

MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
August 3, 2006

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Higgs, Robert Garrett, Doug Tookey, Wynn Cudmore

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jyll Smith, David Harrison

RECORDER: Carol Ault

GUESTS: Barbara Clement, David Stevens, Justin Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Donna Swisher, Greg Benthin, Jerry Minor

STAFF PRESENT: Tanya Beard, Russ Dilley, Jeff Bickford, Carol Ault and Scott Norris, Marion County Legal

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mike Higgs moved to approve the April 6, 2006 minutes. The motion was seconded.

Discussion: None

Results: Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Clement: The City of Keizer is putting out a brochure about the various places around the Keizer area, which are of interest to tourism. Barbara Clement handed out information about the history of Spongs Landing and presented the Parks Commission (PC) with a nice metal sign that says Spongs Landing, which was made by the City of Keizer. There will also be brochures with the history of Spongs Landing. The question was asked if the signs are vandalized, if the City of Keizer will replace them. Ms. Clement said she'd check with the City of Keizer.

MOTION: Rob Garrett moved to adapt the new signage for the Keizer area and have the Public Works sign crew install it. The motion was seconded.

Results: Motion passes.

DONNA SWISHER, who lives next to Spongs Landing Park, shared information about the problems they've observed at Spongs Landing Park. Ms. Swisher circulated pictures she's taken of items needing attention at Spongs Landing Park. Some examples are putting up speed bumps, clearing trees from road side at the park entrance on the blind corner, removing old rebar sticking up from old decayed logs, cleaner bathrooms, etc. Speed bumps would help prevent speeding and help eliminate many accidents or near accidents. Ms. Swisher suggested putting up No Trespassing signs for after hours so the police could do something about trespassers after hours. Even though the gate is locked, motorcycles and foot traffic go around the gate. Speeding and enforcing park hours are the main concerns. Ms. Swisher said they are organizing a Neighborhood Watch and will try to keep an eye on the park, pick up trash, etc.

The PC will take these suggestions under consideration and get in touch with Ms. Swisher if needed.

Paul Kennedy lives close to Spongs Landing Park. He shared information about incidences that happened at the park. Some examples are: drinking alcohol in the park, drug evidence, beer cans and trash on the ground and in the bushes, kids skipping school and going to the park, gun shots being fired, cars racing, intimidating park attendees so they will leave, etc. The Kennedy's have also lost business of horse boarding due to the cars racing on the road to the park. Mr. Kennedy left his phone number with the PC if more information was desired.

Mike suggested checking the signage on the park entrance. Rob said he appreciated the concerns of the public and asked what the priority concern was. Ms. Swisher said the rebar removal from the old decaying logs should be the first priority. Kids like to play on those logs and the rebar sticking out is very dangerous. Russ will see that these are removed.

Discussion took place on removal of the cottonwood trees that are along the roadside on the blind corner going into the Spongs Park. Tanya said that since the trees are on the county right of way, the PW Road Department would have to remove the trees.

Since most of these issues are not PC issues, Tanya will talk to the Road Department regarding removal of the trees, the possibility of having a speed bump put in, and to the Sign Shop to have NO TRESPASSING signs made. Pro-Star Security will be contacted regarding the open and close times. The rebar will be removed from the rotted logs and the logs may possibly be replaced with boulders.

Gates Drinking Water Plant Expansion

Greg Benthin, Public Works Superintendent for the City of Gates

Jerry Minor, Tech Dec ACM, consultant for City of Gates

Tanya explained that Greg and Jerry are attending the PC meeting to give a brief presentation regarding the need for expanding the drinking water plant for the City of Gates. The expansion would incur into Minto Park, which is off Highway 22.

Mr. Benthin requested permission from the Marion County Parks to provide a long-term lease for a portion of the Minto Park on the western border. The city currently owns Tax Lot 1200 and currently has a utility easement for a water intake, which extends from the city's property to the Santiam River. The city's existing water treatment plant is built right on the property line and the city is in the process of upgrading their water treatment plant and will be putting in new filtration. What the city desires to do is, rather than pay for an interim treatment, put up a building adjacent to the existing one on the east side of the property, which would then extend onto Minto Park property. This would be more economical to the City of Gates by approximately \$10-25,000 if the park were to allow this long-term lease. The property would be expanded by approximately a 30 ft. easement. This would extend the building by 28 ft.

