



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF THE MEETING

May 1, 2014 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, Oregon in the North Santiam Room

PRESENT: Scott Anderson, Ted Dingman, George Moeller, Wayne Rawlins

ABSENT: Sandy Grulkey

PUBLIC: Cindy Gooch

STAFF: Jeff Bickford, Russ Dilley

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS: 9:00 a.m.

Cindy introduced herself to the commission. She said she is a resident of South Salem, an equestrian, and employed by Linn Benton Community College in the animal science department. Commission members and staff then introduced themselves for the record.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Wayne made a motion to approve the February 6, 2014 meeting minutes. Ted seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

JORYVILLE ARENA RESTORATION

Cindy said she is a neighbor of Joryville Park and has lived in that area since 2003. She said she has seen a lot of change since then and would like to see some improvements and more use. She said she met with the Oregon Equestrian Trail group and they are interested in supporting rejuvenation efforts. Cindy shared a presentation with commission members. She said the arena has had a lot of organic materials that create rodent habitat but isn't conducive to riding in the arena. She has seen a decrease in horse usage and this is one of the last equine parks in Marion County. Jeff said it is the only Marion County park that has equine use although there are state parks in the county. Cindy said the park was originally created by 4-H groups 20 years ago and they have indicated they are interested in using it but believes it to be unsafe. Cindy said it has a nice trailer access and turnaround, and a nice picnic area.

George asked about the history of the area. Jeff said it was donated by the Jory family to the Salem Chamber of Commerce in the 1950's and subsequently transferred to Marion County. Russ said the arena was put in 25-30 years ago but there were always horse trails. Cindy looked into the cost of improving the arena and put together estimates for new railings with pressured treated posts, rails, hardware, and paint, as well as 3" – 4" of sand footing across the surface of the arena. She received estimates from Kilgore-Blackman for arena repairs at \$1,000, and from KB Sand for sand footing (delivered) at \$680. Russ said the county has a price agreement with a couple of gravel businesses that

also have sand that may be much less expensive. Cindy said these estimates did not include the removal of the old railing or the organic material.

She said she sent out a survey and got a lot of responses from people who have used the park who indicated they would increase their use of the arena if it is updated and repaired. She said they also commented on the restrooms. Russ said the pit toilets are going to be removed. She said they also commented on the parking lot but it has since been graveled and graded, which is appreciated. Cindy said she has about \$1,000 donated for these improvements. She said there was interest in an Eagle Scout project and she is following up with the Boy Scouts on that.

Ted asked how the equestrian community organizes themselves. Cindy said it depends on the discipline or type of riding they do. She said 4-H is a big entity and children are learning horsemanship. She said there were also trail riding groups who travel around and do poker rides, private barns who host English riding, and barrel racing groups. Ted asked if there was any way to guess how many people would use the arena if it was brought up to par. Cindy from the survey she sent out she received 20-25 people who said they would increase their use. George asked if it was used at all. Cindy said she doesn't see anyone in the arena, only on the trails.

Wayne asked Cindy if she has contacted Oregon State Parks about any of their grant programs. She said she had not. He recommended Recreational Trails Program, which is federal dollars, and said time is of the essence because they begin their application process in May. He said the first step is a letter requesting the grant and the end of June is the application deadline. He said these hard dollars can be used for a lot of the purchase items but the applicant will need to develop some sort of matching work or volunteer assistance. He said they also need to identify who will be the applicant and it is usually an entity such as a club with a history. He said Marion County can also apply but an individual cannot. Wayne said this is a competitive grant and there are no guarantees they would receive funding, but if they don't receive this year they can apply again next year. He said club members, volunteers or county staff would need to be at the arena at an almost weekly basis during good weather months, keeping the riding arena soil tilled over or it will get vegetation or become hard packed. Wayne said there needs to be long term maintenance of the arena itself. He said he recommended pursuing if clubs and Marion County could commit to long term maintenance to this site.

Russ said he has been trying to renovate this arena for years but has been unsuccessful in finding other interested parties. He said if the arena can be renovated that will help generate the interest from groups to help maintain. Scott said he agrees with Wayne that anything we can do to increase park usage would be good. He said he is concerned about the maintenance and liability for equestrian related accidents. He said he would like to look at the budget to see what it would take to maintain in a safe manner, and also ask legal counsel to review to see if there are any special liability issues. George asked if there is liability now. Russ and Jeff said per the recreational statute, if its open for public use there is only liability if there is gross negligence.

