More About Parks

Editor Review: As the date of the annual election is drawing near, that is April 6th, and the important question of park locations for the city of St. Johns will be voted on at that election, and as I feel that the question of park locations is one regarding which all should be interested and informed, I want to give the voters of St. Johns such assistance as I can that will aid them in casting an intelligent vote.

I have read the Committee's report of March 26th on the subject of parks for St. Johns, and as that report advises every voter to make a visit to the various tracts that have been offered for park sites, I have followed the suggestion.

I want to call particular attention to the tract called the Caples Tract, which is one that has been offered for a park site, facing on Dawson street, and I want to call the attention of the voters to the fact that this tract lies considerably below grade, and in addition to the high price which the city will be compelled to pay for the same in case it should be selected by the voters, at least $2,000 will be required to fill in the tract to the proper grade, and in comparing this with the neighboring tract, which has been offered for park site, the Jaeger tract, it compares very unfavorably, as the Jaeger tract is at least two feet above grade, which will give it proper drainage and afford ample opportunity for sloping purposes, and thereby add beauty to it without much expense, and the Jaeger tract also has quite a number of fine trees on it, which could be left and utilized for beautifying purposes.

I have aso been informed that the owners of the Caples tract have been conducting a vigorous campaign, during which she has circulated literature from house to house, advocating what she calls a "centrally located park," meaning by this the purchase of the Caples tract and also of the Jaeger tract, I presume, joining them in one park site, and by so doing, defeat the selection of park sites in other parts of St. Johns.

While I have no objection to the selection of the Jaeger tract for park purposes, I do believe there is good reason for objection to the selection of the Caples tract, and joining the two, and having only one park in the city of St. Johns.

From my investigations, and from what I have learned of others who have been interested in this question, the Catlin tract should not be overlooked by the voters of this city, and the Catlin tract chosen in preference for the Caples tract; will need no filling in, and has at the present time beautiful trees growing on it, thus avoiding a great deal of expense in the planting of trees, and it has a view surpassing any park site in the city of St. Johns, and even surpassing any view that can be obtained from any park in the city of Portland, Oregon; and while, as I have said before, I have no objection to the Jaeger tract being selected for a park site, as I believe the public in that community are entitled to one, I must emphatically state that I believe the people in North St. Johns are also entitled to a park site, and that the Catlin tract is the one above all others that should be chosen for that purpose.

I also want to say from my investigation that I think that the people in East St. Johns are entitled to a park, and that the Cook tract would be a very good choice for that purpose, and should not be overlooked by the voters, as it is offered for a reasonble price; it is well situated for park purposes, and should be considered as far superior to the Caples tract.

I have further ascertained that the cost of buying and maintaining three parks in the city of St. Johns—that is to say, the Catlin tract, the Jaeger tract and the Cook tract—would not exceed the sum of 45c per annum to each property owner, and I feel that the city of St. Johns is going to be one of such size that it will certainly need three parks in a very few years to come, if it is not by some considered to need them now, and the experience of all cities that have had the growth that St. Johns is having, and is going to have, has been that in their infancy they have been short sighted in the selection of park sites, have been satisfied with only one in the central part of the town, which has brought about the only one result; that is, as the years go on and the city grows, and the children need places for recreation, as well as the older folks, the city has been compelled to select other sites in the different sections of the city and pay a price many times greater than would have been necessary if these tracts had been selected and purchased during the days of the early growth of the city, and as I am a property owner in the city of St. Johns and always expect to be, and am very proud of the city, and desirous to see it grow and beautify itself, I want to urge upon every voter in this city to intelligently consider this park question, and take advantage of the experience that has been taught other cities, and by which we can profit by selecting three park sites at this time, when we can secure them at a reasonable price; that is the Catlin, Jaeger and Cook sites, as I believe they are the best sites that have been offered the city, and I want further to call your attention to the fact that there is considerable agitation on the question of consolidating the city of St. Johns with that of Portland, and as this is a thing that is liable to happen and must be considered as very probable that should we become a part of the city of Portland we will no doubt never have opportunity to make these selections for park sites in the various parts of the city of St. Johns, as we will then be told that we have Columbia park, and that is sufficient for our district.

Yours for parks,
adv. K. C. Mageske.

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NOTICE OF CITY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Ordinance No. 596, an election will be held on Monday, the 6th day of April, A. D., 1914, in the city of St. Johns, Oregon, for the following purposes, to wit: For the election of the following named officers for the said city for the ensuing year, viz: One Mayor, one City Recorder, one City Attorney, one City Tresurer, three Councilmen at Large, two Councilmen of the First Ward, two Councilmen from the Second Ward, in the manner provided by law and the charter of the city of St. Johns.

And at said election there will be submitted to the qualified electors of said city for their approval or rejection the following proposition: "Shall the city of St. Johns incur a municipal bonded indebtedness in the sum of Nine Thousand Five Hundred ($9500) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a triple combination fire fighting auto truck, said bonds to run for a period of ten years, and bear interest not to exceed the rate of six (6) per centum per annum interest payable semi-annually.

