

Notes from Breakout Room for Subarea 1
(Written by Grover Bornefeld)
N CPRD District Advisory Committee (DAC) Recruitment (1 of 2)
5/18/2022 7:00-8:30pm

Grover Jeffrey Bornefeld called the meeting to order at 7PM to address the importance of having a voice through serving as a representative in one of the soon to be vacant posts in some of the sub areas. Each sub area has 2 representatives

Through the activism of sub area 3 the Justice Property will be transformed into a park instead of acreage being sold by the county for development.

“Friends of” groups are being formed by local residents such as:

Friends of the park at Jennings Lodge School

Friends of the park at Concord School

Friends of River Villa Park

Friends of The Trolley Trail (recently fund raised for striping along the trail for night time users).

Friends of the park at New Urban High School

Other opportunities for a voice is in park naming;ie:park at Boardman Wetlands site

A long range master systems planning through an equity lens.

What does the community want to see in a park design?

Grover emphasized the importance of a two way flow of information/ conversation between the community and the Board of Directors (BCC). Serving on the DAC works toward that end, just as the original model for the N CPRD intended.

Break Out Group Meeting: Sub Area One:

Deborah Bokowski is one of the reps for Sub area One, and discussed the need for more natural areas, the importance of local involvement, and especially watching out for the agenda for BCC policy meetings to find opportunities to lend voice to.

Grover, our other representative, echoed Deborah’s comments.

Pat Reinert said we need more parks and asked about planned developments such as the Lennar development at the 16 acres that was once the Evangelical CampGrounds, and aren’t parks usually a part of that plan?

Mucciri who lives on SE River Rd and Meldrum commented on the fact that we live so close to the river and yet there is no river access for local residents, and would like to see more natural areas for parks.

Virginia Foster agreed that Jennings Lodge residents' greatest need is for natural areas and even reclaiming areas of concrete (ie.DC Latourette Park in Oregon City). Virginia referred to the current inequity between Milwaukie and their expectation that N CPRD will prioritize another \$5 million to be invested in Milwaukie Bay Park as opposed to unincorporated and underserved areas like Jennings Lodge who has also been paying taxes into N CPRD for more than 30 years

for next to zero dollars invested thus far. The NCPRD took advantage of the fact that there was no IGA to hold them accountable and that the language of the original tax measure and the origin story of the creation of the NCPRD occurred a generation ago. This made it easy for them to create a newmaster plan prioritizing Happy Valley funding, based on requiring SDCs for acquiring new park land that essentially sabotaged the already developed, unincorporated areas. This resulted in the loss of 16 acres of more than 320 Douglas Fir trees and historic buildings that should have been a part of our historic conservation district. We now have a historical marker and tree museum to commemorate that loss.

Norm Tolonen asked about how parks and park projects are prioritized and financed? Norm wanted to know more about land availability for potential parks.

Both Deborah and Grover responded, discussing the current issues with the Concord School Park/ Library project on hold due to funding issues and the need for community voices to ensure equitable distribution for funding parks.

Grover pointed out that Clackamas County has 8 building projects that include the need for a new court house at this time.

Grover referred to NCPRD>COM online resource describing the NCPRD budget and of SDC's available in the funding segregated 3-Zones (<https://ncprd.com/financial-information>). There will be a change in the SDC structure.

The biggest take away was the need for further outreach between now and the next DAC meeting and to go online to NCPRD.com to look at the available opportunities to serve as an area representative before the June 15th election. Deborah reinforced watching out for BCC policy meetings in order to log on and offer public comment.