Q. Why a long-term lease as opposed to acquisition?

A. Legally, it would be easier. If the property were acquired, it would have to be surveyed, which the city could do. A community block grant program funds the project.

Q. Why move east rather than west of the property?

A. There are topographic restraints such as an access road and a pond to the east, and the property is fairly steep.

Ultimately, whether it's a lease or an outright transfer, it would be the Marion County Board of Commissioners who would have to sign off on the transaction. The PC would be the advisory to the Board of Commissioners. The PC's job would be to look at whether or not it would be a significant negative impact to Minto Park.

<p>MOTION: Rob Garrett moved to allow Marion County to look into acquisition or long-term lease of approximately 30 ft. of Minto Brown property for the City of Gates for their water facility. The motion was seconded.</p> <p>Discussion: After discussion, the PC stated they had no problem with this and asked for a vote.</p> <p>Abstention: Mike Higgs abstained since he serves on the council for the City of Gates.</p> <p>Results: The motion passes.</p>
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PARKS COMMISSION INPUT

REVIEW PARKS RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Tanya explained some of the edits that Russ Dilley, Parks Coordinator, made to the original parks rules and regulations. Scott Norris, Legal Council was asked to attend the PC meeting to help determine if the parks rules and regulations were written properly and to answer any questions the PC might have in making them enforceable. It was clarified that Rules and Regulations are not enforceable, but ordinances are. In order to gain compliance, we would need to have ordinances to back this up. Mr. Norris said that the best way to bring this to an ordinance level is to have the BOC adopt the entire rules as an ordinance. Whenever a change is made, it must also be done by ordinance. Jeff will review the rules and regulations and bring them back to the next PC meeting. Mike suggested reviewing each step of the rules and regulations. The time frame for the parks being open was discussed. Mr. Norris said that this must go before the BOC and every prohibition must be adopted but not necessarily all in one document/ordinance.

Game plan: Refine the Rules and Regulations document to what PC wants it to be, before presenting them to the BOC to adopt as an ordinance.

Q. Should the ordinance be put in Spanish and Russian as well as English?

A. Suggestion was made to review this, bring comments to next meeting.

There was discussion on alcohol use in the parks. It was suggested to have the sheriff in on this discussion. The PC will carry this discussion to the next meeting. PC members were asked to review the rules and regulations and email their suggestions, additions or comments to Russ

Dilley, rdilley@co.marion.or.us and he will incorporate them into one document for review at the next meeting.

Scott also suggested presenting the rules and regulations to Sheriff Larry Feller and Art Stinson, Code Enforcement for their review and comments and/or suggestions. Then present them to the BOC.

Carol will send a copy of the original rules and regulations and a copy of Russ' revisions to the absent members either by email or mail.

REVIEW PRIORITY PROJECTS LIST; CREATE UPDATED LIST FOR NEXT 5 YEARS

Tanya and Jeff explained the budget process. Auburn Park development was the only suggestion for this year's budget. However, the budget officer told the committee not to expect any monies from the General Fund because there is no money available. So the parks patrol and playground equipment got put on the back burner. Then, when budget committee met, after the presentation, the fact that there was no playground equipment or parks patrols in the budget was brought up by one of the commissioners. So the parks patrol (Reserve Deputies) and playground equipment (Skate Park for Parkdale Park) were added into the budget for. Jeff mentioned that the City of Salem is using their SDC funds for their master plan. There was discussion about SDC's in other counties. Jeff asked for feedback on proposed projects for the future. Email any suggestions to Russ Dilley. Next spring, an RFP will probably be sent out for development of the Parks Master Plan.

UPDATES:

ROGER'S WAYSIDE BMX PARK: Tanya is working with PW Operations Supervisors to get a water truck to the site. Jeff suggested checking with Royce Young, Site Supervisor, for the possibility of using the water truck from Brown's Island Demolition Landfill. This is water just for holding down the dust, not for drinking. Container water would have to be hauled for drinking water.

