

MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem Oregon
January 31, 2008 – 9am – 12 Noon

ROUTINE BUSINESS: Wynn Cudmore, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Higgs, George Moeller, Ted Dingman, Jyll Smith, David Harrison, and Wynn Cudmore.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Doug Tookey

RECORDER: Tanya Beard

STAFF PRESENT: Tanya Beard, Russ Dilley, and Jeff Bickford

GUESTS PRESENT: None

INTRODUCTIONS: The staff and PC members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Jyll Smith moved to approve the November 1, 2007 minutes. The motion was seconded.

Discussion: None

Results: Minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC INPUT: NONE

PARK COMMISSION INPUT: George asked for an update on the Master Plan progress.

Master Plan update – Jeff Bickford

Ted asked about how well attended the public meetings were. Jeff described the attendance at the two meetings and that we received different input from each group. On-line and telephone surveys were also conducted. Russ said a report of the surveys and public meetings will be compiled and should be available toward the end of March. Jeff explained that the draft report would contain the ‘needs assessment’.

The staff will examine existing conditions report, make any corrections, and then put it out for public comment, including the Advisory Committee.

George expressed concern about the use of the words “statistically valid”. Discussion ensued regarding public input. Jyll asked about creation of the Advisory Committee. Jeff explained that there are about 18 members, including members of the State Parks, Youth Programs, Willamette ESD, Shareholders, Woodburn, Steelheaders, Sheriff’s office, City of Salem, plus Parks Commission members.

The next Master Plan meeting will be toward the end of March with the full Advisory Committee, which includes the Parks Commissioners and public.

Storm Damage: Russ Dilley

Russ reported that there was very little damage, other than a few trees that fell over at Scott’s Mills. A lot of snow was reported at Gates, Salmon Falls, and Bear Creek. The dressing rooms at

North Fork have been removed. There have been three removable bollards added to the small back parking lot at Salmon Falls.

Purchasing:

There will be four picnic tables and a BBQ for a soon to be created picnic area near the river at Spong's Landing, and one BBQ for Scotts Mills Park. Twenty-two new rule signs have been made in Spanish and will be installed at all the parks. Russ is investigating costs for a couple pieces of new playground equipment for Scotts Mills Park

Openings:

St. Louis Ponds will open March 1. All other parks will open May 1.

Volunteers:

Tanya and Russ have been discussing ways to access and utilize better volunteers and asked the PC to brainstorm ideas on how to increase connections, plus hours.

Q. What kind of outreach do we do to get volunteers?

A. In the past we have relied on our MC Volunteer Coordinator and previous contacts of people that have utilized the areas.

Q. What kind of volunteer needs are there? What do they do?

A. In the past, they have done garbage cleanup on the grounds; noxious weed removal; spreading hog fuel under playground equipment; painting over graffiti; etc.

Russ said there is a list on the web site for information on being a park volunteer. Russ also reported that with the community questionnaire on the Master Plan, there was a place to check for becoming a volunteer; 31 names were received. Russ will contact them. Santana Park has been adopted by a group and Russ will be meeting with them and furnish paint, paintbrushes, and tools to do some work at Santana Park.

Q. Are there any funding consequences with having our volunteer numbers decline?

A. Tanya said yes, because the fewer volunteers we have, the more staff, Juvenile Dept. or contractors have to do.

Ted said the new State Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP) is online for review. He suggests contacting local agencies and organizations for retired groups with natural resource background and talk to Senior Center regarding park hosts. Russ said that we had an agreement with Fisherman's Bend to have a park host stay there. Mike suggested contacting schools to have kids take on a project such as planting trees. Russ said there were various schools that used to do projects like this, but no more. Russ said he would look into it again. David commented that the schools in close proximity to the parks would be good volunteer candidates. Wynn suggested that we might get more response if a list of tasks were available so they have some idea of what needs to be done. Jyll suggested having someone go in person to public service groups to explain our parks situation.

Q. Will the issue of getting volunteerism be presented in the Master Plan?

A. Jeff assumed that it would be included.

Discussion followed regarding volunteers and funding.

Park Tours

The meeting continued with a tour of three Marion County Parks – Labish Village, Auburn and Santana Parks.

Determine date and time for next PC Meeting

- **Thursday April 24, 2008, 9am – 12pm**
M.C. Public Works –North Santiam Room, 5155 Silverton Rd NE, Salem OR 97305
- **Agenda for next meeting will be sent out once it is finished.**

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Ted Dingman moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded.
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RESULTS: All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:37am for the parks tour.