And at said election there will also be submitted to the qualified electors of said city for their approval or rejection the following proposition, to wit: "Shall the city of St. Johns incur a municipal bonded indebtedness in the sum of Ten Thousand Three Hundred ($10,300) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a tract of land for public park purposes (frequently referred to as the Catlin-Markwart tract), the description of said tract is as follows, to wit: The southerly one-half (S½) of Lot Eighteen (18,) and all of Lot Seventeen (17) in North St. Johns Add., according to the recorded plat there of, said bonds to run for a period of Twenty (20) years, and bear interest not to exceed the rate of six (6) per centum per annum, interest payable semi-annually.

And at said election there will also be submitted to the qualified electors of said city for their approval or rejection the following proposition, to wit: "Shall the city of St. Johns incur a municipal bonded indebtedness in the sum of Five Thousand ($5,000) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a tract of land for public park purposes (frequently referred to as the Cook tract); the description of said tract of land for said park purposes is as follows, to wit: Beginning at a point in section six, township one, north range one, east of Willamette Meridian in the northeast side line of a 25 acre tract of land conveyed to A. L. Maxwell by Philip T. Smith by deed dated the 11th day of May, 1898, recorded in book 250, page 5, of public records of deeds of said Multnomah county, which point of beginning is north 71 degrees, west 520 feet from the northeast corner of said 25 acre tract; thence south 19 degrees, west 335.1 feet to the northwest corner of the land owned by Emma Summerfield; thence north 71 degrees, west 260 feet; north 19 degrees, east 335.1 feet to said northeast corner line of said 25 acre tract; thence south 71 degrees, east 260 feet to the place of beginning, containing two acres. Also, a tract of land described as follows: Beginning at a point in section six, township one, north range one, east of Willamette Meridian, which point of beginning is south 19 degrees, west 335.1 feet from a point in the northeast side line of a 25 acre tract of land conveyed to A. L. Maxwell by Philip T. Smith by deed dated May 11th, 1898, recorded in book 520, page 5, records of deeds of Multnomah county, which point is north 71 degrees, west 520 feet from the northeast corner of said 25 acre tract and from said point of beginning, running thence south 19 degrees, west 167½ feet; thence north 71 degrees, west 260 feet; thence north 19 degrees, east 167½ feet; thence south 71 degrees, east 260 feet to point of beginning, containing one acre. Said bonds to run for a period of Twenty (20) years and bear interest not to exceed the rate of six (6) per centum per annum, interest payable semi-annually.

And also at said election there will be submitted to the qualified electors of said city for their approval or rejection the following proposition, to wit: "Shall the city of St. Johns incur a municipal bonded indebtedness in the sum of Eleven Thousand Five Hundred ($11,500) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a tract of land (frequently referred to as the Caples tract); described as follows, to wit: That certain part and parcel of Caples tract of land in the city of St. Johns lying, situated and being between Polk street on the easterly side; Stanford street on the northerly side; Tyler street on the westerly side, and Dawson street on the southerly side. Also that part of Caples tract lying and being between Polk street on the easterly side; Central avenue on the northerly side; Tyler street on the westerly side, and Stanford street on the southerly side, all within the city limits. Said bonds to run for a period of Twenty (20) years and bear interest not to exceed the rate of six (6) per centum per annum, interest payable semi-annually.

And also at said election there will be submitted to the qualified electors of said city for their approval or rejection the following proposition, to wit: "Shall the city of St. Johns incur a municipal bonded indebtedness in the sum of Eleven Thousand Five Hundred ($11,500) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a tract of land for public park purposes (frequently referred to as the Jaeger tract); the description of said tract is as follows, to wit: Lots One to Fourteen inclusive, in Block One, and all of Block Two in S.St. Johns Ad., according to the recorded plat thereof. Said bonds to run for a period of Twenty (20) years, and bear interest not to exceed the rate of six (6) per centum per annum, interest payable semi-annually.

And also at said election there will be submitted to the qualified electors of said city for their approval or rejection the following proposition, to wit: "Shall the city of St. Johns incur a municipal bonded indebtedness in the sum of Eleven Thousand Five Hundred ($11,500) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a tract of land for public park purposes (frequently referred to as the Plaza); the description of said tract is as follows, to wit: All of Block Twenty-seven (27) of James John's Addition to the Town of St. Johns, according to the recorded plat thereof; said bonds to run for a period of Twenty (20) years, and bear interest not to exceed the rate of six (6) per centum per annum, interest to be payable semi-annually.

The following places have been designated as polling places for said election:

First Ward—At the St. Johns Branch Library, Charleston and Kellogg streets.

Second Ward—At the Council Chamber at the City Hall.

The polls to be opened at Nine (9) o'clock (A. M.) in the forenoon, and will remain open until Seven (7) o'clock (P. M.) in the afternoon of said day.

By order of the Council.
F. A. RICE,
City Recorder.

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