

MARION COUNTY Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022
Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Location: Zoom or Willamette Conference Room at Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE

Present: **Members:** Wayne Rawlins, Bob Emanuel, Marisa Roskelley, Malcolm Aquinas, Katy Waid, Herschel Sangster, Alton Hoover
Members Present Via Zoom: Steve Staten

Absent: Chris Teichroew

Staff: Tom Kissinger, Brian Nicholas, Natalie Tomaszewski, Brian May

Guests: Anna Rankin – Pudding River Watershed Council, Chad Ball – Board of Commissioners Office

Quorum: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Wayne called the meeting to order @ 3:01 p.m.

Member and Staff introductions: Members and staff were introduced.

Attendance/Rollcall: Done.

Agenda Changes: None.

Approval of May 19, 2022 minutes

Motion: Marisa made a motion to accept minutes. Al seconded.

Discussion: Malcolm commented that the minutes were some of the best he's seen.

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Comment:

Anna Rankin stated the Pudding River Watershed Council is excited about a stream enhancement project up by Abiqua Falls. They are also working on post fire recovery work up on Butte Creek, along with a regional partnership for green space along Mill Creek. Anna asked to be added to the agenda for the September meeting.

Anna discussed the status of the Scotts Mills Falls Dam Structure, the public safety aspect of the dam and stated she is looking for support from the Parks Commission. Wayne Rawlins stated the Parks Commission still supports the removal of the Scotts Mills Falls Dam and stated having conversations for the September agenda would provide clarity on what Anna wanted to discuss.

Parks Naming Subcommittee

Wayne thanked Marion County staff and Parks Commission members that helped put this document together. Marisa commented that she was very happy with how it turned out and the Parks Naming Subcommittee approved it via email.

Tom provided some backstory regarding the Beachie Creek Fire and request for renaming of Marion County Parks for the individual Wyatt Tofte, who lost his life during the fires. Marion County did not have a naming policy in place hence the formation of the Parks Naming Subcommittee. The final decision of naming/renaming a park falls upon the Board of Commissioners, but the Parks Commission can recommend.

Tom went over the Parks Naming Policy with the Commission. He shared the process for parks naming requests, along with other types of recognition that Marion County may offer, who would be considered, a vesting process, a permanence clause and a waiting list.

Katy asked for clarification on what 50% meant for a monetary donation; Tom gave the example if someone wanted to be named after a visitor center, or other structure/facility/room, they would have to had donate at least 50% of the cost to build that visitor center.

Tom shared the cultural aspect of naming items within the Parks will come into play when restoration of the Santiam Canyon parks begins. They are currently in contact with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Katy asked about the waiting list; Tom stated that the Naming Policy is the why behind naming projects and in the future will come the how, which would include the process for a waiting list.

Malcolm asked if there was any specific definition for “significant” in A-2-C; Tom stated there wasn’t an operational definition of significant and that can also be up to the Parks Commission to decide what is significant. Malcolm also asked about the length of time an individual being deceased in A-2-E; Marisa commented that that was pretty standard.

Malcom asked how they would determine if there is a cultural affiliation with the park in A-6; Tom stated there are studies that have to be done, under the National Historic Preservation Act – Section 106, for cultural affiliation within parks.

Approval of the Naming Policy

Motion: Herschel made a motion to accept the Naming Policy, as developed by the Naming Subcommittee. Alton seconded.

Discussion: Alton mentioned that public comment should be given in the future. The next steps are to bring the Naming Policy to the Board of Commissioners for their review and approval. Tom stated this will most likely be approved by the November meeting.

Wayne gave an overview about Wyatt Tofte and Seth Kezar in reference to the Naming Policy.

Malcolm recommended future projects like this have public comment earlier in the process and include an explicit equity component.

Wayne commented that he appreciates Tom and the work he's doing.

Santiam Canyon Update

Tom shared that Walker Macy will be sharing a final draft of the report at the September meeting. The next steps include viewing the final draft, acquiring approval from Parks Commission, having public comment and adding it as an addendum to Master Parks Plan.

Tom stated they submitted an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant for riparian replanting and OWEB has asked Marion County to increase their amount from \$480k and recommended they apply for the next round of funding in August for their flood control. They are starting restoration projects in the Fall with focus on noxious weed control and replanting. The noxious weed control will be ongoing for four years. They are planting around 360K plants, mostly trees.

They are partnering with Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Watershed Councils and the Soil and Water Conversation District for this project.

