

**MARION COUNTY
Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022
Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Location: Zoom or Pudding Conference Room at Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE

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

Absent: Chris Teichroew, Steve Staten, Malcolm Aquinas

Staff: Tom Kissinger, Natalie Tomaszewski, Yancee Gordon

Guests: Jim Day – Canyon Weekly

Quorum: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Wayne called the meeting to order @ 3:04 p.m.

Member and Staff introductions: Members and staff were introduced.

Attendance/Rollcall: Done.

Agenda Changes: None.

Approval of September 15, 2022 minutes

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

Discussion: None.

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Comment:

None.

Parkdale Project Update

Tom discussed the outreach plan for Parkdale park with the East Salem Service District, along with the design concept and outreach plan, designed by Walker Macy, with the Commission. The design concept includes a pathway throughout the park, a formal picnic shelter and potentially a more formal dog area. Tom introduced Yancee Gordan, Public Works Communications Coordinator to the Commission.

Katy asked if the results from public outreach impact the usage of the ARPA funds; Tom stated they have \$360k to do something with Parkdale park.

The key dates are 2024 and 2026; Marion County Parks must have some project in the works by 2024 and the project must be completed by 2026.

Marisa stated that Parkdale needs more parking. Tom commented there is a current project happening for sidewalks in that area so the opportunity for parking is there. Katy asked when the completion date for the sidewalks is; Tom shared the completion date is right in line with the Parkdale project timeline.

Public Outreach will include feedback from the East Salem Service District (ESSD) Advisory Committee, the Parks Commission and the Board of Commissioners, along with holding town hall meetings and in person meetings.

Project start up would start as soon as January 2023 with discussion of the scope, budget schedule, review of the preliminary information for the area and start to develop pictures. February-March 2023 would be developing three concept alternatives. Those concept alternatives will be presented to the ESSD Advisory Committee, Parks Commission and the Board of Commissioners. After review with those groups, the concepts will be taken to the public for feedback with things like surveys and an interactive map.

Bob asked if there will be cost information at that point; Tom shared that there would be cost estimates at that time.

Katy asked who would be able to play with the interactive map; Tom shared we could do public outreach in a couple of ways: stating that this is what we want to build and then gathering their feedback or asking them what they want to build. Tom stated he believes it would be more appropriate to go the route of asking the public what they want built.

Katy asked if the three concept plans are subject to the public's opinion; Tom stated yes, they are just the starting point and can be revised.

Tom shared that they would make it clear to the public that they only have a certain amount of money now, but that doesn't mean they can't apply for grants or do a second phase in the future.

The end of the timeline will be some sort of a townhall public outreach where everyone can attend, play with the maps and then all the feedback can be combined into a final concept.

The next step is to take this update to the Board of Commissioners that Parks Commission agrees, and Parks staff will start moving forward.

Marisa asked if the wetlands within the park affect the process or the ability for building; Tom shared that there is a wetland and part of the design for the park is expanding the wetlands, along with turning into more of an educational area. Marion County Public Works stormwater division will be handling that portion of the project and it will not affect the ARPA funds Marion County parks

received. The plans for Parkdale are concentrated in the front half of the park and the only development that will happen near the wetland is the pathway. Another addition to the wetland area is opening up the drainage culvert, which is already in place, into a natural vegetated ditch.

Marisa asked about installing fence between the park and the property in the back right corner of the property; Tom shared they are putting up fencing on the park side of the property.

Al asked about potential mosquito issues with expanding the wetland; Tom stated he hasn't seen that as an issue but it's something to consider.

Wayne asked if there's a place in mind for the public outreach town hall; Tom stated that they had People's Church, which is located in the area, in mind.

Santiam Canyon Recovery Plan

Wayne asked Tom if he was asking for action on the recovery plan at this meeting; Tom stated that that would be great but if they need more time to review, it can happen at the next meeting.

Tom provided a recap of the recovery plan with the Commission. The goal is that this would be adopted as an amendment to the existing master plan.

