly PSAC meeting. He can be contacted via email at lennyb@me.com or text at (503) 310-3296. He reported about various public safety issues from the PSAC meeting, including:
 - MPD is experiencing staffing issues (as are many other employers around the country). Part of MPD's issue is getting new officers trained, because

of the way training requirements/resources are set up in this state. MPD's work force is currently 30% undeployable, because they aren't able to get new officers set up for training through the state's training program. They are looking at a number of workarounds to address the situation.

- The MPD recently did a sting operation focused on prostitution, making a number of arrests. As part of that effort, they treat sex workers as victims and try to get them into programs/resources such as Safety Compass - here's a link to info on that program: <https://safetycompass.org/>
- There was no updated info on the recent string of break-ins of local businesses. Captain Ryan Burdick, who was also in attendance at the NDA meeting, mentioned that the police really appreciate calls to 911 if we observe ANYTHING suspicious, indicating that that is one of the best ways to ensure that the perpetrators are caught.
- Scott Park approved Concept Plan and Letter of Support for State Grant - Adam Moore, Parks Development Coordinator, presented the final concept plan approved by the City Council for Scott Park. Feel free to contact Adam with questions - moorea@milwaukieoregon.gov
 - A picture of the plan is attached at the end of these minutes. The work is moving forward swiftly, with an expected on-time completion date of Fall 2024, as required by the Federal Covid fund grants. The City is trying to plan inflation into the budget. They are expecting a 9-10 month construction process.
 - In order to make some additional improvements to the play areas in the park, they plan to seek a \$250,000 grant from the State of Oregon and are seeking a letter of support from Historic Milwaukie NDA. A draft letter is attached at the end of these minutes.

Neighborhood Opportunities for Engagement

- Neighborhood Projects ideas - Debbie Liptan reported about the ideas that have come in. Here is her report:

We've received several ideas from the Historic Milwaukie community on issues or projects that members find interesting or compelling. Thank you!

In seeking community engagement, we want to know **what level of support or leadership you are able and willing to bring to the issues that you share with us**. As a leadership team, we are unable to add to our to-do lists by taking over the responsibility for each additional issue.

Know that we do offer **grant money**, if it would be helpful and relevant to a given project. The grant application is on the city of Milwaukie's website. We're happy to give guidance to find the form and fill it out, if needed.

Below is the list of what has been sent to us so far. Please keep your ideas coming, as it takes all of us to make a great community!

Ideas for neighborhood projects.

*Outreach to apartment communities within our neighborhood to engage those residents in our activities.

*Fixing/replacing sidewalks on Main St. (perhaps a citizen committee to keep an eye out and relay concerns to the City?)

*Create a user friendly way to engage with mass transit within the City.

*Support styrofoam drop at Milwaukie Floral

*We really need to focus on educating people about the damaging impact of litter. A couple of years ago I reached out to the head of MHS and one of the science teachers there, but got nowhere. I'd love to hear other ideas and connections with anyone who might have connections in the area that could be of assistance.

*In Kronberg Park, there's an area of the path that juts out so you can see up and down Kellogg Creek. It's a lovely view but what would make it nicer is a bench to sit on. We could buy the bench and dedicate the bench on Earth Day. With some type of inscription on it from the Historic NDA.

- Report on Annual Calendar draft - Val Hubbard reported on upcoming NDA calendar items:
 - Planning for our Main St. Earth Day event will begin in earnest in March. The event will take place on April 22.
 - We will do regular cleanup events in June or July and in October or November.
 - We will not hold our monthly NDA meetings in July and August.

HMNDA Formal Business Meeting

- **Current Business**
 - Land-use Updates - Zachary Pacholl: nothing of significance to report this month. The city's Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a meeting on Tuesday night (the evening after our NDA meeting). There may be more news after that.
 - Grant Request - Nicole Perry for MHS/MAA Grad Party. Nicole joined us to share plans for/present the grant request for the annual MHS/MAA Grad Party. In addition to the fun plans scheduled for the event, an item of interest is that students unable to afford the tickets to the party can earn their tickets by doing work in the community. The grant request is for \$500. It will be voted on at our March meeting.
 - Grant Request - David Hedges for MPD Police Officer of the Year Awards Dinner. David joined us to present the grant request for the Officer of the Year Awards Dinner. This will be the first time the dinner has been held since before the pandemic, so it will honor award winners for 2020, 2021 and 2022. Members of

the public can learn more about the event and buy tickets for themselves at milwaukee.psf.org The grant request is for \$200. It will be voted on at our March meeting.

- Minutes of the Dec '22 meeting were approved.



DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SCOTT PARK GRANT REQUEST

February __, 2023

Oregon Parks and Recreation
Local Government Grant Program

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to offer our strongest support for the City of Milwaukie's application for 2023 Local Government grant application for Scott Park.

Our neighborhood association has participated in the planning for the new concept plan and look forward to the park's completion in 2024 with great anticipation. Prior to the pandemic, our neighborhood association provided a public summer concert series in the park's amphitheater. A universally accessible path, ramp, and stage for the performance space is a much-needed improvement that will allow for all community members to perform the many community events that regularly occur at the historic amphitheater. The supporting utility hookups at the stage will make set up of programming much easier for the many volunteer-based teams that use the space.

Beyond the renovation of the amphitheater and walking paths, our members are very excited for the new inclusive play options offered in the park. Currently, there is no public playground in downtown Milwaukie. If fully implemented, the 2022 plan for Scott Park will provide Milwaukie's only play structure designed to be accessible for people with physical and cognitive disabilities, and will also provide opportunities for nature-based play and opportunities to get off the cement path throughout park under the shade of trees and next to ducks in Spring Creek Pond. The variety of play options and features will be great for park users of all ages and abilities and will be the first of its kind in our growing city.

Finally, we are eager for the chance for all park visitors young and old to be able to enjoy the natural space together regardless of their physical abilities or whether they use a mobility device.

Our neighbors have participated actively in the planning of this park and feel as though many new voices were heard. We are grateful to know that an inclusive park has been planned. However, we know that doing things the right way is expensive and that construction costs are rising. We are hopeful that the State of Oregon will provide this additional funding to ensure that our community's full vision can be constructed as designed.

Sincerely,

Name, Title
Historic Milwaukie Neighborhood Association