

**MARION COUNTY
Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, September 21, 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, Katy Waid, Bob Emanuel
Members Present Via Teams: Marisa Roskelley, Steve Staten

Absent: Chris Teichroew, Alton Hoover

Staff: Ryan Wade, Russell Dilley, Brian May, Kevin Cameron

Guests Present Via Teams: Kathy Rogers, Tabitha Henricksen

Quorum: **Yes**

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Wayne called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Member and Staff introductions: Members and staff were introduced.

Attendance/Rollcall: Done.

Agenda Changes: None.

Approval of May 18, 2023 minutes

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

Discussion: None.

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Comment:

None.

Staff Update

Brian shared that Tom Kissinger is no longer employed with Marion County. An extensive recruitment process has been ongoing, and they are close to making an offer to an individual for the Parks Supervisor position. They are hoping to have the new Parks Supervisor start early November.

Brian introduced Marion County Parks staff and what they do.

Parkdale Project Update

Ryan shared the concept plan for Parkdale. The engineering consultants, AKS, has completed 30% of drawing based on the concept and sent an engineered estimate of \$2.6 million dollars for construction. Due to the higher construction estimate, we are working on a phased plan that prioritizes needed infrastructure and amenities.

Ryan shared that Marion County has been awarded the OPRD 2023 Local Government Grant for \$364,854, which doubles our ARPA funding. Marion County is also working on submitting an application for the 2023 ORPD Recreational Trails program grant to construct the trails and bridges in the park. The planned ask for this grant will be \$150,000.

Brain shared that the park will be constructed in phases, starting with the north end of the park, and working towards the wetlands.

Brian shared that the reason they are expanding the wetlands is because of a need for additional detention that was called out in our MS4.

Santiam Canyon Recovery Plan Update

Ryan has shared that BLM has able to get in and start clearing their hazard trees. This means that we might be able to get in there and start work a little bit sooner than we expected. They are expecting to be done in the first week of October and then they want to do a site visit with Marion County mid-October.

Ryan updated the Commission on the status of Salmon Falls. Ryan mentioned that we are in the process of applying for a County Opportunity Grant to design the campground portion. Brian shared that we do have an OWEB grant to address some of the wetlands and restoration pieces. Steve asked if the camping plan was tent only or if it included RV sites as well; Brian shared that the plan didn't include tents and the plan is to do yurts at this site.

Ryan shared that Marion County has a crew out at Bear Creek working on waterway access, building a staircase and Marion County Road Ops is going out next week to get ready to open day use by next May.

Ryan shared that Marion County has an exciting event planned for Minto on November 4th and 5th. Marion County is partnering with SOLVE and Oregon Parks Forever. They are thinking they can get about 100 volunteers out to start building trails, setting up some designated fishing areas, and rebuilding some of the bridges that were lost. Steve asked if there is public access to those roads and if there is also public access to those parks at this time; Brian shared that the Commissioners opened up the road and is now public access however, our parks are not yet open and are typically closed this time of year. They are normally closed the 15th of September and reopen on May 15th.

Wayne shared that he saw a story about North Santiam being donated to Marion County from Oregon State Parks and asked if Brian could share more. Brian shared that it has been an almost two-

year process that has been the works between Marion County and Oregon State Parks. There has been a transition/trial period to see how Marion County handles the campground. Marion County has passed the 2-year trial period, and the property will be returned back to Marion County. We are looking at potentially upgrading the 13 campsites.

2023 Goals and Retreat Discussion

Wayne reminded the Commission that we were thinking of meeting as a group to provide clarity about what we would like to accomplish and what we can provide as an advisory committee to the Commissioners. Because of COVID and other reasons the conversation has yet to have happened. The decision was made to hold off until fall; Wayne asked if anyone had thoughts or ideas regarding the 2023 goals and retreat.

Katy mentioned that if we are going to do this, it should be for 2024 at this point in the year. Katy shared that it would be a good idea to get together and have time to talk about this and anything that's going on in the Canyon or in the parks. Katy also mentioned potentially having an expert or two to discuss those topics.

Wayne shared he didn't want this to be a very structured event.

