



# MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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**May 23, 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, Wayne Rawlins, Ben Williams

**Public/Guests:** Ryan Mann

**Staff Present:** Brian May, Russ Dilley, Jolene Bray

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

### **Approval of February 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Marty made a motion to approve the February 15, 2017, meeting minutes as submitted. Sandy seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

### **Public Input**

None.

### **Commission Member Announcements and Upcoming Events**

Sandy said she read that 3 million visitors were expected in Oregon for the solar eclipse in August and asked if the county has a plan to handle this influx of people. Russ said Marion County will be opening and staffing its Emergency Operations Center so it's prepared to deal with a wide range of issues. He said with so many vehicles expected on the road, there are concerns about emergency vehicle access on North Fork Road. Russ said Oregon Garden and Keizer Rapids Park are both renting camp sites for the eclipse, but the Public Works Director chose not to open Spong's Landing Park for camping and rates will not be increased at Bear Creek Campground, which will remain first-come, first-served. He said although it looks like county parks are perfect for eclipse viewing on the map, the tree line at parks located in the canyon may obscure the view. Brian said there has also been a lot of discussion about potential solid waste issues and everyone is preparing for the unknown. There was discussion about what to do about people who may camp at non-campsite parks. Russ said at St. Louis Ponds there is a camp host that will handle that and Spong's Landing and Scotts Mills parks are closed nightly by Pro-Star Security.

### **MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION**

Brian said staff discussed the Parks Master Plan (PMP) with the board of commissioners at a work session meeting. He said there were questions and concerns about the proposed disc golf course at Bonesteele Park because of its Natural Heritage Park (NHP) designation. The commissioners asked staff to research the history and intent of the NHP plan before moving forward. Brian said the PMP will be used for deciding how the county parks program is developed. Sandy said she would like to revisit her idea to follow the Illinois Safe Park Plan where thru legislation they give parks the same protection as school zones. Russ advised her to speak with transportation engineering staff about this suggestion.

Wayne asked what was needed in terms of an update and if the county was willing to hire a consultant to assist. Ben said there were two levels of updates; one is clarifying priorities (such as capital projects) and another based on the entire document update. Wayne said the Oregon Park and Recreation Department's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) had to do community outreach when writing the plan. He asked if Marion County had an interest in hiring skilled help to update the PMP and suggested Terry Bergeron

who has many years of experience with the state and provided a SCORP presentation to the commission in the past. Ben asked if the board of commissioners was already planning to budget for a consultant in 2018-2019. Brian said staff will start this discussion with the BOC after the current budget is approved. He said staff will do a Request for Proposal so they have a solid proposal to share with the board.

Marty made a motion to the Board of Commissioners that the planning and budgeting process begin now for the update to the Parks Master Plan so it can be available to the public in July 2020. Wayne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There was discussion about the creation of the National Heritage Parks program, which Commissioner Carlson has requested more background information about. Brian asked commission members to familiarize themselves with current parks master plan and they will discuss at the next commission meeting.

## **2017/18 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Russ said six projects were approved for 17/18 FY; three the Parks Commission recommended and an additional three that staff was asked to include in budget discussion. He said the Public Works director asked them to pick a small, medium, and large project. Russ said projects recommended by the PC that were approved are: \$25,000 for the North Fork Park picnic area; \$40,000 for the restroom upgrade at Spong's Landing Park; and \$15,000 for the hillside assessment at Niagara Park. He said projects recommended by staff that were approved are: \$8,000 for stairs at Minto Park; \$60,000 for playground equipment at Auburn Park, subject to negotiations with Salem-Keizer Schools; and, \$30,000 for resurfacing of the road and parking lot at Bear Creek Park. Russ said on top of that they approved six seasonal positions. Brian said they haven't received approval for a permanent position yet but this is a step forward in that process. He said the BOC also approved the purchase of a new mower, three seasonal pick-ups for seasonal staff to use (fleet vehicles that would otherwise be auctioned), and a trailer to haul mower and maintenance equipment. Wayne and Ben said this was wonderful news and more than they expected when they started working on the budget last fall.

## **NORTH FORK DISCUSSION**

Russ said North Fork Park is currently closed because the county is asphaltting the parking lot. He said crews have started by cutting trees and widening the parking area, but processing the IGA with BLM took longer than expected. Brian said Russ envisioned this and BLM was very supportive. He said the cost of the new paved parking lot is \$30,000. Russ said Bear Creek Park is open and the camp host has returned. He said Salmon Falls Park has remained closed because of tree damage and large, downed trees on trails. Russ said the Juvenile crews are removing and he expects the park to open by the end of this week.

Russ said the fee collection stations are in and he is collecting the parking fees. He said the newly implemented parking fee, which includes roadside parking and all county parks, is \$5 per day per vehicle and envelopes are provided at the fee stations for visitors to pay with cash or check. He said a \$30 annual pass is also offered and can be purchased at Public Works. Brian said they are already learning that driving and collecting fees from the fee stations is very time consuming for parks and admin staff, but will hopefully this will help correct traffic in the North Fork area. Brian said they heard from a motorcyclist who wants to see an annual permit sticker since they have nowhere to hang a pass without it being stolen.

## **FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Staff Updates**

- Russ said Labish Village has new playground. He said they are still waiting to install the boulders and will also install stormwater grates to help with drainage.
- Seasonal county parks opened on May 1.

## **Other Business**

Ben provided an update on Butteville Landing. He said Marion County's final position is that the right of way is an easement. Ben said the title is held by the neighbors with the county having easement, which has a reversionary clause that it must be remain a roadway and can't be given away. He said BOC is fully supporting to establishing Butteville Landing but wants it funded by the community and/or a non-profit. Ben said this is not what everyone wanted to hear but it is a big improvement from where they were last year. He said the community applied and received a grant to do a survey of the landing, which also provided engineering plans for a walkway that allowed emergency vehicle access and a landscape rendering. He said the budget for the landing is just under \$200,000. Ben said they are holding a community meeting in Butteville tonight, and some neighbors are very supportive and the other is not. He said tonight they will also kick off fundraising, but certain grants are off the table now. Ben said county surveyor has a copy of the survey and PW director has a copy of the engineering plans.

Russ said Wayne's term expires to June 30 and asked if him he wanted to continue on the commission. Wayne requested that he be reappointed to the commission.

## **Future Topics**

- Discuss Parks Master Plan

**ADJOURN:** 11:43 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** July 11, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the North Santiam Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor) at Public Works.