

MEETING NOTES

COOKS BUTTE TRAIL PLAN

MEETING #2

April 13, 2010

Attendees:

Michele Thompson
Brigitte Howley
Craig Stephens
Patt Thomas
Roger Martin
Mel Campf
Bob Jank
Moir and Sudge Budden
Lou Perretta and Karen Schneider

Marianne Zarkin, Landscape Architect
Jim Slagle, Trail Consultant

After a brief description of problem areas, Marianne described the improvements recommended for the trail system at Cooks Butte that are shown on the Proposed Draft Trail Plan drawing and include the following:

- Relocate trail access points from Delenka Lane to ease the grades at the existing entry point locations.
- Remove trails within the park that are over 35% slope. This includes several trails south of the meadow. New trails would be sited to reduce slope thereby reducing erosion and drainage problems now seen on these trails. Remove redundant trails south of the meadow that run almost parallel to each other and are not far apart.
- Abandoned trail beds will be revegetated with native plants and have check dams installed to help ease erosion problems.
- Add a trail from the ROW of Ridge Point Drive at the top of the hammerhead where the road turns south. This trail would switchback up the hill and connect to the meadow.
- Relocate the trail at the south border of the park that currently runs immediately adjacent to fencing. By moving the trail up the hill from this fence, the hiking experience can be substantially improved.
- Construct a new trail on the north side of the park connecting from the proposed trailhead parking lot at the entrance from Palisades Crest Drive west to connect to the trails from Delenka Lane.

- Relocate the trail access from Delenka Street to one single trail that will be less steep and not require stairs.
- Relocate the trail from lower Palisades Crest Drive that runs through private property (2390 Palisades Crest Drive) to the west approximately 100 feet to where the park corner meets the road right-of-way. This not only puts the trail totally on public property, but also improves the trail grade and drainage.
- Create a small (6 to 10 cars) trailhead parking area in the park approximately 100 feet in from the end of Palisades Crest Drive. The parking lot would be gated so it could be locked at night.
- Add an ADA accessible trail from this trailhead to the northeast around to the meadow.

Here is a summary of the comments and discussion that followed the presentation:

- 1) Trail on east side from Ridge Point Road not a good idea as there is no room for on street parking as the roads are very narrow in this neighborhood. All of the neighbors at meeting concur they do not support this trail.
- 2) A neighbor from the Dalenka Lane side of the park says the neighbors there are supportive of the relocated trail access from that street.
- 3) More dog bag dispensers are needed in the park – ideally at each entrance. Signage asking visitors to pick up after their dogs would be helpful.
- 4) This group prefers prohibiting mountain bike use in the park as the bikes are hard on the trails and the trails are narrow.
- 5) Highest priorities – fix the Dalenka Lane trails and remove the steep trail segments in the south part of the park.
- 6) Complaints about the use of herbicides to kill ivy in the park. There is a movement in the community to ban the use of herbicides and pesticides in Lake Oswego parks.
- 7) There were also complaints about the ivy and blackberries growing on the east side of the park.
- 8) Has the City spoken with the neighbor at the end of Ray Ridge Road where the trail access crosses private property about granting/selling the City a trail easement? As the roadway is extremely narrow, with many driveways, there is no place for parking for out of the neighborhood trail users. One approach would be to remove this trail connection from the published map, but keep this trail access available for neighborhood use.
- 9) No one in attendance supported the development of a trailhead parking lot at the end of Palisades Crest Drive. There were concerns with keeping people out of this area at night, concerns about having the gates closed at night, and for dedicating part of the park for parking instead of leaving it natural.
- 10) There was general agreement that the proposed trail at the north side of park would be a nice addition. The group felt that construction of this trail was a lower priority than replacing the steep trails in the southern part of the park and off of Delenka Lane.

- 11) Someone who lives adjacent to the park on the east side of the meadow asked that the meadow loop trail be removed. She experiences people coming up to her fence line and throwing things on her property or bothering her dog. Most others in the meeting felt that there was not a constructed trail on the east side of the meadow. One suggestion is to remove the line on the map that circles the meadow on the eastern side and just show the trail passing along the west side of the meadow.
- 12) On trail maps, stress that visitors should park at Stevens Meadow.
- 13) Leave some wild places for deer and other wildlife.