



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

July 11, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

North Santiam Room at 5155 Silverton Road NE, Salem, Oregon

Members Present: Sandy Grulkey, Marty Heyen, Ryan Mann, George Moeller, Ben Williams, Kyleen Zimmer

Members Absent: Wayne Rawlins

Public/Guests: None

Staff Present: Russ Dilley, Jolene Bray

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action) Call to Order: 10:06 a.m.

The commission members and staff introduced themselves and welcomed new members Ryan Mann and Kyleen Zimmer. Kyleen is retired as an assistant director with Oregon Parks and Recreation, and Ryan has previously worked with the state legislature on policy issues related to natural resource and environmental issues.

Approval of May 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Marty made a motion to approve the May 23, 2017, meeting minutes as submitted. Sandy seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Nomination for Vice-Chair

Ben said Wayne Rawlins had previously agreed to serve another term as vice-chair on the commission. After some discussion, Marty nominated Wayne to serve as the vice-chair. Sandy seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Public Input

None.

Commission Member Announcements and Upcoming Events

Sandy said the National Night Out is coming up and Scotts Mills will be holding their event at the Scotts Mills County Park this year. She said she will set up a county booth with information about how community members can get involved. Ben told Ryan and Kyleen that Sandy's involvement at the Scotts Mills event is a good representation of the board of commissioners' direction that commission members do community outreach.

MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION

Ben said the parks commission (PC) first discussed the Parks Master Plan (PMP) in May and commissioners have had an opportunity to review since then. Russ said Brian talked to the Public Works director, Alan Haley, who told him the board of commissioners want the PC to focus on individual parks, but do not want an overhaul of the entire PMP. Russ said because of this approach the county will not be hiring an outside consultant to work it.

Ben asked everyone to look at the list of previous recommendations by a former consultant and past focus groups. He said the PC will review what has been completed and decide if incomplete items should remain on the list. Ryan asked when the board of commissioners would review and approve the updated PMP. Russ said this will probably occur at a work session meeting. He said one discussion staff is already having with the board is about removing the Natural Heritage Park (NHP) designation from Bonesteele Park so a disc golf course can be added. Russ said Bonesteele came to the county as a regular park and was then designated as a NHP, a he has

not been able to identify how or why that happened. The commission then reviewed and updated the previous list of recommendations for individual county parks.

NORTH FORK DISCUSSION

Russ said he would like to do a PC tour of the parks in the North Fork Road corridor in August. He said the department has received many compliments and only one complaint. Russ said the county has improved the parking lot at North Fork Park and removed the fallen trees from the trails at Salmon Falls Park. He said fee collection is going pretty well and they are seeing about 80% in compliance. Russ said the fee stations are getting full and people try to pull envelopes back out but the teeth in the box are tearing envelopes and cash, so staff are checking the fee boxes more often. Russ said the manager of the Three Pools area told him visitors aren't paying fees there. He said if the Forest Service cites someone the money goes to the Forest Service, but the county cites someone, the fee money probably goes to the Sheriff's Office.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Staff Updates

- Russ said all parks staff are working on August 21, the day of the solar eclipse. He said he and Brian will come in at 7:00 a.m. and parks workers shifts are all from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Russ said they'll be assigned to areas and they'll stay there all day. He said the news is reporting that one million visitors are coming into Oregon.
- Russ said the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be operational the entire weekend before and day of the eclipse, and volunteers are needed to come in and work shifts. He said everyone is being advised to get their supplies and gas up their vehicles a week ahead of time.
- Russ said four seasonal workers have been hired and three more start Monday. He said workers have been doing a good job and are working on a project list. He has the four already hired will train the three new workers. Kyleen asked if this is permanently funded. Russ said that is up to the board of commissioners and hopefully will continue after they see how well it works.
- Russ said there is a new camp host at Bear Creek Campground and Park. Russ said the original host had to leave due to health issues and the new host is doing a phenomenal job.

Other Business

Russ said a number of projects have been funded and assigned project numbers, including the Spong's Landing restroom upgrade, Niagara Park stairs, North Fork Park picnic area. Kyleen asked who would do work. Russ said restroom upgrade will be contracted out and he will oversee it and other projects. He said the stairs at Niagara Park will be designed in-house and the work at Bear Creek Park may be done in-house. Russ said the Auburn Park playground will be contracted and the new stairs at Minto Park may be done by Juvenile using leftover materials from other projects. He said the work at Joryville Park is also done and huge boulders have been placed at Labish Park to block off the lawn.

Sandy distributed a copy of Illinois Public Act 094-0808, which creates safe speed limits for county parks. She asked everyone to review and share comments.

Future Topics

- Discuss Parks Master Plan
- 2018-19 Budget Recommendations

ADJOURN: 11:45 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 14, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the North Santiam Room (1st Floor) at Public Works.