



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 21, 2021 @ 3:00 pm
Virtual meeting via Zoom

<u>PRESENT</u>	Members:	Wayne Rawlins, Marty Heyen, Ryan Mann, Kyleen Zimmer, Alton Hoover, Josh Faulkner
	Staff:	Russ Dilley, Tom Kissinger, Brian May, Brian Nicholas, Elizabeth Parker
	Guests:	Bill Poehler, Dave Stewart, Karen Garst, Anna Rankin (Scotts Mills Dam)
<u>ABSENT</u>		None

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Wayne called the meeting to order @ 3:02 p.m.

Member and Staff introductions: Done

Public Input: None

Approval of November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Kyleen moves to approve minutes; Marty seconds. A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

SCOTTS MILLS DAM REMOVAL

The previous attempt, requesting the Board of Commissioners to sign the permit application and land owner agreement for the removal of the Scott's Mills Dam, was not successful. With a new Marion County Commissioner on the board, Anna would like the Parks Commission to approve and recommend a resubmission of their request for to the board. Kyleen asked why the commissioners had previously declined to sign the application. Brian M stated that one commissioner was on fence, one commissioner said yes, and one commissioner said no. After receiving a letter from Anna, the Board of commissioner have requested that the Parks Commission vote to recommend or not recommend to take this request back to the Board of Commissioners for review.

Anna shared that there is a new land owner on other side of the creek who is in favor or the dam removal and is willing to work with Marion County. The way the dam is currently configured, people don't realize they're trespassing on private property when they want to jump off the cliff. With the dam starting to shift and break away and in an attempt to illuminate trespassing, it's imperative to Anna's group to remove the dam as soon as possible. The Oregon Watershed will pay \$49,992 towards the cost of removal, while the Fish and Wildlife Department will be contributing approximately \$38,000. At the last attempt with the board, the Oregon Watershed hadn't been awarded the grant; they have the grant now.

If board signatures are obtained, the group will be taking all precautions for safety. Work will begin after Labor Day when the park is closed; clean-up will take place in mid-September through October. Anna stated that given the fact the Oregon Watershed has already proved and documented ownership, she hopes the board won't stall and prohibit movement. Dave Stewart sees the removal of the dam as high priority, stating they only need two board member signatures on land owner agreement and the application for permit.

With no further questions, Wayne asks for motion to move to this matter forward to the Board of Commissioners. Marty moves to forward the Parks Commission's recommendation to the Board of Commissioners requesting their signatures on the permit application and the land owner agreement. Alton seconds the motion. Voice vote unanimous - motion passes.

Brian May stated that staff plans to bring to the February 1st Management Update.

PARK NAMING POLICY

Wayne asked if everyone had reviewed the draft naming policy sent out by staff. Wayne provided background, explaining that Seth Kezar had started campaign to rename park, and had attended the Parks Commission November meeting. Wayne plans to discuss the policy with Seth and get his input. Marty asked that if we name the park after someone, will it stay that way, adding that wouldn't we want to avoid naming the park after one person when there were many victims? She also shared that it was incredibly sad what happened to boy, but this situation doesn't seem fit into what the draft policy is saying. Russ pointed out that there is a site in North Fork Park that could be memorialized. By chat feature: Alton and Josh agree that we shouldn't change the park name, but should definitely create a memorial.

Wayne read names of people who died and wants to do something appropriate for ALL who passed. Josh reiterated that it is a good idea to get Seth's opinion on all of this. Brian M suggested we show Seth the naming policy and ideas we have for a memorial. Kyleen requested another "final draft" before we take to Seth for review and thoughts.

