

**MARION COUNTY
Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023
Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Location: Zoom or Silver Creek Conference Room at Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE

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

Absent: Chris Teichroew

Staff: Tom Kissinger, Natalie Tomaszewski

Guests: Kathy Rogers, Jim Day

Quorum: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

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

Member and Staff introductions: Members and staff were introduced.

Attendance/Rollcall: Done.

Agenda Changes: None.

Approval of March 16, 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

Tom shared a background on Parkdale park with the commission, including what progress has been so far and what public outreach efforts have been completed.

Tom also shared the concept plans with the commission and walked them through the different elements of A & B, such as the wetland expansion, the dog area, picnic shelters and playground. The commission had discussion on the different aspects of the proposed concept plans. Tom discussed

the plan for an embankment slide and shadow play within the playground which are more nature-based aspects. Tom stated copies of the concept plans would be sent out to the commission after the meeting.

Tom went into detail about the public outreach that they have done so far, which included creating an online survey and sending out 4,802 mailers with drop-in-box postcards.

Herschel asked where the bike racks are going; Tom stated we received the same grant that the City of Keizer received from ODOT and Marion County is in the grant agreement process right now. They will be placed near the flexible use area near the beginning of the park.

Wayne brought up the idea of mosquitoes within the park; Tom shared they are definitely a consideration. The concept of bat boxes within the park was brought up as well.

Katy commented that she liked the addition of the trees and the 360 hillside.

Marisa commented that a dog friendly turf would be a good idea for the dog area. Tom shared they would be doing an analysis on what product would be the best. He also shared that the maintenance of the park as a whole will go down as there will be less area to mow. Another consideration is keeping the gravel parking lot that is there currently if they aren't able to secure the matching grant funds. Marisa brought up the concern of construction in the area; Tom stated they are aware of it and have put that as a question on the survey.

Marion County submitted a matching grant application the Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) through Oregon State Parks and will be presenting in June.

Santiam Canyon Recovery Plan Update

Tom shared with the commission that they have had four meetings in total; two being broader and discussing recovery in general and then the other two being specifically focused on the Santiam Canyon plan. There was good turnout at the meetings, and they conducted dot exercises at each meetings that allowed attendees to interact with the maps.

One of the biggest concerns that was heard was the amphitheater concept at Salmon Falls; Tom clarified that this wouldn't be for concerts but for interpretative talks or educational purposes. The new rate structure and addition of a park host will also hopefully deter party goers from staying at Salmon Falls and encourage more of a family-oriented audience.

The Elkhorn group's biggest concern was with trespassing in the area; they are hoping to mitigate that issue by installing a barrier such as a berm or fencing in between the two properties.

Bear Creek and North Fork were had a much more positive response.

One of the major issues within the North Fork Corridor area is parking; Marion County is currently exploring options such as a shuttle bus and new partnerships with BLM and Forst Service to help

address this issue.

Tom shared they are shooting for a July public hearing and August adoption date for the plan. There is a currently a North Fork Recreation Group meeting that is pushing the multi-agency, long term concept along. There are many aspects of a comprehensive agreement, one being a multi-agency pass.

Tom updated the commission on the tree giveaway event and the tree planting event at Packsaddle, both of which had a great turnout. Upcoming volunteer events include the Weed Wrangle at North Santiam park on June 4th and Bat Box Day of Fun sometime in July.

2023 Goals and Retreat Discussion

Wayne brought up the idea of pushing the Parks Retreat to sometime in the Fall due to workload and vacations during the summer; Tom agreed with this and stated that would also give us more time to plan. Some of the topics that the commission would like to discuss include online reservation system, traffic safety, new parks, communications with public, impact of parks (climate, community), SCORP and universal design. Marion County staff will send out a Doodlepoll for dates in the Fall for the retreat and another link for the commissioners to whittle down the topics they would like to discuss.

Tom mentioned there was an interested applicant will be joining us at our next meeting.

Scotts Mills Project Update

Tom shared that they will be closing on the property at Scotts Mills and six acres to the existing footprint in the next couple of days. He also shared that the donor, Terry Caster, passed away about eight hours after signing the purchase and sale agreement and we did receive a request from his daughter to consider doing something for him within the park.

Future processes for this park include going through a similar process that Parkdale went through, and they will be working with AKS again.

Tom commented that the dam is still an open question as there is still a grant but haven't heard much engagement from the Pudding River Watershed Council.

Jim asked where the section of land was and how soon they could use the land; Tom stated it was contiguous to the current park and they will be able to use the land directly after closing.

Parks Foundation Discussion

Tom shared they are working closely with Oregon Parks Forever and would like Seth to come to the July meeting and discuss the work they do and what they've done for Marion County. Tom commented that there are things that a foundation can do that we can't do as a government entity

and it would help us in the rebuilding process.

Parks Naming Subcommittee Future Meeting

Tom shared that the parks naming subcommittee will have an upcoming meeting to review the two requests they have received: one being from Terry's Caster family for Scotts Mills and the other being from the Tofte family again regarding the renaming of North Fork Park. Wayne, Katy, Marisa and Steve will have a meeting to discuss these requests.

Commissioner Roundtable

Alton asked about his reappointment; Natalie mentioned she needs a new application to start that process and he said he would send that along.

Herschel shared that they are putting on a bike skills fair on June 10. He also shared they are installing pickleball courts at Keizer Rapids soon, they are doing maintenance on the turf fields and Keizer's birthday party is on June 16 and June 17.

Marisa asked about the beaver dam at Joryville and signage; Tom commented that they are working on getting an engineer to take a look at the beaver dam and looking into long term solutions regarding property line signage.

Tom shared that the pollinator garden is now up at Eola Bend and will share pictures in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 20, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m.