



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

March 21, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

North Santiam Room at 5155 Silverton Road NE, Salem, Oregon

PRESENT: Members: Josh Faulkner, Sandy Grulkey, Wayne Rawlins, Kyleen Zimmer
Staff: Brian May, Russ Dilley, Jolene Bray
ABSENT: Members: Marty Heyen, Ryan Mann, Ben Williams

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Call to Order: 1:01 p.m.

Wayne called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves. Brian M. introduced Brian Nicholas, the new Public Works Director. Brian N. said he began serving as public works director on December 17 but has been with the county as the Capital Projects Manager for three years prior to that. He said he's had exposure to county parks via engineering and was involved in upgrades and paving at various county parks. He said he is happy with the focus of parks as a community asset the county owes to the public. Wayne welcomed Brian N. to the meeting and said he hoped going forward that he would be able to attend future meetings.

Approval of January 17, 2019, Meeting Minutes

Sandy clarified a statement "Terry Caster of Scotts Mills is interested in talking to Brian May about property he wants to work with the county." She clarified that he is looking for a larger property that he can trade the county for the property he owns near Scotts Mills County Park. Sandy made a motion to approve the January 17, 2019, meeting minutes as submitted. Kyleen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Brian M. apologized for not being at January meeting when a vote was taken at that time. He said he is involved in other commissions and all are working on aligning bylaws and new leadership. He said this is more consistent with what other county commissions are doing. Wayne opened nomination for the position of chair. Brian said the assumption is the vice-chair will become the chair, and although it's not a requirement it helps with progression. Kyleen moved that Wayne be elected chair. Sandy seconded and it was approved unanimously.

Wayne nominated Kyleen as vice-chair. Sandy seconded and it was approved unanimously. Sandy asked if the board of commissioners wants nominees to attend board session. Brian M. said it's not required but it is appreciated. He said board session meetings are held each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., and he and Jolene would process the paperwork for appointments.

Bylaws Review

Wayne asked Brian M. what the commission should do for review. Brian N. said staff would make a first draft and bring back to the May meeting.

Public Input

None.

Commission Member Announcements and Upcoming Events

There were no commission member announcements.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Ryan was scheduled to report on Bear Creek Park but was absent at this meeting. His presentation will be deferred until the May meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

Bear Creek Expansion Conceptual Plans

Russ said staff asked the consulting firm that worked on North Fork and Minto parks to look at Bear Creek to see what kind of expansion can be done. He showed drawing done by consultant. Russ reviewed the concepts:

- Using existing county land, move the tent sites and add 17 new RV sites, a strolling trail and a group shelter by the parking lot.
- Acquiring adjacent land from BLM, move the tent sites and add up to 49 RV sites, 53 parking spaces and 4 restrooms, and possibly showers, a laundry room, a group shelter, another camp host site, and a 1-mile strolling path with better access to the river.
- Sites in both concepts would be dry camping with no electrical hook-ups.

Russ said a financial analyst calculated it would add \$34,000 annually in revenue to the parks program from the RV apportionment money from the state, a substantial increase from the current amount of \$8,000 for the 12 existing camp sites. Brian said one concern is not to over populate the area, so they may choose to create fewer sites.

Preparation for 2019-20 Budget Process

- **5-10 Year Planning Cycle** – Brian M. said the parks budget is funded by general fund dollars, and staff are also looking at other revenue and grant opportunities. He said the board of commissioners are very supportive of county parks but funding additional staff is still an issue although this year they have extended the eight seasonal workers by a month. Brian M. said the parks program feels solid at a funding level and staff are looking at RV fees and grant funding to double. He said the big projects are a picnic shelter/bus shelter at Labish Village; paving the parking lot at Joryville (lower area); disc golf at Bonesteele Park (Capital City Disc Golf Club are sponsoring and helping to develop); slurry sealing the existing pavement at Spong's Landing and adding a smaller parking lot. Kyleen asked if paving at Parkdale is planned. Russ said Hayesville Road is getting sidewalks and when that happens we add improvements. Brian M. said parks is trying to tie into other engineering projects when they occur to help reduce costs. He said stormwater group would like to expand that area and use for class field trips, and one commissioner would like to develop it for soccer. Russ said the vice-president of the neighborhood association where Parkdale is located told him she has spoken with neighbors and they are now more interested in developing the park for use. He said they will now will work to get buy-in from the neighbors so they aren't resistant when development discussions progress. Brian M. said Public Works is presenting the initial budget tomorrow to the board of commissioners for consideration.
- **Auburn Park** – Brian M. said the county is definitely moving forward with the sale of Auburn Park to the Salem-Keizer School District (SKSD). He said the parties are developing the sales agreement and process required for the yellow book appraisal, which came back at \$360,000. Brian M. said on March 12, SKSD approved on the first reading and are bringing it back for the second reading. He said the board of commissioners has already signed. Brian M. said now the county has to identify an appropriate property to purchase, which will need to happen as quickly as possible because the parks program can't apply for grant funding until this is wrapped up. Brian M. said staff are working with a consultant to identify some options

and the intent is to have a Work Session soon to discuss this with the board. He said the proceeds must be used to purchaser undeveloped property and develop that into a park, and can't be used on improvements or for existing parks.

