

**MARION COUNTY  
Parks Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, January 25, 2024  
Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm  
Location: Teams or Willamette Conference Room at Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE

Present: **Members:** Wayne Rawlins, Bob Emanuel, Herschel Sangster, Alton Hoover, Chris Teichroew (via Teams), Marisa Roskelley (via Teams), Steve Staten (via Teams)

**Absent:** Tabitha Henricksen

**Staff:** Ryan Wade, Brian May, Kevin Thompson, Cory Swartwout, Brian Nicholas, Commissioner Cameron (via Teams)

**Guests Present Via Teams:** None.

Quorum: **Yes**

**ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)**

Hersch called the meeting to order at 10:31 am.

**Member and Staff introductions:** Members and staff were introduced.

**Attendance/Rollcall:** Done.

**Agenda Changes:** None.

**Approval of November 28, 2023 minutes**

**Motion:** Alton made a motion to accept minutes. Marisa seconded.

**Discussion:** None

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

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Welcome – Tabitha Henricksen**

Hersch shared that we have a new member, Tabitha Henricksen, joining at the next Parks Commission meeting.

### **Vice Chair Nominations**

Hersch called for nominations for vice-chair. Alton expressed interest, and no other nominations were made.

#### **Approval to recommend Alton Hoover as Vice-Chair of Parks Commission**

**Motion:** Wayne made a motion to recommend Alton Hoover. Bob seconded.

**Discussion:** None

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

### **Parks Amenities Presentation**

Kevin shared the various options the County is considering for standardizing amenities. Items included benches, tables, trash enclosures, BBQ, fire pits, picnic shelters, informational kiosks, park entrance signs. Hersch asked about bike racks in the parks. Kevin shared there are five parks that will have bike racks and will be implementing bike repair stations as well. Hersch asked if we will be getting the repair stations from CTEC. Kevin wasn't sure but would look into it.

### **Parks Staff Updates**

Kevin shared that Marion County is moving forward with the opening of Bear Creek and North Fork Park on May 15. Parks is also looking to see when the expansion of the second phase of Bear Creek will open for camping and what that would look like. Parks is also working on the OWEB funded projects for revegetation and habitat restoration. The wetland restoration is about to be started at Salmon Falls. The designer is working on that now and is looking to be completed in June of 2025. Parks is also looking to improving the valley parks, such as trails, access, and amenities. There have been some delays in the design and funding for Parkdale. Kevin shared that there was a land slide near the entrance road of Minto Park. Ryan shared that Marion County is bringing in a Geotech to look it over, however Marion County engineers don't think that it is an eminent threat. Kevin shared that there are some traffic related concerns at the curve near the Minto entrance. With the lack of trees along the edge of the road, some have careened off the road, into the park. This is an ODOT responsibility and Marion County is working with them to prevent further accidents. Commissioner Cameron mentioned that he is happy to help get ODOT's attention, if necessary.

### **Spring Canyon Tour**

Hersch shared that he would like to have a tour in April. Kevin stated he preferred that we have the tour during business hours. Staff will be sending out a schedule poll to determine a good date. Brian May shared that the media has requested to join the tour and would like the media to have a separate tour.

### **Commissioners Roundtable**

Wayne shared that he understands that costs for projects have increased enough to diminish what we would like to accomplish. Wayne has questioned for a long time if the County would consider entering discussions with Pacific Corp, since they have been named in a number of different lawsuits from the 2020 fire. Wayne is curious if Marion County could obtain compensation for our sites. Commissioner Cameron commented that it has been three and a half years now and has been a struggle to even get FEMA money. Commissioner Cameron shared that he would discuss this with our legal counsel and the Board of Commissioners.

Bob expressed his compliments on making sure we take our time in thinking out a good plan for the parks and not rushing into updates.

Alton thanked everyone for their trust and support as he assumes the vice-chair position.

Steve shared that he heard from a community member near Joryville Park, stating things are going well there. Steve also shared his thanks for Parks staff during the storms and their ability to keep a focus on the Parks.

Marisa shared that she thinks lawsuits are great if we are wanting to fund our great-great-grandkids' Parks. Marisa also asked about insuring our parks and facilities. Brian Nicholas shared that the County does have the ability to insure but is selective on what we insure. The deductibles are very costly as well. Otherwise, everything is self-insured.

Hersch shared that May 18 is the Keizer Parade this year. River Road will be closed. Hersch is also trying to work with Keizer Elementary to do a Bike Skills event in May.

Brian May shared that Dennis Mansfield is preparing a semi-annual look into the budget and financials for Parks. Brian also shared that there is a big Work Session scheduled, in February, for Parks. Earth Day Event will be April 26<sup>th</sup> at Spongs Landing in Keizer.

Hersch asked if any of the Commission members had any topics they would like to see discussed in the future. Marisa shared that she had a community member asked if the County has considered having allotments (Community Garden).

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 am.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 21, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.