

NCPRD District Advisory Committee (DAC) Recruitment (2 of 2)
6/15/2022 7:00-8:30pm

Jan Carothers hosted the meeting that was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Introductions by Grover Bornefeld Chair of DAC screen sharing the subarea map for NCPRD. The next screen share was a chart showing the links of communication from each subarea consisting of approximately 22,000 people, each with 2 subarea selected representatives, which in turn communicate the concerns of their subarea at the District Advisory Committee Meetings, which are in turn in communication with the NCPRD Board of Directors (Board of County Commissioners). This ensures two way communication at each level as was intended with the original plan in the formation of the NCPRD.

The purpose of tonight's meeting was to enable residents living in one the unincorporated subareas to be placed in the appropriate "breakout group" in order to meet the prospective candidates running for sub-area representative to fill vacant or soon to be vacant positions.

Facilitators for the 4 groups were as follows:

Group 1: Grover Bornefeld

Group 2: Anatta Blackmarr and Eleanor Hunter

Group 3: Jeanette DeCastro and Lindsey Friedman

Group 4: Jan Carothers

Notes from Breakout Room for Subarea 1

(Written by Grover Bornefeld)

Subarea 1 Breakout Room Attendees:

1. Johannes Van Straalen
2. Muciri Gatimu
3. Zoe Major McDowell
4. Linda Neumann
5. Steve Jagers
6. Kay Weaver
7. Gary Blakney
8. Deborah Bokoski
9. Gary Bokoski
10. Baldwin Van der bijl
11. Karen Bjorklund
12. Angjie Koehler
13. Brenda Koehler
14. Norm Tolonen
15. Rita Tolonen
16. Grover Bornefeld - Facilitator
17. Lisa Bentley
18. Tom Weaver
19. Virginia Foster

Welcome from Grover and personal introductions from each attendee sharing some of their priorities and issues included: more nature areas and more parks, develop the park at Concord property, access to water, pocket parks, and more equitable allocation of our parks tax dollars.

Candidates were introduced and each of the three candidates shared about themselves and their desire and qualifications to serve as a subarea representative.

Gary Blakney: From Oregon City. Gary has been very involved in protecting what is now the Gladstone

Nature Park from development. While volunteering, he has continued to be focused on outreach in Gladstone and enlisting “park stewards” for the continued care of natural areas.

Deborah Bokowski: A current DAC representative has been instrumental, (along with Grover Bornefeld) in the development of the new bylaws for the DAC. Deborah has been a faithful advocate for the unincorporated subareas during the rocky time of transition from Happy Valley exiting the NCPRD, and the difficult, and contentious road back to equitable representation within the DAB, now known as the DAC.

Muciri Gatimu: Grew up in the Piedmont area of Portland and shared his experience of living a walkable distance to a park that offered nature, beautiful rose gardens and ample play area. This is a stark difference to what Jennings Lodge residents have access to now. Muciri is a scientist with a background in physics and geology. He has observed the fact that though there are large trees and a river nearby, there is a lack of safe, open access for the community as a whole to enjoy as a park.

Attendees were instructed on how to access “Survey Monkey” from their individual devices to vote for the candidates.

In further discussion, it was agreed the primary goals for subarea 1 were development of more parks and preserving green spaces, as well as creating access to these areas.

To further these goals, there needs to be more outreach to inform and encourage citizen involvement.

The budget will be finalized for the Concord project by 6/29/22.

Through the efforts of the Concord Task Force and community engagement there is by agreement:

- 1) Preservation of the Concord School Building
- 2) Plans for a free standing library
- 3) A park on the remaining grounds

Other projects being pursued as a result of citizen involvement are the Justice property park, a New Urban HS park, and Friends of a park at Jennings Lodge School etc.

For further info: FriendsofNClackamasParks@gmail.com or citizengjb@gmail.com .

Notes from Breakout Room for Subarea 2

(Written by Eleanore Hunter and Anatta Blackmarr)

Subarea 2 Breakout Room Attendees:

1. Anatta Blackmarr - Facilitator
2. Eleanore Hunter - Facilitator
3. Lesley Shirk
4. Suzanne Wolf
5. Thelma Haggemiller
6. Dave McCartney
7. Nancy Winston
8. Don

What are current NCPRD priorities?

What makes up a regional park, Community Park and Pocket Park?

Dave McCartney: Expressed his concern with risk management issues regarding off leash dogs - being knocked down and he and his dog attacked twice by large off leash dogs. Concern for liability if children/elderly, get hurt. Took place near playground area. Suggests either separate fenced in area for

dogs, or a dedicated dog park. The suggestion was made to have off leash times - early or late in the day.

Discussion of dogs on and off leash on the Trolley Trail with high usage by bicycles, electric bikes, motorized bikes, scooters, electric skateboards, etc.

There needs to be clarity for various vehicles - the signs say no motorized vehicles but not enforced - high up on a pole, hard to read - add non-emergency sheriff's # and signage so a person can say what portion of the trail they are on - yellow/red/green section or street names. What to do when someone is found unconscious on the side of the trail.