SANTIAM CANYON PARK TOUR RECAP

Wayne shared his sadness and shock by all the damage to Marion County Parks, but is encouraged by all the opportunities ahead to be part of rebuilding. Both Marty and Wayne stated that it's hard to wrap their minds around the extent of the damage and devastation. Russ shared the absolute need to form a sub-committee to focus on rebuilding the parks and gave the option of having members from the public (such as Seth) to be a part of the sub-committee. Brian M shared that there is a lot of heavy lifting coming and we need to have focused engagement with this sub-committee. Brian M continued, "We very much value your feedback, and this is a unique opportunity for us to engage with public and rebuild our parks." The group asked for a more-detailed list of tasks, time commitments, etc. that will be required for this sub-committee before officially setting it up. Tom stated he will provide the information to the group at the next meeting.

Brian M also stated the Marion County is engaged with FEMA and asking for a significant amount of money that this group will ultimately have to decide how to spend. Two FEMA inspection tours are scheduled. Tom is developing an alternative project, asking what amenities we'd want to add to parks. Marion County has engaged Walker Massey, who has done lots of project for state parks, urban parks, rail trails, etc., to work with us on rebuilding and designing our parks. Staff gave them ideas of things we "could" do, i.e., more camping at Bear Creek, camping at Salmon Falls, and adding trails and/or a rail trail system at Minto Park that could connect with three of our parks. Consultants will create a report for cost estimates and provide two options for each park. As we move forward, this will be negotiation tool for FEMA. Kyleen agrees that Walker Massey is good company and they provide good graphics and ideas.

Brian shared with the group that both Tom and Russ are great advocates for our parks, so please give them your thoughts and ideas. John and Jerry are willing to help with hand-drawings. Kyleen asked if we're in connection with the State Forestry goals. Brian shared that Marion County has a group named the North Fork Recreational Area Group with members from the Sheriff's Office, the Board of Commissioners, Forest Service, and BLM. Marion County is meeting with this group next Monday, which is a great opportunity for synergy.

STAFF UPDATES

Russ reviewed the bylaws draft and handbook. Changes include Parks Commission members to be no less than five - no more than 11 members. Marty asked to review section 9d, which references voting; more than two no votes, motion will fail. Russ said this has been in bylaws since 2005. Marty will rewrite a simple majority rule based on how many members are present and then she will forward the rewrite to Elizabeth. Members will review draft and forward changes, comments, and/or edits to either Russ or Elizabeth. We will compile and review at our next meeting. Elizabeth will make edit to section 9F.

Wayne asked that any comments or changes be submitted to Elizabeth by February 26th. Elizabeth will email a reminder to the group mid-February asking for comments, etc. Any differences of opinions will be discussed at next meeting. Kyleen

noticed a section on public records and asked staff to help commission members understand what records requirements are. Open meeting laws – this was addressed also, being sure to recognize when “replying all” or just to person.

Auburn Conversion Project: Russ received an ODOT flyer at home and thought this is good tool for public outreach for the Auburn Conversion Project. Wayne said the group had planned on meeting at the Macleay Grange last year, but then COVID hit, so the flyer is a good option at this time. The gate at Macleay is locked, so staff will need to schedule time with Park Commission members if they’d like to see the property.

San Salvador update: staff stepped back from taking over due to fires. Willamette River Keepers are attempting to take over, but this has been shelved for indefinite amount of time due to lack of Marion County resources.

COMMISSIONERS ROUNDTABLE

Alton – shared that he had emergency surgery recently, but is expected to make full recovery. He is anticipating 6-8 weeks of recovery time, and is thankful he has been able to work from home.

Marty – shared that the Santiam Fire Damage tour was a great experience and loves when there are opportunities to get into the parks.

Kyleen –shared that she was sorry to miss the Santiam Fire Damage tour; she was unable to make it work with her schedule.

Ryan – shared that January has been busy and it’s been challenging to balance time. He hopes his job doesn’t interfere with the Parks Commission; he expressed that he will try his best to be more present.

Josh- shared that he sent an email to Russ suggesting that at the next meeting, where we can be in person, we all sit down and get to know each other as a group. It can be unifying and incredibly beneficial as a group to get to know people’s private lives and work lives. Marty encouraged the group to not give up - sentiments whole-heartedly echoed by staff.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Other Business: None

Adjourn: Wayne adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.