

Marion County Parks Commission Meeting

November 13, 2008

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

North Santiam Room at

5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem OR

Minutes of the Meeting

Attending: Wynn Cudmore, Ted Dingman, Michael Higgs, George Moeller, Jyll Smith, Douglas Tookey, Tanya Beard, Jeff Bickford, Russ Dilley, Jolene Bray

Call To Order And Introductions

Wynn called the meeting to order and the group made introductions.

Approval Of Meeting Minutes From August 7, 2008

Jeff said these minutes were previously sent out via email. Wynn asked if the commission had any corrections or additions. There were none. Doug made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, which Ted seconded. The group approved this motion unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public present at meeting.

Park Commissioner Input

Wynn complimented David on the Audubon article in the Statesman Journal. Doug, Ted, and David attended and spoke at the public hearing held by the Board of Commissioners regarding the Spongs Landing property sale. Wynn thanked them for attending.

PARK UPDATES BY STAFF

Parks Master Plan: Jeff said the department had a work session with the Board of Commissioners last week, and Sally McIntyre gave a presentation. A draft version of the plan was presented, and included plans for improvements and implementation. The Board had comments about recommendations on changes they'd like to see made. Once the requested changes are made, it will be brought to the commission for further review. Jeff said it is a large document with the appendices. After the commission has reviewed, the next step is to hold a public hearing.

In the plan, improvements were looked at and prioritized. The issue of raising funds for each improvement was also discussed. The Board is not willing to bind themselves to any financial commitments because they may not be able to follow

through with the county's financial situation as it is; they didn't want to create a false sense of financial support. Jeff said that hopefully we will have a document within a couple of weeks that we can put on the street.

Spongs Landing Property Sale Status: Jeff said a large number of individuals spoke against the property sale at the public hearing, but the Board made the decision to sell the property to the Swishers. As part of the sale, the Swishers needed to get a surveyor. While they were working on this, some of the groups appealed this land decision to the Oregon State Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). Three complaints were filed and have been merged into one complaint. Marion County Legal Counsel has said LUBA may not be the appropriate department to address this issue. The Swishers have 90 days to file a response. Jeff said it will take a number of months to get a resolution to this and will probably go to the courts. Ted said he received a copy of the suit with an invitation to join. He decided not to because of his membership on the commission. Doug asked if this group wanted to write a position statement and present as a group if this goes to court. Jeff said he thought it prudent to speak with legal counsel first.

There was discussion about the appearance of the 3 commission members at the public hearing. Wynn said he thought this was the perfect and appropriate forum for members to appear and give opinions to the Board. Jyll asked if we should have a draft statement from the group in case there are media inquiries. Jeff said the group could give Wynn guidance to speak with the media. Doug suggested again writing a statement from this group for the court. Jeff asked if anyone wanted to write the first draft, which can be brought back to the commission for review. Once this group approves the statement, it can be sent to legal counsel to review. The group decided to ask David (who was absent) to write the first draft. Wynn will contact him. Once it is drafted, the commission can decide the appropriate time to pass it along. In the meantime, Jeff will speak with legal counsel.

End of Season Parks Closures: Russ said nine of the county parks are closed as of October 31. Maintenance will be done while they are closed.

Spongs Park Well Rehab: Russ said we would rehabilitate the well at Spongs, which we have discovered is not 19 ft. deep but 96 ft. deep. Our well driller plans to plug the well at the bottom, rehab, and then flush out. This will save the county money. Our operations crew will build the road and pad for the driller to use while working on the well.

Spongs Fence via BPA: We are also putting a fence up in front where Bonneville cut down our trees. They are reimbursing us for the cost of a high fence, which we need for security reasons.

Dog Issues at Spongs: We've had dogs at Spongs that are getting into the garbage. Russ was able to trap one dog in the restroom and called Dog Control who cited the dog's owner. Russ went to the hearing and testified. One Dog Control officer told the owner that if it happened again she would insist the owner build a fence between her property and Spongs. There are still dogs pulling the garbage out, but Russ has been unable to catch any other dogs in the act.

Scotts Mills: Russ said we are moving tables off the turf to the parking lot at Scotts Mills. We will pour pads for tables so they are level and then place the tables back on the pads.

Volunteer Projects: Russ said we have had a lot of good luck with volunteers this year. One group is going out to Aumsville Ponds, working with the turtle habitat and pulling noxious weeds. Wynn said their activities are great but he would like to know if they are receiving any guidance. He suggested a meeting that includes ODFW to make sure everyone is on the same page. Tanya asked if this would work better as a planning meeting or on-site meeting. Wynn said planning. Tanya will work to schedule.

Russ said one volunteer group has been going to Joryville Park and clearing blackberries, laying down weed cloth, and laying mulch. Wynn said several Chemeketa Community College life science classes use Bonesteele for educational purposes. He said approximately 350 students benefit from the use of this park.

North Santiam Trail: We received information this morning from a realty specialist from the Army Corp of Engineers letting us know they believe property from the rail bed to Packsaddle belongs to the Corp. They will check again, but it looks like they own it. Russ said they are doing a major rehabilitation at the Minto egg collection station. We may have to hold off on the trail construction until we know what they want to do with their rehabilitation, and may not happen at all. We received a grant for construction of this section of the trail, which we have to use within 2 years. If we are unable to use, we will let the State know. We may need to have a discussion with the state to see if they would consider allowing us to relocate trail, and we also need to do further investigation into ownership of this land. Jeff said ODOT and the Army Corp will need to sort this out.

Memorial Bench Program: Russ said the department approached the Board of Commissioners about a memorial bench program. The Board wants staff to talk to legal about creating the program. Legal has reviewed our proposal and sent back changes, and now Russ has to review. He said the way it is structured would require staff to take each request for a bench to the BOC for approval. Russ also talked about a possible Marion County Parks Foundation. This can be done, but it cannot be associated with Marion County Parks. It needs to be separate entity and can be a 501(c)3, which can collect and donate money to the parks program.

Prescription Burn: Tanya wants to do a prescribed burn at Bonesteele for the health of the prairie. She is working with Marion County Fire District. We could not do the burn in the summer and early fall because of the burn ban, air quality alert, and then the rains came. She said we would need to wait until spring now, unless we get a serious dry spell.

Eola Bend Mitigation: – Tanya said one of her tasks for the county is to sometimes create planting plans or guide and monitor projects. Tanya said these projects are planted with native plants to offset riparian issues at other sites. This time we have problems at the Independence Bridge with scour around the bridge foundations. They actually impacted a previous mitigation. She said some planting and mitigation was done on site and the rest at Eola Bend (approximately 1/5 of an acre). This will be seen in today's field trip.

Adjourn: George made motion to adjourn, which Michael seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned. Staff then left to attend the field trip portion of the meeting.

Next Meeting: February 5, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
North Santiam Room at Public Works

Recorder: Jolene Bray, Department Specialist IV
Marion County Public Works