AUMSVILLE PONDS: The new bridge across the north edge of the pond is completed. This week, they are constructing a bridge across the old water control structures. The ADA portion of the trail is almost complete. The little rock bridge across the far eastern edge of the pond is complete. Items remaining on that project would be the stairways on the very back edge of the pond, the ADA overlook and the retaining wall. There isn't time for the NW Youth Corps to complete the project this summer, so they will continue working on it again next summer.

LABISH VILLAGE PARK BUS SHELTERS: The shelter is up but missing the glass. Due to possible vandalism, the glass will be installed just before school starts. There is an issue of getting the glass back on, but working on it. These are the old bus shelters that were used downtown and the purpose was to provide a safe, dry place for the kids while waiting for the school bus to pick them up. The shelters were acquired free from Cherriots.

MINTO PARK RESTROOM: The Minto Park rest room has been completed. There are still several pit toilets at various locations, but eventually they will be eliminated and capped or removed because they pose a threat to water quality.

PRIMARY PARK VEHICLE: The primary park vehicle is broken. There will be one budgeted for next fiscal year.

BLM HOST: BLM had a host for July and will patrol the North Fork Area. Since the host is finished, Russ will be using the little Ford Ranger truck that the host was using.

AUBURN PARK: Marion County 4-H Soccer Group put in the soccer goals and they have offered to build picnic tables, as well. The Eagle Scouts are putting in a softball backstop, the fall zone for the playground, and concrete slab for the picnic table.

OPEN HOUSE PARKDALE SKATE PARK: Tanya and Emily AcklandAry visited Stephens Middle School to distribute a survey regarding the skate park. The survey showed that the kids preferred a flat skate park. The Park's budget has \$15,000 earmarked for this project and Russ is applying for matching funds from the Tony Hawk Foundation. The Stephens Middle School took on the seeding of the park as a science project. Tanya handed out a map of the park area.

There was discussion on having an open house at Stephens Middle School in the gym to educate the area residents. Suggestion was made to make a flyer to send home with the school children to educate the residents on the mitigation site. It was also suggested to hold an open house "on site" at the park and have a table with informational flyers and staff/PC on site to answer questions.

It was suggested to make post cards and send to the surrounding area of the park and/or send home with the school children. A press release could also be sent out. Tanya talked to the IT Department and they can make a map of the surrounding area with addresses. This will be done late September or early October.

MINTO TIMBER/LAND EXCHANGE: Frank Lumber contacted Tanya and asked if we would be interested in a 17-acre piece of property located close to the North Fork between milepost 2 & 3. Tanya said there are some weed issues, but not too bad and that it's a beautiful location. There are areas where we could create parking spaces, put in picnic areas, and have good access to the river. The value of the property is approximately \$200,000. It was suggested we offer an exchange of property for timber. The proposed North Santiam Canyon Trail runs through the property. Tanya did a walk through of the property and felt we could easily remove 2-3 trees per acre. There is a small portion of Minto Park that has already been cleared. Tanya mentioned also possibly changing the access road to the park, since the current access road is dangerous. There is enough timber to trade that would not change the character of that property. Tanya suggested splitting the timber removal between Salmon Falls and Minto Park. The proposed new park property would be suitable as a picnic area and restrooms only, with some swim area. Wynn and Mike support this idea as long as management goals are achieved. Rob said this would need some over seeing to see that trees are removed where designated.

Next step: This would have to be presented to the BOC for their approval. A recommendation from the PC should be presented to the BOC.

MOTION: Mike Higgs moved that the PC has looked at the Minto timber exchange and is in favor of further exploring the concept, so long as it doesn't harm existing quality of the park or have a negative environmental impact. The motion was seconded.

Results: Motion passes.

PC Position vacancy: Jeff will contact Glenis to recruit a volunteer for the citizen-at-large position.

DETERMINE DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARKS MEETING

- **Thursday, Oct 26, 9-12 am**
- **Agenda for next meeting will be sent out once it is finished.**

MOTION: Bob Garrett moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.

Results: The motion was passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.