Hersch shared that there will be a new parks supervisor at Marion County and that their input will be integral in this conversation. Hersch shared that he thinks we need to have a transition time and doesn't believe we will be able to have this conversation until early spring.

Wayne asked if the Commission would be willing to bring this back on the agenda in the winter. The Commission agreed to revisit in the winter.

Bob shared that he liked the idea of having an informal, unstructured meeting, and asked if we are required to have meeting minutes/notes; Brian said we would have to look into it.

Steve mentioned that he would like to not wait until winter to talk about planning a retreat even further out. Steve suggested meeting 8-12 weeks after bringing in Tom's replacement. Brian shared that realistically the replacement will start likely in November and hopefully can be introduced at the next meeting and can discuss scheduling planning at the next meeting.

Scotts Mills Project Update

Brian shared that we did acquire the property. We intentionally have not done anything with the property and will be waiting for the fall/winter season, when Scotts Mills ramps down as far as usage goes. Then they'll be looking at sketching out the trail design.

Summer Season Update

Russ shared he received information from the woman who takes care of all the camp fees, and it looks like the number of nights that we had campers is ninety.

Russ shared that this past season we had Steve, our medium equipment operator and three temps

working. The staff are working in 12 open parks. On a regular basis the staff have to go and clean restrooms and pull trash. On top of that, they are mowing our parks every week. Some projects the crews have completed are brush clearing, trail repair, vandalism cleanup, installing a new table at Eola Bend and installing new stairs near the river at Spong's Landing. The team is currently working on stairway restoration at Bear Creek. Russ showed photos of various problems/projects that they worked on.

Katy shared her safety concerns related to emergency vehicle access due to improper parking and the potential of having a shuttle going to the parks with water access. Marisa commented that Scotts Mills is a park where there are a lot of water related injuries and there aren't many options for parking. Hersch asked if there was recourse to someone parking improperly, such as towing or ticketing; Brian shared that the County hasn't gone to that extreme however, recently the Sheriff's Office announced, via Public Announcement, that they were going to close the park unless there was safe access. Brian also shared that they are looking into grant opportunities for a shuttle at North Fork.

Chair & Vice-Chair Voting

Wayne shared that he has chosen not to run again for Chair; Brian shared his thanks for Wayne's service as Chair. Marisa nominated Katy. Wayne nominated Hersch. Hersch said he would be honored as long as Wayne stayed on as commissioner to be a mentor.

Nominations for Chair

Motion: Marisa made a motion to nominate Katy Wade for Chair. Steve seconded.

Discussion: None.

Result: Hearing no objections, Katy has been nominated for Chair.

Motion: Wayne made a motion to nominate Hersch Sangster for Chair. Alton seconded.

Discussion: None.

Result: Hearing no objections, Hersch has been nominated for Chair.

Vote for Chair Nomination

Wayne asked for a vote from the board for the Chair position.

Vote for Katy: Katy, Marisa, and Steve.

Vote for Hersch: Wayne, Alton, Hersch, and Bob.

Result: Hersch is voted as nominee for Chair.

Nominations for Vice Chair

Motion: Hersch made a motion to nominate Katy Wade for Chair. Marisa seconded.

Discussion: None.

Result: Hearing no objections, Katy has been nominated for Vice Chair.

Vote for Vice Chair

Wayne asked for a vote from the board for the Vice Chair position.

Vote for Katy: A voice vote is unanimous. Katy is voted as nominee for Vice Chair.

Nominations will be brought forward to the Board of Commissioners for appointment.

Commissioners Roundtable

Alton shared his appreciation for his reappointment.

Bob shared his compliments to the staff by stating he appreciates the hard work of the staff this summer.

Hersch agreed with Bob. Hersch also shared that he's done some bike skills fairs in Keizer.

Katy asked if rail trail was still in the works; Brian shared that it is on hold but is still in the works.

Wayne shared that he hopes the Commission members be more present for public hearings.

Commissioner Cameron thanked everyone for volunteering their time. Commissioner Cameron also mentioned that he would like the Commission to be present for the amendment of the Santiam Canyon Recovery Plan.

Brian thanked the parks staff, Natalie, and Wayne for the work they've been doing. Brian also thanked the Commission for their work.

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 16, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m.