Notes from Breakout Room for Subarea 2
(Written by Eleanore Hunter and Anatta Blackmarr)
NCPRD District Advisory Committee (DAC) Recruitment (1 of 2)
5/18/2022 7:00-8:30pm

10 people in attendance Anatta Blackmarr Valerie Chapman Jane Civiletti Roger Ganas Eleanore Hunter Don and Kendra Malkemus Rich Nepon

Rita Smith Kingen Suzanne Wolf Desire for a Master plan

Need for a unified Voice

Rich - A Theatre/Venue – all hands up

Valerie – great restroom at Milwaukie bay park – need more restrooms – 7 hands up

And very few trash cans – 2 hands up

Rita – need to have budget for restroom cleaning – wants natural play areas for grandson

Wants a demographic study on what the area needs now

Anatta and Kendra – the need for playgrounds – perhaps one at the OLWSD property green space

Don — nearest parks - OG Elementary and then Risley. No place for toddlers to go without driving. Would like the natural creek in River Villa Park to run free – good for salmon

A venue in general – music this summer in Awakening Coffeehouse close to Trolley Trail back field mentioned

Suzanne – New Urban High School field – over the moon when learned it's now on the capital projects list

Rich – a dog park – with an open run/play area – everybody has dogs around here

Jane – What won't happen is her main concern – stopping the clear-cutting of large tracts of land for developers – ALL HANDS GO UP

Valerie – MASTER PLAN - how many sq. ft. of parkland is adequate for the # of people as the area grows

There was a consensus that the **low tax revenue** for our District is a significant problem.

Everyone agreed with one person's comment about how **park deficiency** in our area is very critical.

When one attendee advocated for our District to have a **theatre company**—in particular, the New Century Players— most everyone agreed.

One person wished for more **restroom opportunities along the Trolley Trail**. She gives the restroom at Milwaukie Bay Park a 5 star review.

Two people wished there were more **trash receptacles along the Trolley Trail**, because they both use the trail almost daily and they always pick up trash and wish they didn't have to carry it till they got to a MAX station, for example. A cigarette receptacle was also mentioned.

Two people spoke about the **playground shortage** in our sub-area. Local school playgrounds are off-limits on weekdays during school hours. These two attendees feel the young kid and parent demographic needs more attention. Most people have to drive to get to a playground. This is where having an abundant amount of small pocket parks really comes into its own. One idea was that the empty lawn on the Oak Lodge Water Services treatment plant property be linked to NCPRD for a playground. A young mother who lives by Riverville Park said she doesn't want a playground there—she wants the park to retain the maximum level of nature park qualities. But she'd love a nearby pocket park playground. She pointed out that even when you take kids to a nature park, it's not likely that as many social connections will be made compared to the social opportunities at a playground, where kids end up meeting and playing with each other, and parents get to know each other, too. *(Anatta afterthought: the Bunnell property could be considered for a playground. And the Spring Park playground could have more play structures—nature play or traditional.)*

One person brought up the little-known **small seasonal spring-fed creek** that goes into the Willamette at one end of Riverville Park—and how it **could be restored**. *(Anatta afterthought: at the Riverville Park volunteer event held by NCPRD and North Clackamas Watersheds Council and the Friends of Riverville Park, a member of the watersheds council reported on plans to look into grant money for this sort of thing at Riverville Park.)*

One person was “over the moon” hearing that community advocacy from the Historic Downtown Oak Grove non-profit and others has resulted in more awareness of the land at **New Urban High School**, and resulted in it being added to the Capital Projects list for consideration for being made into a park.

One person is unhappy that **sub-area boundaries don't align with CPO boundaries**.

A number of people want more **dog parks**. They barely exist in the District. *(Anatta afterthought: therefore many, many people let their dogs off leash in most parks in Sub-area 2.)*

People also spoke about the need to look at community park needs and aspirations in general, and to codify them into **District-wide standards and goals**.

Notes from Breakout Room for Subarea 3 and 4
(Written by Jan Carothers and Jeanette DeCastro)
NCPRD District Advisory Committee (DAC) Recruitment (1 of 2)
5/18/2022 7:00-8:30pm

Neighborhood meeting re: NCPRD and DAC vacancies / involvement opportunities

I. Initial All Group Meeting:

- Introduction of purpose
- How to participate in DAC and with NCPRD
- Past results / impacts from community participation
- Reenergizing community input channels
- Lessons Learned from past / current challenges / pitfalls
- City-centric verses full representation / participation from unincorporated residents
- Ballot/demographic driven
- Master Plan/System Plan “vacuum”
- Tax rate – unchanged since 1980
- More community input needed! Reaching out to and involving a greater number of the members of the unincorporated area
- My Parks, My Voice – informational newsletter to encourage fuller participation and representation from unincorporated sub-areas of NCPRD

II. Report from Sub-groups #3 & 4 Breakout room at May 18, 2022 meeting

As there was light attendance in both sub-groups, we combined them into one breakout room as they could have a richer mutually helpful conversation.

