



# MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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**February 15, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**North Santiam Room at 5155 Silverton Road NE, Salem, Oregon**

**Members Present:** Sandy Grulkey, Marty Heyen, George Moeller Wayne Rawlins, Ben Williams

**Public/Guests:** None

**Staff Present:** Brian May, Russ Dilley

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

#### **Approval of December 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Wayne made a motion to approve the December 12, 2016, meeting minutes as submitted. George seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

#### **Public Input**

None.

#### **Commission Member Announcements and Upcoming Events**

Ben said Steve Koch has resigned from Parks Commission because he is no longer a resident of Marion County. He has offered his services as a landscape architect on a volunteer basis for projects such as the proposed disc golf course in Bonesteele Park. Sandy said she regrets he had to resign and really appreciated his work. Ben said having his professional perspective and input has been very helpful to the commission. He said there are now two open positions on the commission and recruitment efforts are underway by the county volunteer coordinator. There was discussion about recruiting new members from state or city parks boards, or retirees from natural resource agencies. Russ said he would contact Lisa Miller to see if she has contacts and can put this in motion.

#### **DECEMBER PARK'S WORK SESSION RECAP**

Brian said the work session in December with the board of commissioners was a great meeting although Commissioner Brentano was not in attendance. He said they discussed the 3-5 year parks plan that included recommendations for capital projects, staffing, and future operations, as well as how the county intends to address issues in the North Fork Recreation Area. Brian said the commissioners were very excited to have engagement about the Parks program. He said they discussed the proposed disc golf course at Bonesteele Park and the potential implications of it being identified as a Natural Heritage Park. He said Russ needs to do research on this matter to ensure they're not operating outside the plan. Russ said the board of commissioners approved a resolution in the early 2000's that identified Natural Heritage Parks not necessarily as a program but as a mechanism for acquisition and he is trying to discover how Bonesteele got this designation. Wayne asked this was done to fit a grant program request. Russ said no, that it was done to boost county park acreage. He said he has researched the issue and has found no official documents regarding the designation. Brian said the board has asked staff to table the disc golf discussion until this is resolved.

Marty asked about the land swap with the Salem-Keizer School District for Auburn Park. Brian said there was discussion about this and the county administrator has heard this property will not work for the school district's purposes.

Brian said the board has been on parks tours so are aware of parks issues and wanted to see information about what has been happening with each of them. He said they talked about staffing and travel time, in particular to the North Fork area, and are trying to create an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with BLM and National Forest Service to better manage that area. He said the county also intends to do parking lot improvements at North Fork Park. Brian said the board was quick to agree that Russ needs help and were happy to hear there was a plan to move forward. George asked if the board agreed to the parks commission's recommendation for priority spending. Brian said they adjusted it slightly but for the most part agreed. Russ said it would not be officially approved until the final budget is presented in June. Ben asked if the message from the board is they are pleased with the work being done on projects and processes by the parks commission and staff. Brian said they were and encouraged all to continue and keep them informed.

## **FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Staff Updates**

- Russ said staff will begin assembly of the new playground equipment at Labish Village Park on March 25. He said they will also spruce up the park and hold a ribbon cutting when the playground opens.
- Russ said they had to buy a new phone for Salmon Falls Park because the previous phone quit working. He said the new phone is an actual emergency phone that is weatherized and automatically dials 9-1-1 when the receiver is picked up.
- Russ said there has been winter storm damage at some parks, in particular at Niagara Park, which appears to have been hit by a microburst that uprooted about 15 trees. There are also trees down at Minto, North Fork, Bear Creek, and Salmon Falls parks.
- Russ said they met with BLM and Forest Service about North Fork area issues. He said they're looking at ways they can work together and partner on park duties. Russ said the park hours for North Fork Park, Salmon Falls Park, and Bear Creek Park day-use area have been changed to 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. to coincide with other parks in the North Fork area. He said the hours for all other county parks will remain 8:00 a.m. to sunset. Russ said the county has a parking fee for the North Fork area and will be installing parking fee stations along North Fork Road and in the county parks for visitors to pay the fees. He said this is being done as a way to address ongoing parking issues in that area. Russ said they have added the ordinance numbers to the park rules signs, which will also be posted in Spanish. He said there will be another BOC work session meeting scheduled to provide updates on issues and the budget.
- Russ said they are still interviewing for a park host at Bear Creek Park.
- Russ said polo shirts with a Marion County Parks logo are being ordered for parks staff.
- Russ said two of the parks aides that are being hired will be working out of Public Works' Aumsville shops, which will cut down on their travel time to parks in the canyon.

### **Other Business**

Ben said Friends of Historic Butteville submitted a grant application of \$17,500 last month to complete Phase 1 of the project. He said the request is for a topographical survey of landing, an engineering assessment and project documents for grading, layout, etc., and landscape architecture plans. He said one copy will be delivered to Marion County. He said Steve Koch has a cousin that is a surveyor who gave a quote a third less than the county surveyor. Ben said after March 1 the county has to decide if they want to go after an Oregon Parks grant to complete the work.

### **Future Topics**

- Discuss 2017-18 Parks Budget.

**ADJOURN:** 11:09 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** May 23, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the North Santiam Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor) at Public Works.