Discussion of funding rates for the parks.

Discussion of Friends of the Trolley Trail and Adopt a Park program

More garbage cans wanted between Park Ave and Torbank

Get an Eagle Scout to help with projects.

Discussion of width of the trail - 10 ft - minimum allowed for federal funding - did not want lights or wide path due to the trail being right behind people's homes

Don: We need more playgrounds, there are more weeds everywhere, what about more maintenance?

Dave, Nancy Suzanne and Anatta all interested in continuing to meet to discuss parks.

There was general agreement on having separate areas for dogs and for parks to offer different options - not the same features in each park. And please no fences in Risley Park.

System plan is needed to ensure a mix of uses for the various parks throughout NCPRD.

Add exercise stations along the Trolley Trail.

Notes from Breakout Room for Subarea 3

(Written by Lindsay Freedman and Jeanette DeCastro)

Subarea 3 Breakout Room Attendees:

1. Lindsay Freedman = Facilitator
2. Jeanette DeCastro - Facilitator
3. Rafael Kaup
4. Brooklyn Robinson
5. Katie Scott
6. Ashley Langan

Started with introduction of facilitators and then applicants. The applicants provided their goals for NCPRD in applying for the DAC. Jeanette explained there are two open positions and three applicants and thanked all for their willingness to serve. All three ran through the summaries, and then the survey link was provided for voting. Discussion paused to allow for voting. Upon finishing voting, the group re-convened. Ashley joined and Jeanette asked the applicants if they would be willing to re-share their position summaries. Since all agreed, they did so (in reverse order from the first round).

3 Applicants

1. Rafael Kaup
 - a. Wants to connect our parks to people can move in the area without being on busy roads like Sunnyside, networked with trails, meteorologist, public affairs for Bonneville.
2. Brooklyn Robinson

- a. Realtor, newer to area, opportunity to get involved and meet community members, grew up living in a county park in Spokane, love activities, gardening, bringing people together with food forests, community gardens
- 3. Katie Scott
 - a. Pediatric OT, want to see Justice Property Park happen, see parks be accessible and fill needs for all, especially older community members and neurodivergent people

Voting

Avenues for communicating and organizing

Facebook Group: Friends of Justice Park Group

Email Address: FriendsofNClackamasParks@gmail.com

Both are run by community members

Priorities/Goals for Subarea 3

- Lindsay: Love the idea of connecting parks, alternative communication and little trails allowing movement around, places that allow access for different types of community members, food forest could be such a welcoming and educational experience, perennial plants require less
- How do we make sure that lands that are going to be developed have a certain percentage of green space? Even people in dense areas deserve access to trees and oxygen and light.
- Rafael: What does it mean when you say community? If we aren't hanging out people are just in their backyards, trail system, parks that people go to, some of the parks, sidewalks connecting, sometimes hard to get to them, neighborhoods aren't designed by a master plan, parks are treated like little neighborhood park, don't see anyone from extended community. Going around the trails and saying hi to people. The ability to do things for free, as long as we want things to happen, call PGE, right of way on power lines, let's make this work for the community, less upkeep, trails, win-win. Safe routes, Sunnyside has gone crazy, 172, 122, right behind Pfeifer
- *** Attending public meetings for developers - DAC members and community members
- Brooklyn: Opportunity for free public space, to just exist in, difficult to find more and more often, access and getting to places, being able to exist, proximity to schools and opportunities for kids, participating.
- Up For Growth - advocate for more middle housing and places for people to be, Incentivize developers to do the things that the community wants - balancing housing with including nature spaces
- Jeanette: Subarea 4 shares concerns about not having greenspace, developments not having greenspace included in their planning is very short sighted.
- NCPRD Planner position did not get filled, have to start with land use

Wrap Up

Several big areas we have similar priorities about:

- Connectivity and open space, food forest, welcoming gathering/play spaces.
- Varied programming for adults, hours open for Aquatic Park
- Generating community support and interest in Justice Property (e.g. signs, mailers, door knocking)
- Embedding parks into land use decisions (or pushing policy to do so)
Having representatives attend those public meetings
- Access- differently abled bodies and minds

Next Steps:

The group shared contact information for future Friends Of discussion in Subarea 3, if they wished to do so. A tentative date of July 9th or July 10th for another meet up at/close to the Justice Park property is proposed. Details to follow. How to get involved: attendees are aware of DAC and BOD meetings. Added Facebook Friends of Justice Park, email FriendsOfNClackamasParks@gmail.com ways to contact.

Notes from Breakout Room for Subarea 4

(Written by Jan Carothers)

Subarea 5 Breakout Room Attendees:

1. Jan Carothers - Facilitator
2. Dave Gilman - DAC Rep. and Current Candidate
3. Jay Panagos - Current Candidate
4. Maureen Thom - DAC Rep.