Jeanette DeCastro was the primary facilitator and Jan Carothers joined the group after the introductions. These notes and ideas are a combination of Jeanette’s and Jan’s.

Attending were Lindsay Freedman, Katie Scott and Jeanette DeCastro all residents of #3 and David Gilman DAC Rep for #4, and Jan Carothers from Implementation team and SA #1.

Conversations primarily centered on the key concerns of outreach, needs for parks in both sub-areas, ways to galvanize interest and ownership in the future Justice Property Park. And many of these ideas (and issues) are relevant, creative and adaptable for other sub-areas.

A. Quick summary of NCPRD on Justice Property (Sub Area 3) to date:

- fallow/undeveloped since purchase in mid-90s,
- was on short list for potential sale then pulled back,
- District recently committed to planning phase – but no Planner hired/engaged yet.
- Lindsay Freedman shared with neighbors who attended in-person meeting May 2022 on-site.
- Attendee neighbors expressed their interests- wants and concerns. Generally folks open to a neighborhood park @ Justice Property.
- Do not want boisterous park, do not want housing development.
- Have concerns about parking, traffic, storm water (drainage).
- Further priorities for park design:

- Recreational space
- Paths for walking
- Covered area 30'x30' to protect from Oregon weather
- DIGNIFIED accessibility – bathrooms
- Places to sit, have a snack, rest
- Inviting
- ADA accessibility is HIGH priority

B. Sub-area Access to Family Activities

One key interest/need:

More safe NCPRD activities and neighborhood parks providing opportunities for families (and especially new families) to meet others, re-integrate into the community and with neighbors (due to COVID-19 isolation.)

All the attendees from SA#3 have young children which fuel their needs/desires for recreation and community opportunities (as well as parks specifically) that parents and kids can do together.

Advocating to create more programming hosted in other sites - local school, church properties and facilities in the sub-areas, as community spaces for NCPRD Activities in their local areas i.e. youth dance lessons, fitness and other activities and classes.

For these Sub areas, the Milwaukie Community Center is quite distant and it would be great to have some activities further out in the district providing closer access for family activities.

B. Provide Activities, Expand Outreach, Build Support and Involvement

This group was clear it would be great to be able to use the park property right away in ways that would meet some of these needs, especially this summer.

They presented some great ideas for ways to claim the park, to just decide it is a park now, and begin to use the “not yet developed” NCPRD owned property, in some active, non- permanent ways, to draw more people into it and provide opportunities for further inclusion, interest and community ownership.

• **Build involvement through informal events and community generated activities.** To look for ways to create recreation that would attract people and especially families.

Katie Scott , Lindsay and Jeanette provided a lot of activity related ideas to meet for the Sub-area #3 needs.

- Hold a summer plant swap! Lots of gardeners have lots of extra plants. Set up a couple of tables on the Justice Property and invite people to come, swap plants and discuss the park and share their ideas for recreation. Use it as an opportunity to expand the participation in the Friends of . . . group.
- Hold a toy sway. Also Public Art display.

- Hold a picnic day, invite folks to bring blankets, and their lunch, bring some yard games and have a good time on the grass.

- Use all activities as opportunities to expand the Friends of . . . group

- Put in a temporary Labyrinth for walking meditation, which is becoming popular

- Which spurred a general follow-on idea – Create projects to involve Scouts. (Like creating the Labyrinth.) Scout projects, not only get kids onto the property, but their adult leaders and lots of associated parents! Any sub-area could have a specific active project of some kind that might be enticing to a Scouting troop.

