

**MARION COUNTY
Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025
Time: 2:00pm – 3:30 pm
Location: Teams or Willamette Conference Room at Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE

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

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

Guests: Kathy Rogers – Community Member; Amanda Arthurs – Applicant (Teams)

Absent: **Excused:**

Unexcused: Steve Staten

Quorum: **Yes**

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Hersch Sangster called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

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

Attendance/Roll Call: Done.

Agenda Changes: None.

Approval of March 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

Discussion: None

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Comment: None.

Upcoming Linn County Tour

Commission members were reminded of the River Bend Park tour in Linn County on May 20. Whitney confirmed who was leaving from Public Works with Kevin at 8:15 am, who was meeting at the park at 10:00 am and who was unable to attend.

Memorial Program Subcommittee Update

Hersch shared the next subcommittee meeting will be on June 2 at 1:00 pm. During the first subcommittee meeting on April 10, each member committed to research existing city park memorial programs. Their findings will be presented at the meeting on June 2.

Updates from March Meeting

Kevin and Whitney updated the Commission on where things are with membership and quorum. After Wayne and Bob's terms expire (neither renewing) in June, and moving forward with the recommendation to have Stephen Staten removed, the Commission will drop below the required minimum of 7 appointed members before the next scheduled meeting. A special meeting will be scheduled in the next month to amend the by-laws and lower the minimum member requirement. Recruitment efforts include social media and the Earth Day event in April. Rotary and Lions Clubs were suggested to help spread the need for more members. Two applications have been submitted in the last three months.

A question of any potential issues with federal grants was raised at the last meeting. Kevin assured the Commission there are no issues at this time.

Opening Season

Kevin presented some statistics from the first six weeks of the Parks season:

- In April, 15 campground reservations (\$425 revenue)
- As of 5/8, 2 shelter reservations (\$225 revenue)
- 456 parking passes sold (\$3,958 total revenue)
 - o 377 Day-Use Passes (\$1,885)
 - o 79 Annual Passes (\$2,370)
- North Santiam (120 passes) and Spongs Landing (91 passes) brought in the most revenue.

The feedback from the community about parking fees has been mixed.

Opal Creek Funding

Kevin and Brian N provided some background on the Opal Creek grant, a total of \$15 million for the county, and a potential \$1 million for the Parks program. Two projects take priority: rebuilding Bear Creek Campground and reopening Salmon Falls Park.

Miscellaneous Updates

Kevin announced that construction has begun for Parkdale Park, which will include walking trails, a playground, picnic tables and ADA parking. Parks staff are working with the Board of Commissioners on a ribbon cutting ceremony, which will be communicated to the Parks Commission once a date is set. Some concerns were raised about vandalism and other night activities but overall, the community is looking forward to the completion of this long-awaited project. Kathy Rogers (guest) is a resident in that community and expressed interest in the current developments.

Commissioners' Roundtable

Bob Emanuel and Wayne Rollins both reflected on their time as Parks Commissioners and were praised for their contributions over the years.

Meeting adjourned at 3:19 pm

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 17, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m.