

**CITY OF MILWAUKIE  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
JANUARY 19, 1999**

**Mayor Tomei** opened the work session at 5:00 p.m. in the Public Safety Building Community Meeting Room.

Present were Councilors Kappa, King, Lancaster, and Marshall.

Staff Present: City Manager Bartlett and Assistant City Manager Richards; Thom Kaffun, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District.

Park and Recreation Board Members: Sandy McCune, Darlene Walsh, Rebecca Langdon, Sharon Van Horn, and Don McCarty.

**Parks District Funding Priorities**

**Richards** described the process used by the Park and Recreation Board (PARB) to gather community input. She and the Board were looking for a sense of Council direction in order to prepare a resolution listing Milwaukie's funding priorities for consideration at the February 2, 1999, regular session. The Board voted on neighborhood suggestions to establish the priority recommendations.

**McCune** reviewed the elements of the Recreation Activities priority. The Board recommended continued funding for the Milwaukie Pool summer swim program and "Concerts-in-the Park" series and expanding summer park programs that could include teen and senior internships.

**Walsh** added that she hoped to see pre-school activities stressed.

**McCune** continued with the recommendations: easily-accessible Milwaukie Center satellite classes in the downtown area and lighted tennis courts at Milwaukie High School and Rowe Middle School to increase the number of available hours. She felt these recommendations addressed the various recreational needs of many interest groups.

**Councilor King** suggested summer, lunch time concerts near the outdoor pool.

**Councilor Kappa** commented on the aggressiveness of the program and asked if it was the intention to involve the School District.

**McCune** said the Friends of the Milwaukie Pool planned to approach the School District regarding a two-year partnership renewal. Night tennis is a new recommendation and still in its formative stages.

**Richards** said the City's direction to the Parks District would be to develop a partnership with the School District.

**Van Horn** discussed the Skateboard Park/Youth Center priority. A facility of this nature must be centrally located and close to public transportation. The Safeway site, she felt, would be a good short term solution and, for the long term, consider the Milwaukie Jr. High site or a facility in Oregon City. She also recommended other strategies such as advertising to attract community activists and outside funding sources, researching grants, and discussing youth programs with local and national legislators.

**Richards** reviewed Park Land Acquisition and Maintenance/Upgrade of Existing Facilities. Land acquisition for neighborhood, pocket and community parks was identified as the key element. Parks and open space are most needed in the Hector Campbell, Lewelling, and Ardenwald neighborhoods. Also deemed important was upgrading existing facilities to meet increasing needs and maintaining quality. The facilities identified included Furnberg, Water Tower, Century, Wichita, Spring, and Dogwood Parks and Elk Rock Island. The final elements of this priority were maintaining and expanding quality programs to meet future needs, developing a facility for youth activities, and providing an outdoor pool in the Milwaukie area.

**Langdon** discussed the Waterfront and the feasibility of incorporating a boat ramp and marina facilities. The Board recommended funds be allocated for acquiring more waterfront property, improving park security, and providing benches and picnic tables. In the long-term, the Board proposed acquiring Elk Rock Island and the Pendleton site and removing the Kellogg Treatment Plant. She also urged that a communication program be developed so the community could learn about the riverfront project's progress and be aware of volunteer opportunities.

**Walsh** reviewed the need for well-maintained, interconnected bike and pedestrian Trails. It would be necessary to assess the available land in order to provide system-wide connectivity.

**Langdon** said Wetlands are a vital part of the community, and citizen awareness of these natural resources is critical. The Board recommended continuing wetland acquisition, developing an educational program that instructed people on the wetland's ecological role and how to observe its dynamics, and advertising to encourage citizen volunteerism and stewardship.

**McCarty** discussed volunteerism and how it can be a very powerful tool. The Clackamas High School Key Club, for example, identified a grant opportunity. The Club was able to raise \$5,000 for Water Tower Park improvements. Neighborhoods may become interested in maintaining some of the trails or wetlands if the local agencies learn how to reach out and let people know what they can do to help.

**Richards** and the Board needed Council direction on these priorities for consideration and adoption at the next City Council meeting. She reviewed the process: the Board makes a recommendation to Council, and Councilor Marshall, as the City's appointed representative, presents the priority list to the Parks District during its budget process.

**Councilor Kappa** liked all of the concepts presented. He did comment, however, that the boat ramp issue would be considered during the Riverfront project.

**Richards** responded the top priority would be to go forward with the waterfront rather than listing specific elements of the project.

The work session ended at 5:55 p.m.

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Pat DuVal, Recorder