



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE MEETING

September 20, 2018, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pudding Room at 5155 Silverton Road NE, Salem, Oregon

PRESENT: **Members:** Sandy Grulkey, Marty Heyen, Ryan Mann, Wayne Rawlins, Kyleen Zimmer
 Staff: Russ Dilley, Brian May, Jolene Bray
 Guests: Josh Faulkner, Terry Caster, Sandy Brimley

ABSENT: **Members:** Ben Williams

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Call to Order: 1:01 p.m.

In Ben's absence, Wayne called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of July 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Marty made a motion to approve the July 19, 2018, meeting minutes. Sandy seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Public Input

Sandy Brimley introduced herself as a longtime resident at Labish Village. She said she has lived there for 24 years and described some of the changes she's seen to the neighborhood and county park over the years. She thanked the county for the fantastic playground that was installed earlier this year and said children are enjoying it. Sandy B. said four years ago she started a neighborhood event called "Labish on Parade" and it's now held every year in July. She said children wear costumes and there is food and games at the park. Sandy B. said she collects donations and buys prizes that children can use to play with in the park. She said over 80 children attend this year's event (up from 36 last year) and it was very successful. Sandy B. said she just signed a contract to have 20 street lights installed and Matt Knudsen, the service districts supervisor, is helping with a grant for a water line repair. Marty thanked her for sharing her history with park and said the neighborhood and parks program was lucky to have her.

Wayne asked Sandy B. about a wish list for things at the park. She said she would like to have a pothole repaired at the playground and improvements to the school bus stop. She thanked county staff for putting in boulders, and said it looks beautiful and stops people from driving into the park. Russ said he is working on it. Sandy B. said that Sandy Grulkey spoke with her about adopting the park and she has submitted the paperwork to formally adopt the park in her neighbor's name. Wayne thanked her for coming in and sharing the information.

Terry Caster said he owns property near Scotts Mills Park and wanted to thank staff and parks commissioners for the improvements that were made to the park. He said he heard that future improvements may include camping and he has five wooded acres nearby that he is considering turning into a RV park. He said what's been done has enhanced what was already there and it's a really fine park that serves the public quite well.

Wayne welcomed Josh Faulkner who is considering applying for the parks commission. Josh said he grew up in Mehama and served in the Navy for five years. He said he did construction for six years and then returned to college and got his civil engineering degree. Josh said he is currently working on capital projects and has a

background on construction. He said personally he wants to be more involved in community and be more of a voice for community members. The commission thanked him for attending.

Commission Member Announcements and Upcoming Events

None.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Sandy reported on her recent visit to Labish Village Park. She showed an aerial map of the park and said the county purchased the property in 1985. She said Sandy Brimley's grandson, Gideon, has requested a BMX track be built at the park. Sandy G. said there are 376 people in this tiny community and half have children under the age of 18. She said people are using the street in front of the park as part of the park; not a lot of people park there. Russ said another picnic table pad will be installed with a new picnic table and the existing picnic table will be replaced. Sandy G. said she asked two handicapped people if they have trouble accessing the park and they told her they did not. She said the park is not one of the most attractive parks in the county parks system but the neighbors make it wonderful. Wayne said he hadn't realized the population that used the park was so large. Kyleen asked if Land and Water Conservation funds were used to purchase the park. Russ said they were not.

Ryan reported on his recent visit to St. Louis Ponds Park. He said the park is operated by both Marion County and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Ryan said this is a really well established park with a clear purpose. He said it is well used for fishing and dog training, and a good trail system that could be expanded. Ryan said the park's web page says it is 21.87 acres but the Parks Master Plan lists it as 20.83 acres. It is unclear which number is correct. Wayne said the ponds were created to get gravel for building I-5 during Eisenhower's construction of interstate highways and water was pumped in. Ryan said the park is not really quiet because of its close proximity to I-5. He said ODFW stocks the pond with fish and that's indicated on the entrance sign. Ryan said there are good disposal options for recycling fishing line and waste, and there are two covered areas along the paved walkway. He said the park has a pit toilet, an ADA portable restroom, and two nice ADA docks. Ryan said there are map signs at each pond that shows the shape of each pond, and there are beavers on the ponds and they've taken down several trees. Marty asked if staff removed beaver dams. Russ said everything in the ponds is under the jurisdiction of ODFW. Ryan said there is a sink hole that needs to be repaired. He said he visited the park on a Sunday afternoon and there was fishing at each pond. He said park is great for fishing and seems great for dog training. Ryan the park is in good shape but could use some new signage and more sitting areas. Russ said he met with ODFW staff two weeks ago and discussed signage, including how to combine and reduce the number of small signs that are currently posted. He said ODFW has a master plan in place. Russ said he wants to put in a second camp host site and second restroom but the water table is very high, which complicates things. Wayne thanked Ryan for a nice presentation.