Tom shared that the Parks Commission could review the Parks Master Plan at the next meeting for a refresher.

The process for adoption is approval from the Parks Commission, then going to the Board of Commissioners, a public hearing and finally approval with a board order from the Commissioners.

Tom asked the Parks Commission how they would like to see outreach, to both the canyon residents and visitors from the entire county, be done. Tom shared they were thinking surveys, town halls and meetings alike in the future.

Yancee shared that for the canyon outreach they usually do social media and physical media in various areas. This includes getting people introduced to the idea and then provide outlets for people to have physical to really engage with and provide their feedback.

Herschel mentioned various groups, such as bicycling, fly fishing and equestrian groups, whose feedback would be helpful. He mentioned that those groups don't always have social media and physical media would be beneficial. Tom shared that if there were any groups the Parks Commissioner add in mind should be on the stakeholder list.

The Parks Commission had discussion on other stakeholders. Marisa mentioned the Humane Society for dogs, Herschel brought up those who have disabilities and Tom brought up the Oregon Adaptive Sports group.

Wayne brought up the topic of creating issue with local residents and county sheriff's department with the outreach plan; Tom stated the situation is being discussed within a recreation group that

manages the North Fork Rd. The idea of a gatehouse has been discussed and funding has been received for that project.

The gatehouse would assist with parking issues and questions about the area.

Wayne asked if it would be staffed or an iron ranger and where it would be located; Tom shared it would be both. On busier times, there would be a person and then when usage is low, an iron ranger would be used. They are looking at options on Gates Hill, along with having a camp host for the camping sites in the future to assist with vacancy, parking and other park related items.

Katy mentioned she wants to make sure Linn County residents are aware of the recovery plan and would like informational flyers to put at Gates and Mill City Halls.

Tom mentioned the idea of a public transportation route that services the canyon parks. Katy mentioned a park and ride situation would be awesome.

Katy asked about zip code specific for canyon days for crowd control; Tom stated they have considered National Public Lands Day and Veterans discounts. There will be an annual parking pass with discounts for residents.

Katy asked about working with BLM for the annual parking pass; Tom stated it's in the works with BLM, Forest Service and Marion County working together.

Jim Day asked for clarification on the public hearing; Tom stated there will be formal public hearing before the adoption of the amendment to the Parks plan.

Marisa asked about the Parks Commissioners joining the public outreach meeting; Tom stated that would be wonderful if they were to join and talk about the process.

Katy asked about the town halls and recommended one be held on 22 in the canyon; Tom shared they will be holding a town hall in the canyon, and they are unsure of how many they would be holding as they aren't determined yet.

Wayne recommended the Parks Commission bring the approval of the Santiam Canyon parks recovery plan, as an amendment to the Parks Master Plan, to the January meeting.

Jim Day asked about the November 30th meeting Tom shared; Tom wasn't sure of the details but confirmed it was the meeting the Board of Commissioners visited areas throughout the county and stated it wasn't dedicated to discussion of the Santiam Canyon Recovery Plan, but it could be brought up there.

Commissioner Roundtable

Bob was impressed with how thorough the Santiam Canyon Recovery Plan was.

Herschel discussed the microgrants for bike racks that the City of Keizer applied for to install at Keizer Rapids Park.

Herschel also shared that Marion County gave the City of Keizer \$2 million dollars to install soccer fields at Keizer Rapids Park. They have a wish list for the park of \$10 million dollars, and they are in discussions on that.

Marisa asked if we have a social media manager within the Parks Commission; Tom stated that Yancee is the social media manager for Public Works and manages the Environmental Services Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Tom shared they are working on a revamp for the Marion County Parks page.

Tom shared exploring the idea of a parks foundation as a potential future project.

Jim Day asked about the timetable for approval at the January meeting; Tom stated that would be a discussion for the future. Tom shared that the construction for 2023 is more about rebuilding what was lost in the fire.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 19, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m.