

MINUTES OF THE LAKE GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING

Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, July 20, 2017, 7 pm

Board Members Present: Chair, Jerry Nierengarten, Secretary, Audrey Block;
Directors: Mike Buck, Mike Carlson, Sheila Carlson, Trudy Corrigan, Jay Miles Eshaia

Attendees: Ivan Anderholm, Director of Parks and Recreation, Paul Espa, Associate planner

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Treasurer Report: No changes to last report

Minutes: Pending approval

Presentation:

Eighteen months in development, the Iron Mountain Concept Plan was outlined by Ivan Anderholm. The park plan encompasses 51 acres of steep hillside bordered by the Hunt Club. The history of the area as a mining center and then, later, as a dumping site and staging area for large construction projects creates challenges for its renovation. For the City, the project represents the first new development in 12 years, and what is envisioned is a hybrid of recreational area transitioning to natural habitat.

Anderholm described the different areas of the proposed park appropriate for families, students, and plants and animals native to the site. The proposal includes a rerouting of a stream, in order to restore wetlands, preserving space for plants and wildlife, without interference from people. A new pond area will be allowed to expand in size, and connect to adjacent wetlands. Elements of the design are available at

<http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/parksrec/iron-mountain-park-concept-plan>

These include:

New access to the site, including expanded parking for cars and school buses

A “gathering circle,” useful for teachers and lecturers

A lawn area, covered pavilion, picnic tables and restroom facilities

A playground, made of natural materials including stones, loose and fixed timbers, gravel and sand

ADA-accessible trails and a boardwalk path, with interior trails linking to existing pedestrian routes

Interpretive educational signage, including information on habitats and histo

Anderholm discussed some of the challenges of the site, including its slope, rocky protuberances, and access to diverse users including walkers, bikers, horses, runners, and wildlife. The aim of the project, he said, is to avoid both zig-zag pathways and wide trails that cut into the natural contours of the site, impacting the restoration of native plants and creatures. Where trees must be removed, or will be negatively impacted by the rerouting of the stream, the plan includes the planting of new native species. No fires will be allowed in the park, and a new hydrant will be installed.

Adjacent to the rerouted stream, Anderholm said the plan includes dense plantings of native species, in order to discourage people from leaving the trail, and entering sensitive areas. Director Mike Buck underscored this point, adding that the new park is planned for use by natural inhabitants, and not merely people. The inclusion of dedicated mountain bike trails in the new park was ultimately rejected, they said, because of the negative impact on sensitive species.

The City Council has approved the project, and as it moves further through the planning process, the timing and funding continues to move forward in a positive direction. Currently, the plan is to fund 50% of the project through System Development Charges, with another \$400,000 coming from a matching-funds grant from the State. The stream restoration project is further along in the permit process, and the anticipated date of construction of the park is 2018-19.

Paul Espa reported on the need to amend the City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map in order to remain consistent with a new project. He is currently highlighting the changes that must be made, in order to avoid conflicts between older and newer versions. The new park plan will not, he said, expand residential development in the area. However, he will need to present a case before Metro that by removing potential housing stock from the Regional Plan, Lake Oswego will still maintain the ability to absorb the loss of the Iron Mountain site for growth. Espa said that the unstable soil and stream at the site makes it problematic for residential construction, and other sites in the City are more appropriate for Metro's growth reserves. A public hearing on the plan is currently set for September 25, 2017.

Other Business

Director Buck reported on the Boones Ferry Road Project, and the approval of funds by City Council for three art projects, totaling four objects. Concepts for the design are being refined and will be submitted to the Arts Council for discussion. The storage of the objects will be determined later, depending upon the timeline of the Project.

Chair Jerry Nierengarten reviewed two requests for tree removals, at 3120-3150 SW Upper Drive and 16206 Reese Road. Both were approved.

Next Board meeting: 7 p.m., , Lake Grove Presbyterian Church

Adjourned: 8:35 p.m.