

**MARION COUNTY
Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025
Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Location: Teams or Willamette Conference Room at Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE

Present: **Members:** Herschel Sangster, Alton Hoover, Bob Emanuel, Tabitha Henricksen, Wayne Rawlins (Teams) and Marisa Roskelly (Teams)

Staff: Brian Nicholas, Kevin Thompson, Whitney Ned, Toni Whitler – Boards Office (Teams) and Commissioner Cameron (Teams)

Guests: Jim Day from Our Town/The Canyon Weekly, Kathy Rogers (Teams) and Elijah Welch (Teams)

Absent: **Excused:** Bryan Hall

Unexcused: Steve Staten, Chris Teichroew

Quorum: **Yes**

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Hersch Sangster called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

Introductions: Commission members, staff, and guests were introduced.

Attendance/Roll Call: Done.

Agenda Changes: None.

Approval of November 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Bob made a motion to accept minutes. Wayne seconded.

Discussion: None

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Comment: None.

Canyon Park Rebuild Update:

Kevin shared which of the canyon parks are open and operating. He also provided updates on the two that remain closed due to damage.

- Open: North Fork, North Santiam, Bear Creek, Minto and Packsaddle.
- Closed: Niagara and Salmon Falls
 - Niagara: hazardous trees and infrastructure issues, such as culverts and safety barriers, are major concerns.
 - Salmon Falls: issues with damaged staircases, drainage and restroom facilities, as well as challenges with debris removal and collaboration with BLM.

BLM Park Acquisition/Maintenance

Kevin spoke about the ongoing efforts to coordinate with BLM on property overlaps and lease agreements, exploring options to streamline park operations, including possible integration of BLM properties into Marion County's park system.

TRACK Trail

TRACK Trails will be installed this year at Aumsville Ponds and Spong's Landing. Oregon Parks Forever is funding the program, which provides self-guided activities through educational kiosks and brochures for children and families. Efforts to get the word out to the public are currently focused on social media with a plan to reach out to other local media outlets.

Park Memorial Discussion

The group reviewed ideas for a sustainable memorial program with options including engraved pavers, plaques and sponsored park features. Hersch requested that an email be sent to Parks Commission members about interest in being part of a Parks Memorial subcommittee.

Commissioners' Roundtable

Marion County Public Works' Communications Coordinator, Erin Burt, is working on updating the website. She has also been instrumental in getting the Camp Life website up and running for the public to make reservations at North Santiam Park and Campground. Other parks will be added at some point.

The Commission stated again their desire to tour other parks, specifically in Linn County, once the weather improves. It was suggested that this topic be discussed more at the next meeting.

Kevin provided two quick updates, the first regarding the erosion from the river at Eola Bend. Plans include re-routing the trails that have been closed near the Willamette River and installing protective barriers. The second update was that Knife River has been secured as the contractor for the Parkdale project.

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 pm

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 20, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m.