They are going for a thoughtful design, so they don't have to go tear it up again in the future, by maintaining access channels for equipment with planning for future projects. Next steps are to submit the RFP and hire a contractor for on the ground support. There are opportunities for planting days for volunteers. They are looking at a late winter/March timeline for planting.

Tom gave an update on timber sales. Minto is the last park and they started pulling logs last week. After the logs are out, there is consideration to open Minto.

Niagara is waiting on the final piece, which is a fence and culvert repair.

North Fork parks are going to take longer for reopening. They are planning on integrating the history of the fire into the future of the park, along with making tables and kiosks out of old wood from the park.

North Santiam has been open since July 1 for camping and they have seen some usage. Bob asked if the development plan included North Santiam; Tom stated that it was on its own development plan as it uses different funding. After the two-year trial period, Marion County would take ownership of the land. Future plans include a contract for the engineering and construction of the cabins, which is in coordination with State Parks and the Tribes.

Marion County Parks will be working on a map brochure revamp that is more interactive and

embedded on the website. They will be working on mapping the trails within the parks in Fall.

Tom stated BLM assessed North Fork Park for cutting timber and that should be going out for public comment soon. That work will begin in the Fall if there's no issues.

Tom shared he received the final edits on their scope of work from their FEMA representative, which stated their scope of work was acceptable. The next steps would be receiving that FEMA funding and starting phase one construction, which is working on opening the parks, rebuilding amenities and replacing restrooms.

Valley Parks Update

Tom shared the Rogers Wayside aerial view where USA BMX wanted to expand their track. Tom showed the USA BMX website and an overview of what they do.

Marisa brought up the issue of parking at that park; Tom stated parking was something to consider. USA BMX stated they would be able to financially cover the project. Katy asked about where the financial gain from events would go; Tom stated that financial piece was a revenue impact for the area which included hotels, restaurants etc. but the usage fee of the park would come to the parks fund.

Bob stated another consideration would be other facilities closer to the track and a bike repair station. Marisa commented a creek access trail would be good as well.

Tom suggested meeting the USA BMX representative Corey onsite at Rogers Wayside and he would tour the Commission through the park and talk about the plans.

Wayne and Alton commented on past experiences with BMX tracks, along with skateparks, and the public response. Both stated each instance had great public usage.

Scotts Mills had 29 new parking spots added, which was done in house, and they haven't had issues with people parking along the road since. Katy asked how many of the spaces were ADA; Tom stated they had ADA spaces by the restrooms. The current surface is compacted gravel but designed to be paved in the future. They also added a concrete corner for a dumpster that has helped operations immensely.

Wayne asked about a Parks Tour that included touring Riverbend, a Linn County park; Tom stated that he heard back today that the director would be happy to schedule a tour for the Parks Commission and they would be looking at the end of September.

Commissioner Roundtable

Bob stated he was very happy to hear about the website improvement. Bob asked about canyon park signage; Tom is meeting with the County Engineer on park signage within the canyon.

Malcolm commented it was a good presentation.

Herschel stated he had multiple events coming up that included: a bike skills fair with a repair aspect of that, Keizer Fest (Keizer Rapids Park - August 12-14th), Serve Fest will be serving people in Keizer community that are lower income (August 28th) and mentioned Deer Park's plan for the skate park.

Alton stated he had professional voice over experience if the need was to come up in the future.

Katy suggested that when public planting occurs the Parks Commission could volunteer and plant at the parks; Tom agreed.

Marisa asked if there were other properties for USA BMX; Wayne clarified they were interested in the specific site of Rogers Wayside. Marisa asked about MacLeay; Wayne stated it was on hold and our focus was on other properties.

Marisa thanked the County for all their work on the Spong's Landing trail.

Marisa asked about Bonesteele and the fencing behind the park; Tom stated that he would reach out the property owner about fixing the fencing since it is not Marion County's fence.

Marisa asked about Scotts Mills hazards; Tom stated Marion County doesn't own the water and doing anything means that the County accepts the liability that comes with it. Tom stated in the Valley Parks tour, they should tour Scotts Mills.

Wayne discussed volunteer recognition at the Marion County Fair and that he was given the advisory board volunteer of the year; he accepted the award on behalf of the Parks Commission. Wayne commented that the staff do the hard work for the Parks Commission.

Brian stated that Tom has been with the County for the past four years and thanked him for everything that he has done.

Meeting adjourned at 4:38pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 15, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m.