

**MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING**  
**5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem OR - Pudding Room**  
**February 22, 2007**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Higgs, Doug Tookey, David Harrison, and Wynn Cudmore

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jyll Smith

**RECORDER:** Carol Ault

**GUESTS:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tanya Beard, Russ Dilley, Jeff Bickford, and Carol Ault

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Doug Tookey moved to approve the April 6, 2006 minutes. The motion was seconded.

**Discussion:** None

**Results:** Motion passed.

**PARKS COMMISSION INPUT**

- Wynn suggested that, in the future, if a meeting has to be cancelled or rescheduled, the members are called instead of emailed.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Jeff Bickford said that Laura Dowlan moved and Robert Garrett's term ended in December and he chose not to renew. So there are currently two vacant positions. We have received one application so far and an interview is scheduled for February 23 at 1:30pm. Then a recommendation will be made to the BOC at the next PC meeting.

Jeff said that the PC is now in need of a Vice Chair, since Laura Dowlan moved away. Jeff explained the term and duties of the Vice Chair and asked if there was anyone who would volunteer to fill that position. David Harrison volunteered.

**MOTION:** Mike Higgs moved to recommend to the BOC to appoint David Harrison to serve as Vice Chair of the PC. The motion was seconded.

**Discussion:** The position duties were discussed.

**Results:** Motion passed.

Jeff explained that there might be more PC Chair/Vice Chair involvement this spring when the work on the master plan begins. An RFP will go out this spring with the intent of starting in July or August. There may be some coordination with the consultant since they will be using the PC meetings as an opportunity to receive public input on the plan as it's being developed. As the plan develops, they may want the PC to meet more than every three months. Tanya said this may or may not be true, it depends on how the contractor functions. Many contractors establish their own public venue meetings. Tanya

suggested that if this is the case, then we have one or two of the PC board members present at those meetings. Jeff said the master plan might take a whole year to get it done.

Q. Who would bid on establishing the master plan?

A. Probably planning consultants.

### **Parkdale Park Development**

Russ Dilley said we did not receive the Tony Hawk grant, so we won't be able to move forward with the skate park, due to lack of funding. Russ talked to Marilyn Lipencot on the phone and she sent an email saying as long as the park is open, inviting, and pleasing to the public and has a sign (which it does) then it is acceptable by state parks as a park. Jeff said there was \$15,000 budgeted for this park so we could put in a half basketball court and a picnic table if we choose to do that and eventually, put in a skate park. Tanya said there is room for playground equipment when funds are available. There have been problems with the wetlands and destruction of the newly planted trees, despite the fact that Stephens School has taken it over as a school project.

### **UPDATES**

#### **Roger's Wayside Park**

The park is going well. The kids love it, rain or shine. Roger's Wayside Park is located down the road from the Oregon Gardens. There has been problems with illegally dumped trash. Tanya suggested taking the PC members on a tour of the parks as part of the next PC meeting, which will be held at the Juvenile Market Place on Center Street. The tour will include Parkdale, Macleay, and Auburn Parks.

#### **Macleay Park**

Macleay Park is located off Cordon Road, at 78<sup>th</sup> Street and Darling Street, near the Macleay Country Inn. Discussion took place on the maintenance of the park. Jeff drew a diagram of the park and the ideas of improvements that might be possible and that the funds are available.

#### **Park Ordinance**

The Department met with the BOC to review the Park Ordinance. After reviewing and editing, the Ordinance (No. 1245) was approved on January 29, 2007 and will become effective on May 1, 2007. Discussion took place on the changes that were made to the ordinances.

Tanya handed out a copy of the revised Marion County Parks Rules and Regulations' sign. Russ will take all the signs to the Marion County sign shop to have them treated with the anti-graffiti film.

#### **Storm Damage**

Several trees came down at Minto Park, Bear Creek and North Fork. The Juvenile Crew has been cleaning up those trees and using the wood for their fire wood program. The trees that fell on or near trails or roads are the ones that are being removed. The trees that fell within the forest are being left for ecological functions.

#### **Xerces Society Study at Spongs Landing**

Tanya was contacted last November regarding utilizing Spong's Landing as one of 30 sites at which they are doing comparative analysis for wetland insects to determine whether or not you can utilize these insects to determine whether or not you are in a wetland. Russ reported that they have been on site once and will be back out in early May to do the actual study. Tanya has asked for a copy of the final report.