- **Replace the missing sign that says Future home of the Justice Property Park in some fashion.**

Jeannette DeCastro said she could look into creating such a sign in some fashion. Several options mentioned include metal on a chain, painted wood on a pole, etc. Or have the sign say: Would you like a park here? (add a QR code, web site/email for the Friends of . . .)

Replace old sign in some fashion

- **Further suggestions for further soliciting feedback from neighbors include**

- On-street activism w/signs, waving at neighbors on SE 122nd

- Have home meetings for Friends of . . . as well as stand up meetings in the park.

- Keep collecting names, and get dates sub-area outreach meeting into the editions of “Your Parks, Your Voice” whenever possible.

C. What will it take to get this park built? Phases!

There was a lively conversation suggesting to plan the park development and implementation as phases. The first phase would be just rudimentary steps but could be implemented sooner.

In a first phase all there may really need to be are the simplest basic comforts – Provide a portable potty. Parents and older people find it hard to stay in a place for any length of time where there is no bathroom facility. A portable potty could make a great deal more possible, as at a construction site.

Also easy walking access, some kind of shade or windbreak where possible, some place to sit down for those who cannot sit on the ground (bench or table and benches. And as soon as possible a walkable path (with mobility accessibility, even with wood chips, if not yet a pressed gravel surface)

The next phases of significant design and development elements: like drainage, engineering, hard surface pad, parking, 30 x 30 covered space, other structures, etc. **will be more likely to follow if more people have actually begun to spend time on the property in comfortable if rudimentary ways.**

D. Park Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility issues:

Accessibility concern and requests - Do not lock park bathrooms! Especially in the winter! If a person with a disability, an older people, or a family with small children walks all the way to the park, when they arrive they almost always need to use the restroom. To discover them locked is not only annoying it can be truly distressing. If the park is open, so should the bathrooms be.

It's crucial to find ways to make at least some part of the justice property accessible to mobility-challenged people. I.e. packed gravel path area from some accessible entrance. Parks need to have some/enough hard roll-able surfaces.

E. Issues specific to Sub Area #4

- Dave Gilman DAC Rep from sub-area #4 said there is a great deal of new development including affordable housing (multi-family, apartments) being built in West Mt. Scott, but no evidence of any likely places available for parks or green-space. He sees this as a problem since it likely there will be mostly new families and children.

- Also another challenge of Sub-Area 4 is that it is divided by the freeway and has different character in each part. He and his other DAC Rep colleague Maureen from #4 are exploring outreach ideas to gain more participation from both sections of the Sub-areas.

- They are currently using Facebook and Next Door for outreach and are receptive to suggestions and open for outreach.

- An idea suggested was they look for one or two Hot flash concerns from their sub-area – key issues that a number of people care about especially and see if they can work to build involvement around those items.

- He mentioned there are schools and churches in their area, and perhaps there might be shared rec or facilities that could be possible for the new families in their area.

F. Dave Gilman asked everyone to be sure to invite their friends and neighbors to the June 15 meeting.

G. Katie Scott expressed her willingness to further explore, and apply, to be an area rep for #3. Thanks very much, Katie!

NCPRD DAC Recruitment Meeting - Zoom Chat Log

Virtual on Zoom, May 18, 2022

19:07 Lindsay Freedman: Hello everyone! So glad to see such an awesome group of community members coming together for park things!

19:08 Eleanore Hunter: Hello Lindsay - Welcome!!

19:08 Lindsay Freedman: Does anyone know if we can be allowed to change our names? I am sub area 3 and I would like to know if anyone else is.

19:09 Jeanette DeCastro: The three dots usually show the menu for that.. click on the three dots and click Rename

19:10 Katie Scott: Hi Lindsay this is Katie- also area 3- we met at the "future park"

19:28 Jeanette DeCastro: Hello Chips welcome

19:31 Jan Carothers: NCPRD.COM to apply.

19:45 Jeanette DeCastro: Thanks for letting me go on that tangent. It's exciting that there is a System Plan (what would have been a master plan) in the works.

19:51 Grover Jeffrey Bornefeld: FriendsOfNClackamasParks@gmail.com