



CITY OF MILWAUKIE

Jim Bernard, Chair
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City, OR 97045

March 10, 2020

Chair Bernard,

Since the inception of the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD), a member of the Milwaukie City Council has had the opportunity to serve as a member of the District Advisory Board (DAB). I have had the honor of being a member of the DAB since 2015 and have served as the chair since 2016.

This direct connection between the Milwaukie City Council and the DAB has been essential in maintaining and fostering productive communication between our two entities. Unlike other members of the DAB, the city owns all our park property, provides direct funding for parks projects, and has multiple intergovernmental agreements with the district. Given the budgetary and policy role played by council in managing our parks, the opportunity to have a direct connection between the district and council remains an important priority. In addition, I believe my predecessors and I have served the district well and will continue to do so.

After a two-year hiatus, the DAB resumed meeting in 2019 to begin crafting bylaws in response to both the likely departure of Happy Valley from the district and a desire from some to increase representation from unincorporated Clackamas County. Our group made great progress on several fronts, including an agreement on the total number of unincorporated members and a process by which those members would be selected.

A recent opinion piece in the Clackamas Review by Commissioner Savas stated that the City of Milwaukie opposes representation for unincorporated areas; this could not be farther from the truth. The table below compares the existing DAB makeup with the structure proposed by the DAB in late 2019. The current bylaws draft increases the percentage of representatives from unincorporated Clackamas County while decreasing the percentage from the City of Milwaukie. The city has supported this because we



have heard from, and recognize the interest of, unincorporated residents wanting to have greater representation on the board.

DAB Membership

Existing		Proposed	
East of I-205 (1 may be in Happy Valley)	2	City of Milwaukie (1 elected councilmember and 1 non-elected person appointed by council)	2
West of I-205 (1 may be in Milwaukie)	2	Unincorporated residents	6
City of Happy Valley (appointed by Council)	1	District Master Plan Identified as Severely Underserved	1
City of Milwaukie (appointed by Council)	1	Community Center Advisory Board Member	1
Milwaukie Center	1	District Board Member (County Commissioner)	1
At-Large	2		
TOTAL	9	TOTAL	11
Milwaukie & Happy Valley representatives (combined)	44%		
Max Milwaukie %	22%	Milwaukie %	18%

On January 7, I provided an update on the progress of the DAB bylaws to the Milwaukie City Council. While council was generally supportive of the overall framework, they provided the following feedback:

- Better documentation and understanding of “severely underserved” is required if the seat designated as such is to remain.
- Geographic zones within the six unincorporated seats are required to ensure that there are representatives from across the district, even in areas with dormant Community Participation Organizations.
- While the city is in strong support of a nonvoting liaison from the board of directors, we view a voting membership as redundant given that the DAB is advisory to the NCPRD Board.



These concerns were relayed in an email to staff in advance of the January 8 DAB meeting and shared by me at the meeting itself. While I view most of the requested changes and comments to be largely acceptable to the group as a whole, the issue of elected representation continues to be a major source of disagreement and frustration.

I appreciate the board's leadership in raising and tackling the issue of elected representation from the board so that the DAB can move past the issue. I also hope that you can help us quickly and productively settle on a geographic distribution of the unincorporated seats so that Milwaukie's concerns can be allayed and our work on the DAB can move forward.

Sincerely,

Councilor Wilda Parks

cc: Clackamas County Commission, Milwaukie City Council, DAB, Milwaukie Parks and Recreation Board