### **Volunteer Information**

Russ reported that there were approximately 4400 hours of volunteer time in 2006. Special thanks to the Northwest Youth Corp for doing the work they did at Aumsville Ponds. Unfortunately, we may not have access to that program this year, due to the fact that Title III may be eliminated and that's where they get most of their funding from the counties.

Tanya said there was a few thousand dollars remaining on the grant from Aumsville Ponds, and asked Jeff if there might be enough money in the budget to match that remaining amount and if there is, then the Youth Corp could be brought in for a week to finish the second bridge, the remaining trails and the steps. The materials are all purchased. Jeff will check into this.

### **Butteville River Access**

This was an issue that was handed down from Jim Sears. There is a piece of property in Butteville on the river that is a historic site and it is owned by the county and has a public right-of-way, but there's not a road. There has been no maintenance, it's not a park, and road funds can't take care of it. There isn't road access and the only thing that has been done with the property is the Juvenile Department has gone out to pick up trash. The Friends of Champoeg has been contacted and they are very interested in taking on this site as their maintenance project. The only stipulation is that the county does some initial cleanup and places a bench and an additional sign that will recognize the Friends of Historic Champoeg.

### **County Opportunity Grant Application Status**

Russ reported that the grant request for matching funds for the master plan was turned down because we didn't focus on a feasibility study for camping. The feasibility study for camping would have been included in the master plan. The grant request was only for \$35,000. Tanya explained how the grant committees work.

- Q. Do you think you may have had a better chance of getting the grant if the amount we asked for were higher?
- A. Russ explained that the reason for asking for only \$35,000 is that was the amount we could match.

### **Roger's Wayside inspection status**

Russ Dilley has been meeting with Jason Franz monthly to look at the track and everything has been going great and he has been doing a good job of keeping it clean. Jason is the developer of the park and right after the park opened, he was the instructor of a YMCA bicycle safety class. Jason wants to get a water source to use to keep the track wetted down, but that's not likely to happen, due to the water being unsafe to drink, and the liability risk would be too high. The contract states that the county will provide the water, so when Public Works has the time, they will take some out there to wet down the track.

### **Budget**

Jeff Bickford reported that the budget is being worked on at this time. The Public Works Department budget will be submitted toward the end of March, and then will be meeting with the County Administrator during the first week of April to discuss it. Among the items requested are the Sheriff patrols for the county parks and a new vehicle for the Parks Coordinator.

**System Development Charges (SDCs)**

When a developer builds a structure in the county, they have to pay System Development Charges (SDCs). Jeff Bickford explained SDC's for parks. Tanya handed out a copy of the SDC scale. Discussion took place as to what the SDC funds are used for. Jeff said the parks fund gets approximately \$35,000 per year in SDC funds, which next year will be used towards paying for the master plan. Tanya talked about the bills that are in the House and Senate surrounding SDC charges. Right now, SDC's have five line items and Parks and Recreation is one of those line items. One of the proposals is to tack schools onto the Parks and Recreation line item. They also want to freeze SDC's. If they cap them, it wouldn't be so bad because the cap is going to be \$8,000 and the presumption is that will be split between parks and schools. These proposals do not benefit schools the way people might think they do because the way the bills are being written is that the SDC's themselves will be aimed at Parks and Recreation Developments for schools.

**SPONGS LANDING**

Public Works' Traffic Division has made a recommendation to make a "NO PARKING" zone across the street from the entrance because it's a blind corner and there have been a lot of complaints. This has been approved, so it will be posted as a "NO PARKING" zone. The fire pits have been removed and two barbeque pits will be purchased and installed in the sheltered areas. There will also be concrete tables installed at Spong's Landing.

**GRANT**

Russ has been working on requesting a grant for recycling bins at North Fork, Salmon Falls, Bear Creek, Spongs, Scotts Mills, Aumsville and Rogers Wayside Parks. The Juvenile crew will be monitoring the bins and emptying as needed.

- Q. Are there any plans of doing Down By the Riverside volunteer opportunity this year?
- A. Russ said he will contact Aumsville School and have their students come out to do litter pickup and noxious weed removal. Wynn said he would get his students to help, also.

**DETERMINE DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT PC MEETING**

- **Tuesday, May 3, 2007, 9am – 12pm– Juvenile Market Place – 3100 Center Street.**
- **Agenda for next meeting will be sent out once it is finished.**

**MOTION:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.  
**Results:** The motion was passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.