The discussion included introductions and reasons why the two candidates were interested and committed to the parks and rec in their district and ways they hope to contribute through their participation in the coming years – whether they are referred for selection to the board or not.

The ensuing conversation was lively and all three could tell, from such a small turn-out, how important it will be for them to collaborate on committed action to bring attention and energy to meeting people, and discussing and learning the needs and priorities for parks and rec opportunities in their area.

Jay spoke about his dedication to biking and how he intends to use his afternoons getting all through every neighborhood in the subarea and the district to understand what parks are in the district and more importantly to discover possible land opportunities for development. He mentioned his dedication to outdoor sports and activities and how he can really see the needs in their area. His daily employment starts early and he is done by 2 pm, so he is able to be outdoors a great deal and he can see how relatively little space has been designated for neighborhood parks and recreation in the area.

He also spoke about his strong concerns for resident safety in the parks and he has been serving on the Milwaukie Public Safety Committee.

Dave brought out how many huge multiple family housing developments there are on the east side of the freeway and how there seems to be virtually no designated open or green space for kids to play, let alone actual parks, being included in these projects. He can see the need to be working with the county and planning and permitting commissions to be more attentive to park/playground space needs. He says, clearly there will be a lot of children playing in the streets if we don't start identifying land and working toward acquiring and increasing park and rec space.

He has appreciated all he has learned on the NCPRD Subarea Implementation Team and a member of the new DAC for this first year and is looking forward to continuing that work with Maureen and Jay and others to build much more involvement with residents of Subarea #4 and seeing some progress in meeting the park deficit in their part of the district.

Maureen agreed that nothing much positive will happen if they don't inform and generate active interest from residents so they can play a role of influence on parks and rec opportunities. She has started using Nextdoor to publicize NCPRD meetings, but feels they/we/NCPRD need to generate more connection to subarea #4 on both sides of the freeway. She discussed how each part of the subarea are so different and how much needs to happen in both parts – East of the Freeway where so much development is, and West where the older legacy houses and smaller residences are.

Jay was enthusiastic about the idea for the three of them to set up dates to go and spend time meeting together in the various existing neighborhood parks and setting up talks with park user families, and

individuals about what they'd like to have and see in the future. They can begin to get to know neighbors and talk about what might be possible, and how to get involved. They can see the only way to correct the deficit of parks and rec opportunities in their area will be to build interest and an energetic constituency among the neighborhoods.

They discussed that engaged community members who believe progress can happen are the only way NCPRD can eventually pass a bond increase to procure more property and provide more parks, community centers and recreation resources.

We discussed how it would be valuable as they be sure to collect information (phone, email, address) to share about NCPRD resources available to them, but also to begin to identify a short list of things that residents care about that might be able to draw together some energy around to create an initial project to present to NCPRD.

Clearly this subarea needs more accessible, walkable, neighborhood parks you don't need a car to get to. And they need to be safe, find space for ball fields where possible, with safe playground equipment, and eventually bike and walking paths, so people with multiple mobility interests and resources can access them.

There was discussion about setting dates for coffee (cool drink) conversation(s) in their current parks to meet people, collect interested resident's contact information, have them sign up for the Your Parks, Your Voice Newsletter, (FriendsofNClackamasParks@gmail.com, as well as going on the NCPRD website and signing up for the district newsletter. www.NCPRD.com.

There was a lot of enthusiasm for rolling up their sleeves and making a difference for parks and rec in their very underserved subarea neighborhoods.

Upon return to the all subarea meeting, group feedback was shared

Anata Blackmarr: Shared the desire for a greater variety of parks besides dog parks, more playgrounds, and suggested a coordinated system plan including park monitors.

Katie Scott: Emphasized the need for greater accessibility to parks for a variety of age groups, increasing the hours at the Aquatic Park and involvement in development of the park on the Justice property.

Jay Panagas: Discussed increasing land acquisition and outreach through a coffee gathering at a park. He voiced park safety concerns as well.

Virginia: Reported that there were a large number of attendees in Subarea 1, also voicing the need for increasing parks and accessibility to existing green spaces and river access. Subarea 1 also recognized the need for more local core group community outreach and strength in numbers, especially when communicating needs to the NCPRD Board of Directors (BCC).

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

NCPRD DAC Recruitment Meeting - Zoom Chat Log

Virtual on Zoom, June 15, 2022

19:13 Jeanette: A link to the District Advisory Group (DAG) and the district map can be found at this link: <https://ncprd.com/district-advisory-committee>

20:27 Lindsay Freedman: <3 no worries, Katie is speaking for our group. I am soooo thankful! I am feeling really positive about this core group of 6 here!! <3

20:31 Eleanore Hunter: Bye everyone - thanks for loving parks!

20:33 Jan Carothers: FriendsofNClackamasParks@gmail.com

20:34 Lindsay Freedman: THANK YOU EVERYONE!!!!

20:34 Jeanette: THANK YOU!

20:34 Brooklyn Robinson: Thank you all! This has been a great meeting :)

20:35 Zoe Major-McDowall: thanks!