Cindy said she would like to work with identifying an Eagle Scout project and look into a grant. She said she will contact the president of the Oregon Equestrian Trail club and see about partnering on this.

George said the commission thought this was a good idea, encouraged her to pursue, and invited her to come back to a future meeting.

PETTYJOHN PROPERTY UPDATE

Jeff said next week on May 6th staff will be touring this property with the board of commissioners. They will be leaving Courthouse Square at about 1:00 p.m. or commission members can meet staff at the property at about 1:30 p.m. Jeff will email the commission a reminder with directions.

PARK COMMISSIONER INPUT

Scott visited Bonesteele Park and noticed the field had been mowed with work on the scotch broom and black berries. He asked if there was involvement from Chemeketa Community College. Jeff said some college students do projects there but are more involved in Aumsville Ponds. Scott said he and his wife, as well as others in the Salem area, are in the process of being certified as Master Naturalists by Oregon State University. He said if staff were interested in getting more hands-on help at Bonesteele, he thought people from this group would be interested. Russ said staff will decide this fall if they will mow again or do a prescribed burn. Scott said he would be interested in working with staff either way.

George said he wanted to discuss the brainstorm session about ideas they might want to work on. He said there wasn't time today but handed out a list of ideas. He said the group may or may not pursue but they are worth discussing. He said he would like to discuss at the August meeting, which will allow members a chance to think about it.

Wayne asked how many board members the commission is short. Jeff said the commission is short two members. He said the county volunteer coordinator has advertised for new members but hasn't gotten any applications. Wayne said some former coworkers from state parks have retired and he asked for the names of anyone who might be qualified and interested in applying. Jeff said if anyone is interested they can apply online. He said this isn't unique to the Parks Commission. He said the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee and Weed District Advisory Committee both have vacancies. George said it seems to be a trend that less and less people want to be involved.

Wayne asked if there is enough business to meet every two months instead of every three months, and if the meetings need to be scheduled for a longer period of time. George said if the commission becomes meaningfully involved in something it might take longer. He said the group should think about this.

PARKS BUDGET OVERVIEW

Jeff distributed copies of the proposed parks budget and then reviewed with the group. He said under Resources there is \$123,000 in Admin Revenue and that is mostly carry-over. He said the main source of revenue for Parks is RV registration fee apportionment. He said in the last legislative session they approved a bill that changed the allocation between the state and counties which will provide an increase of 5% this year and another additional 5% the following year. Jeff said the county will see about a \$27,000 increase this year and another increase of \$27,000 next year, so when fully enacted Parks will see an increase of approximately \$55,000.

Jeff discussed camping fee revenue. He said they looked at usage in Elkhorn Campground and estimated \$16,700 in campground fees for the year. He said they were also told that they might be receiving some general fund dollars for play equipment at Spongs Landing Park or Scotts Mills Park. Scott asked about Scotts Mills Park and its usage. Jeff said it was pretty heavily used in the summer by locals.

Jeff said System Development Charges (SDCs) are estimated at \$15,000. He said if there is more construction and development these fees will increase. He said he is hearing from Building Inspection and Planning staff that they are seeing an uptick in building, so time will tell.

There was review and discussion regarding the remaining budgeted revenues and expenditures. Jeff said over the past several years, staff has been using all the SDC monies as match dollars in grant applications for Bear Creek Campground. Jeff said this was a very simple budget without a lot of line items and the most interesting things are potential new playground construction and additional monies for campground maintenance. The commission said they appreciated the overview.

STAFF UPDATES:

Russ reported:

- Today is opening day for county parks so he will be busy opening the seasonal parks.
- The Statesman Journal reported on a planned drinking party that teenagers tweeted about on Twitter. The Sheriff's Office investigated after discovering the tweets and broke up the party. It was originally reported that it was planned for Packsaddle Park but Russ has since learned that it was planned for the quarry across the way.
- Staff will have a meet and greet with the new director of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department on May 20, 2014, at 1:00 p.m.
- Plumbing at Spongs Landing is being repaired after the pipes froze during the winter.
- The county is still looking for a camp host for Bear Creek Campground.

NEXT MEETING: August 7, 2014 @ 9:00 a.m.

- Interests Roundtable Discussion

ADJOURN: 10:30 a.m.