

**MARION COUNTY
PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2009
9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
North Santiam Room at
5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem OR 97305**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ATTENDING: Wynn Cudmore, Ted Dingman, George Moeller, David Harrison, Tanya Beard, Jeff Bickford, Russ Dilley, Carol Ault

Absent: Doug Tookey, Jyll Smith and Michael Higgs

Call to Order and Introductions

Wynn Cudmore, Chair, called the meeting to order and the group made introductions.

Approval of Minutes from the November 13, 2008 meeting

George Moeller moved to approve the minutes of the November meeting. The motion was seconded. Minutes were approved as written.

Public Comment

None

Parks Commissioner Input

Russ said there might be some Federal Stimulus monies available and a proposal is being put together for improvement at Spong's Landing Park. This would include improving the existing restrooms, drain field update, building new shelters, playground equipment and working on woodland trail. A separate proposal would include having a park host at Scotts Mills and possible upgrading of the playground equipment. And still another proposal would be implementing a trail from Packsaddle Park to Minto Park and also paving the parking area at North Fork Park.

Q. Who collects these proposals?

A. We are funneling it through the Transportation Division.

Q. Has anyone noticed the lack of youth corps? Do we employ any of them?

A. Jeff said he's not heard anything.

Spong's Landing Letter

The Parks Commission developed a letter to be presented to the BOC disputing the decision to sell the piece of land at Spong's Landing Park to the residents who's fence is currently on park property.

Discussion took place regarding the issue. A suggestion was made to address the letter to the Board of Commissioners, and cc: ES Staff, Matt & Donna Swisher, and Friends of Marion County. Wynn Cudmore agreed to sign the letter as Chair, on behalf of the Parks Commission. Once the letter is formatted, Jeff will run it passed MC Legal Counsel before mailing it.

A suggestion was made to maybe do a 'letter to the editor'. Jeff said that if the PC wished to do that, it would have to be produced from the chair.

Motion

David Harrison moved to approve the letter, have it signed by Wynn Cudmore, Chair, on behalf of the Parks Commission, cc: the letter to Jeff Bickford, Matt & Donna Swisher, and Friends of Marion County, and have Legal review the letter before sending it. The motion was seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Updates: Master Plan, Budget, Storm Damage, North Santiam Trail

Master Plan: A work session was held with the BOC in November 2008. There were comments regarding financial portion and suggested funding ways. There was concern expressed about putting examples out because it might create expectations that that might actually happen. Commissioner Carlson sent markups around mid December. The three primary issues were:

1. The financial portion.
2. Wanting to include non-county facilities in the inventory as far as their service levels. These would be properties that we don't actually manage.
3. Whether the natural heritage parks program actually exists. Staff is doing some research to look into the history of Bonesteele and Aumsville parks. It is in a slight holding pattern at this point until this research is done, and then a final draft will be presented to the PC for review and discussion.

Q. Would you interpret lack of info on National Heritage parks as lack of support for the Parks Program?

A. Tanya explained that in the Heritage Parks Plan there's an indicator to help the Coordinator to evaluate new acquisitions based on criteria to determine whether or not the new property would fit best into that kind of management regime or into the more traditional playground/shelter parks.

Q. Would that [program] be approved at the BOC level?

A. It depends on the fiscal needs and where the Programs are housed. We often will go to management level to see if our idea is a good one and they give the go ahead. Or, they say no it's not a good idea and explain why.

Discussion followed regarding heritage parks.

BUDGET:

A budget is being put together now. Capitol improvements projects for 2010-2001 will be cut quite a bit except for the Santiam Trail between Packsaddle and Niagara Parks, which is grant funded. The budget suffered 5% cut backs across the board. There will be a work session with the BOC on February 17th. There's discussion on tapping solid waste related funds to help with roads, and keeping some of it in ES to help with the parks. The proposal was for \$500,000 per year to help with the county parks. Jeff is working with Alan Haley to put together a package to present to the BOC at the next work session. Whether this will be a one-time deal or on-going is up for discussion.

STORM DAMAGE

There was quite a bit of storm damage in Joryville Park with lots of limbs blown down or broken. The park was closed while clean up was done. Joryville Park will re-open Friday or Monday, February 6th or 9th. The storm hit Scotts Mills Park pretty hard. At Aumsville Ponds,

about 50% of the fence along Bishop Rd. got wiped out by fallen branches/trees. At Spong's Landing Park, a huge tree fell on the new picnic area by the river. North Fork Park has a lot of debris on beach – trees, root balls, etc. Cost estimates have been put together to see if it can be considered a disaster. If accepted, 80% of the cleanup costs will be reimbursable through FEMA dollars.

NORTH SANTIAM TRAIL

A grant agreement has been submitted to be signed. Once this is approved, the work will begin on the trail between Packsaddle and Niagara Parks. We are waiting for information from the North Santiam Canyon Economic Development Corporation to get the monies arranged. Then hopefully the trail will be started this summer, which will be the first of many segments of the trail going from Stayton to Idanha.

TERMS OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS

Carol will send a copy of the By Laws and also the term dates of each commissioner.

NEXT AGENDA – By Laws

NEXT MEETING: May 7, 2009

MEETING ADJOURNED FOR BUSINESS PORTION

At 10:15 am, George Moeller moved to adjourn the business portion of the meeting to go on the tour Niagara and Packsaddle parks. The motion was seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.