

**MARION COUNTY  
Parks Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023  
Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm  
Location: Zoom or Willamette Conference Room at Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE

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

**Absent:** Chris Teichroew

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

**Guests:** Kathy Rogers

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 January 19, 2023 minutes**

**Motion:** Herschel made a motion to accept minutes with the noted changes. Al seconded.

**Discussion:** None.

**Result:** A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Parkdale Project Update & Letter of Support**

Tom shared that in January they shared the plan with the Hayesville Jan-Ree Neighborhood Association, a live survey can be found on the park's website and mailers will be going on later on for those living around Parkdale. They are currently in the design process with their contractors for the park.

Tom discussed a letter of support from the Parks Commission for the Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) for Parkdale park. The Board of Commissioners signed a resolution to apply for the Parkdale grant this week as well. These additional grant funding would help with amenities that the ARPA funding isn't covering such as a nature play area and a fenced dog area.

Bob Emanuel asked what the amount was; Tom stated this grant is a 50/50 match so the total would be around ~\$700,000.

Katy would like to sign the letter of support as the Vice-Chair.

#### **Signature and support of letter for Parkdale Grant**

**Motion:** Herschel made a motion to sign the support letter for the Parkdale grant. Bob seconded.

**Discussion:** Wayne asked what the hearing date was; Tom shared it would be June/July. Bob asked if there was additional documentation with this grant; Tom shared this was a very large grant. Hersch suggested getting a letter of support from the school district. Wayne asked about Land and Water holding Marion County Parks; Tom stated they had been released.

Kathy asked Tom about the total amount of money and the mailers; Tom stated the ARPA grant money was secured and if they are able to get the LGGP money, it would double the amount of funds and they are looking at a 1–2-mile radius around Parkdale. The target date is summer of 2024 for construction of Parkdale. Kathy asked if they had talked to the neighbors directly around Parkdale; Tom stated they went door to door last week to talk with the neighbors. Kathy stated she was happy to hear they were putting in more parking.

**Result:** A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

### **Santiam Canyon Recovery Plan**

Tom stated the next step in the plan approval process is public outreach; some dates for the public meetings are April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Elkhorn Fire Station and another coming up on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Mehama Community Center. These meetings are multi-agency meetings with BLM, ODFW, USFS, SO and Marion County attending. Tom shared this plan adoption would help their grant application process since the master plan would include the plans for the Santiam Canyon Recovery.

Tom shared the Board of Commissioners is having a public meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> at Gates Firehall.

Tom discussed upcoming volunteer opportunities that the Commission could attend. April 1<sup>st</sup> is a tree giveaway event at North Santiam Park and April 2<sup>nd</sup> is a tree planting event at Packsaddle Park.

Tom shared in the next meeting; they will talk more about what they have planned for the summer within the canyon.

### **2023 Goals and Retreat Discussion**

Wayne opened up the discussion with a suggestion for a Parks Commission retreat to plan their 2023 goals. Tom had requested a couple of ideas for the retreat and Wayne asked how the response was for the appointment date and May 13<sup>th</sup> was the date that worked for those who responded.

Tom shared that the retreat would help with defining where the Parks Commission is headed, and the Commissioners would like to provide their own feedback, along with hearing from the Parks Commission. Tom stated it was an option for staff to find speakers on information that the Parks Commission wanted to hear about. Tom asked the Commission to take the next couple months to explore parks and think about topics to hear about during the retreat. Katy stated she would like to learn more about online reservation systems; Tom shared they are currently in an RFP process for an online reservation system. Wayne asked about whether or not the reservation system would be able to hook up with other agencies; Tom stated he wasn't able to discuss it as the RFP was still open.

Hersch stated we should be thinking about traffic safety when we are creating parks and suggested bringing a professional in to discuss that; Tom shared that our internal traffic engineer, Carl Lund, would be happy to engage with us on that.

Steve asked about the piece of property behind a fire station and doing a partnership with the owner of that property; Tom shared that they have had a conversation with Capital FC about the park and that's a great topic to explore.

Marisa asked how we could reach out to and hear the concerns of those people that live right next to Marion County Parks and if we could provide an option for them to communicate; Tom shared Steve is at the parks hearing those complaints and concerns most of the time and loved the idea of a portal or something. Marisa asked about the beaver at Joryville; Tom is looking into a beaver pond leveler that allows the beaver dam to exist, but it allows the water to exit the area.

Alton shared that a friend of his is thinking of building a park that doesn't allow motor vehicles, but people can access the park by walking, biking or hiking in. Alton stated we should be thinking about the impact of parks on those individuals who live in the area. Alton also discussed the idea of game cameras to monitor parks; Tom stated they currently have those at Scotts Mills park, and they could discuss that as well.

Hersch brought up the trend piece of pickleball; Tom stated OPRD is coming out with their updated SCORP and there should be more information on that.

Tom brought up the idea of climate friendly design when developing parks and buildings. Tom also brought up the topic of universal design which goes further than ADA planning for a park and has a broader focus when constructing parks. Wayne brought up the ORPA and asked if there was a representative who attends those meetings; Tom shared that he attends.

Wayne requested that we look at additional dates in June for the retreat.

### **Auburn Conversion Project Update**

Tom stated that in November of 2018, Marion County sold Auburn park to the Salem-Keizer school district. This sale was in the Land and Water portfolio, which means when the land was sold, the land

had to be replaced with something that had equal or greater recreational value. Tom is currently working through a process for a six-acre parcel of land, that is right next to Scotts Mills Park.

After the land has transferred hands, there is a process through the state in which the land needs to go through. Potential areas of development would be expanding in the current field and parking.

Wayne asked about the county paying taxes on the property; Tom shared that the county does not pay taxes on its own property. This is not a property that is creating a lot of taxes right now.

There will be a planning process and those will be shared with the Commission later this year.

### **Parks Foundation Discussion**

Tom brought up the idea of a Parks Foundation for Marion County and the Scotts Mills transaction presented an opportunity that Marion County doesn't currently have; a lot of the smaller parks use Oregon Parks Forever for their transactions.

Hersch stated City of Keizer is partnered with Oregon Parks Forever. He asked about the accounting side of it; Tom asked the question of whether it would be appropriate to have it within Marion County or have an outside organization manage the account for them. This fund would be transparent, and the Parks Commission could have input on what they would like to see done with that pool of money.

### **Commissioner Roundtable**

Wayne thanked Marion County for the advisory board training that happened in February. Hersch also commented on what was discussed during the training. Bob enjoyed the different topics that were covered.

Hersch mentioned he attended the Oregon Conference of Traffic Safety. Hersch also shared that there is a bike safety event on June 10<sup>th</sup> and on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Bob brought up the topic of an adopt-a-park program. Tom mentioned they have had that program in the past, but they could revisit it at the retreat.

Tom shared that Malcolm resigned from the Parks Commission.

Dennis, Public Works Deputy Director, could show the Parks budget at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 18, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m.