- **Staff Updates on Various Parks**

- **San Salvador** - Russ said it's been suggested the county acquire and start maintaining San Salvador property, which is currently owned by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). He said he's visited the park and it's a one acre piece of property with a concrete boat ramp on the Willamette River, with a dirt road entering the property and a dirt parking lot. Russ said it's considered a boat ramp, not a park. Wayne said he would contact ODFW and ask for clarifying information on the property.
 - **Interviews** – Russ said interviews were held last week and parks has hired some returning and new seasonal employees. He said they will have 10 seasonal workers by summer.
 - **Parks Tour** – Russ said Public Works staff is doing a parks tour with the board of commissioners and will visit Spong's Landing, Denny, and Scotts Mills.
 - **Spong's Landing** – Russ said the front entrance was overgrown for years and had remnants of an old house. He said Steve Norrow cleaned up the park entrance, removed an old railroad track and blackberries, and mowed the area. He said they will now seed the area and put in a picnic area.
 - **Information Kiosks** – Brian M. said Russ worked with county GIS staff to develop individual maps for park kiosks that shows "You are here" and amenities along the trail (e.g., picnic tables, restrooms, parking lot, etc.). He said they use an app to map the area and the data is added to a map that will be posted on the park's kiosk. Brian M. showed a GIS map with Bonesteele, Aumsville Ponds, and Spong's Landing parks with data that had been mapped with this app. He said the kiosks are built and now need to create the maps so we can install. Brian M. said these will also be used on the Parks website.
 - **Seasonal Parks** – All are anticipated to open on May 1.
- **Planning Matrix** – Wayne asked what was needed for Planning Matrix. Brian M. said this is commissioner's Parks Commission, so need to identify what they want to discuss or work on in the future so staff can help. He said this will help engage the group and helps everyone plan for each month. Wayne asked if there would be some dedicated items that are recurring. Wayne asked if staff would send to commission and members and populate with ideas. Brian M. said yes and we would discuss together at a future meeting. He said it will also keep everyone on task and updated. Wayne asked staff to email to commissioners and they can bring with them at the May meeting for discussion.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Other Business

Sandy said Brooks Powerland is a heritage park but not a county park, and each museum contributes to the park. She asked if she has a duty to disclose irregularities in a park in Marion County because she may have a conflict of bias. Wayne said she cannot address this as a Marion County Parks Commissioner but can as a private citizen. Brian M. said this body does not oversee Powerland because it's not a county park. Sandy said she will take this outside this body for follow-up.

Reassignment of Parks by District Discussion

Wayne said the issue of organizing parks assignments in a different was discussed at the last meeting and it was agreed to move it to this meeting. Kyleen said when commissioners originally received their assignments, she thought it was a one-time assignment. She said for her to own a park is onerous with her job and thinks there should be discussion about whether each commissioner should be assigned a park. Sandy said there are some

parks she has now that she is very involved such as Scotts Mills and Labish Village. She said she visited Packsaddle once and is done with that. Wayne said he learned from visiting and doing assignments on his assigned parks, and he also learned from others presentations, but thought it might be good to revisit “owning” parks. He asked if there any other goals we’ve expressed from doing that. Josh said as a new commissioner, when he began his term he thought owning parks was part of what made it better. He said from his view you don’t have to be a parks commissioner to do that, but it helps. Josh said there are many parks from his childhood he will visit and while he doesn’t know if it will be mandated, it should be open to those who want to do it. Brian M. said from a goals perspective, it was to immerse members. He said staff wants to receive feedback, so if commissioners see something or have a conversation with a neighbor or visitor, that benefits staff. He asked commissioners for their thoughts. Kyleen said there were real benefits to being randomly assigned a park, such as Parkdale, and now she’s curious. She said she’s not totally opposed to being assigned but doesn’t want to do the same parks going forward. She also sees a value to parks tours. Sandy said she found the parks assignments very liberating and found it very beneficial. Wayne made a suggestion that we table further assignments and can revisit it in the future. Josh said he would visit the parks he knows and likes, but would also try to visit those he hasn’t been to before. Wayne said he really appreciates the tours and hopes there is an opportunity for one later this year. Russ said we can schedule that because there are a lot of projects to show to commissioners. Brian M. said he really appreciates the feedback that commissioners have provided staff. He said if they have a park they like to visit, to bring feedback and photos back to staff and share.

Future Meeting Topics

- Bylaws
- Planning Matrix
- Discuss Parks Tour – when and which parks

ADJOURN: 2:42 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 16, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the North Santiam Room (1st Floor) at Public Works.