Projects for Assigned Parks

At the November meeting Sandy will report on Packsaddle Park and Ben will report on Aumsville Ponds Park.

STAFF UPDATES

North Fork Corridor Update

Russ said Bear Creek closed early because the camp host left ahead of schedule and with no one present to oversee the park, there were issues of concern. He also said no one camped at the park last weekend so he felt it was okay to close early. Russ said the park saw a lot of use over the summer and it was very successful. Marty asked if the county can provide Dish or Direct TV as a perk for camp hosts. Brian said it's been an issue because of trees in the canyon obstructing satellite signals. He said there is also no phone line that far up the canyon; hosts have a radio and the nearest emergency phone is at the Elkhorn fire station. Russ said the county is already recruiting a camp host for the 2019 season.

Russ said that parking fee collection will end on September 30 and will begin again in mid-May. He said that seasonal parks usually closes on November 1, but with a new full-time employee the following parks that previously closed for the season will be kept open year round: Aumsville, Bonesteele, Minto, and Niagara. The gate and restrooms at Scotts Mills Park will be locked on November 1 but visitors will be allowed to park outside and walk in.

Staff Updates

Russ said there are interviews for the parks program's medium equipment operator position tomorrow and he hopes to have the new full-time employee on board by the middle of October.

Staff Updates on Various Parks

- **Minto** – Crew carved out a trail where they walked with consultant. Russ said they found a very old wrecked vehicle below the highway and a waterfall that is dry now. Crews also brushed out the picnic areas.
- **Aumsville Ponds** - Working on a trail at Aumsville Park from the back of the property to the front for tractor access. Russ said he will meet with Ed Davis at Scotts Mills Park on Monday to discuss a picnic shelter.
- **Denny** - Temporary parks employees and Juvenile crew removed 35 yards of vegetation at Denny Park. Russ said the area has now been seeded with grass and he is working with the nearby neighbor to build a new fence.
- **Spong's Landing** - Crews power washed a picnic table, installed a picnic table slab, and ordered a barbecue that will be installed at that area. Russ said crews put down park dust at entrance of Spong's Landing Park.
- **Joryville and Labish Village** – Crews put down bark dust at both parks.
- **Niagara and Bear Creek** – Crews painted and spruced up the well house and sheds at both parks.
- **St. Louis Fish Ponds** – Closing on October 1 but those who want to fish or hunt can park at the locked gate and walk in.
- **North Fork Corridor Parking Fees** - Russ said there have been only two thefts at the fee collection sites this summer.

Brian said he and Russ have scheduled a Work Session meeting with the board of commissioners on November 20. He said they plan to update the board on the parks budget and projects. Brian said he will check with the parks commission before the meeting to see if anyone wants to attend.

Brian said staff met with the Salem-Keizer School District about Auburn Park. He said they completed the yellow book appraisal and it came in better than anticipated. He said the county has identified a property near the Buena Vista Ferry they'd like to buy as a potential boat launch, picnic area, and possible camping area, near the ferry. Brian said the money from the sale will be put in escrow until it is used for a future property purchase.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Park Reports

At the November meeting, Ben will report on Aumsville Park and Sandy report on Packsaddle Park.

Future Topics

- Wayne said he would leave this for staff to discuss with Ben.
- Marty said she would like to do another field trip since so many changes at the parks has occurred.

ADJOURN: 2:37 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 8, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in the North Santiam Room (1st Floor) at Public Works.