



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE MEETING

February 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

North Santiam Room at 5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marty Heyen, Steve Koch, Wayne Rawlins, Ben Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandy Grulkey, George Moeller

STAFF PRESENT: Alan Haley, Russ Dilley, Jolene Bray

BOC LIAISON: Commissioner Sam Brentano

PUBLIC SIGNED IN: Gerald Abbot, June Abbott, Kay Van Cleef, Bruce Teeters, Dan and Bonnie Fredrickson, and Elizabeth Black, all from Salem Green Estates;
Michael Johnson, East Salem Suburban Neighborhood Association (ESSNA)

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

- **Welcome and Introductions**

Ben called the meeting to order and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

- **Approval of February 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Ben said he had one correction to the previous meeting minutes. He said the minutes incorrectly listed Steve Koch and Bill Ruff as being on the Friends of French Prairie Board of Directors, and they are actually on the Butteville Landing Steering Committee. Marty made a motion to approve the February 18, 2016, meeting minutes with this correction. Wayne seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

- **Public Input**

Ben told public attendees that there was time constraints because a parks commissioner would be leaving early, which at that point would leave them without a quorum and unable to make decisions. He said in order to allow enough time for other agenda items, ten minutes would be allotted to members of the public. Gerald Abbot said the group all owned homes at Salem Green Estates next to Auburn Park and were attending today because of problems with rodents. Mr. Abbot said he had spoken with Russ Dilley and discovered there was an 11 foot strip of property between the park and Green Estates that is not county property and belongs to a developer in Beaverton. Mr. Abbot said rodents are causing damage to the nearby green space and resident's properties. He said the park is littered with trash and needles, residents have seen rats, and a large section of it is swampy. Russ said the county juvenile crews are maintaining the park and mowed it last week but do not maintain the 11 foot strip, which he only discovered two days ago was not county property. Residents asked the county to consider donating the park property to the school district. Ben asked if the underlying problem was slope and drainage. Mr. Abbot said he was told that Green Estates doesn't have stormwater drainage into the city system and he would like to investigate that further.

Alan said it's important to find the root cause of why there is a rodent population. He said he doesn't know the drainage in the park but knows where the water flows and there is nothing producing water in the park, so it should be barren grass and not a big marsh area. He said he will send staff out to look into this and see if they can discover what is causing the water issue. Steve said as this moves forward it would be good to get Public Works' assessment on the drainage because it's an important consideration in looking at how property is developed. Residents asked how they will receive info about what is

discovered and decided. Russ said he will share this information with Michael Johnson, with the East Salem Suburban Neighborhood Association (ESSNA), and he will share with residents.

- **Commission Member Announcements and Upcoming Events**
None.

PROJECT / MAINTENANCE PLAN AND BUDGET / PROJECT SELECTION

Alan said the county is looking at potentially moving some funding from the county general fund to the parks fund for maintenance and capital purchases. He said the board of commissioners is looking for a list of maintenance priorities and he said he would begin planning how to frame a maintenance plan. Alan said he and Russ worked to put together a draft list of ten considerations for prioritizing maintenance needs and the factors considered include safety, accessibility, level of service, age of systems, preventative measures, efficiencies, aesthetics, funding, future considerations, and standards/upgrades. Alan said the maintenance needs were taken from the parks master plan with some additional projects added by staff. He shared a draft list with the commission and said this was one way to provide input to the board and budget committee regarding maintenance funding and capital purchases, but said the parks commission can make changes.

Alan said the maintenance plan will be used for next year's budget so he needs feedback from the commission by February. He said he would like the commission to develop a top ten list for the next budget year, but it can be worked on continuously. Alan said when he met with the board of commissioners about what is happening up the North Fork they prioritized all of those issues, which are safety issues, as a number one because they have to be done. He said this year's budget package, which totals approximately \$100,000, includes:

- Paving of parking lots at some North Fork area parks
- New picnic shelter at Joryville Park
- New playground equipment at Labish Village Park
- Installation of stairs and decommissioning of an existing trail at Salmon Falls Park
- New parks signs at Minto, Niagara, and Bear Creek parks

Commissioner Brentano said he was troubled by community parks, which are created when developers are required to set aside green space for parks that the county is then required to maintain. He said in the future he believes there should be a condition that the homeowners in the development have an association that maintains the community park, not the county. He said he has looked at the priorities for maintenance of community parks and would like to see some additional maintenance money directed to Auburn Park. Alan said staff disagreed that this park was not being cared for but will investigate. Commissioner Brentano asked Alan to discuss with the board at a future Management Update meeting.

Marty asked if any of the considerations are more important than the others. Alan said numbering them 1-10 was only a way to identify them. Wayne asked if priorities would change based on funding source (e.g., general fund dollars vs grant dollars). Alan said if a project has dedicated funding it will be in the top priority list because that funding is targeted. All agreed to use this priority plan and list, and to work on at each future parks commission meeting. Steve asked if an aerial photo of each park could be provided that would assist with future discussions. Ben said he would work with Russ and this will be an action item at the next meeting. He also asked that commission members familiarize themselves with the project list before the next meeting. Alan said if there are particular projects the commission has an interest in, staff will make information about that available at the next meeting. Commissioner Brentano said the board of commissioners wants to put more resources into parks and prioritizing projects will help them decide where allocated general fund dollars will go.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

- **Butteville Landing Project**
Russ shared some photos of the area that has been cleaned by a public works crew. He said the crew cleaned out ivy and cleared out downed trees, although the downed trees that washed ashore are still

there. Russ said the survey crew found monuments and put up temporary markers where the boundary lines are expected to be. He said the crews accomplished this work in two days. Ben said this was a great job and really well done. Alan said the clean-up and survey work done by Public Works is allowed because this is county property but moving beyond that requires board approval. He said the property is not park or road property and this project it is not budgeted, so a decision needs to be made if there will be a change in the type of property it is in the future. Alan said he will bring this project to an upcoming Management Update meeting with the board of commissioners and will need abstracts and information about potential grants. Russ said he went out the week before the cleanup and contacted neighbors, and all were fine with the work being done. Ben said he's got feedback from several residents who are supportive and encouraged the county to keep up the good work.

- **Parks Commission at Community Meetings**

Ben asked for clarification about parks commission members attending public meetings. Alan said when he suggested this in the previous parks commission meeting his intent was that commission members would participate in existing community meetings, such as ESSNA, whereas a Butteville meeting is a project specific meeting. He said he thinks a community meeting in Butteville is good but he needs to learn if the board of commissioners supports the project. Alan said what was suggested was that different parks commission members would attend different community meetings, not that various parks commission meetings be held around the county. He said neighbors are holding a community meeting up the North Fork about existing issues and suggested a parks commission member attend. Commissioner Brentano said he supported Alan in this approach. He said it would be nice to have field trip type meetings, such as to Auburn Park, where they would notify the public and let the community attend and ask questions. He said the Butteville meeting feels more like an open house meeting to gather information. Wayne suggested a facilitator be used for the Butteville meeting. Commissioner Brentano said if the purpose of the meeting is for the parks commission to talk about a particular issue with neighbors, that shouldn't be a problem. Ben said he met with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department last week. He said OPRD doesn't want any more property for the same reason Marion County doesn't but they are pleased that the county has taken an interest in this property.

- **Other Business**

- Commissioner Brentano said he read about new legislation that changes the liability of public facilities and wants to research that.
- Wayne asked about Jeff's replacement. Alan said that position has been advertised for three weeks, will be open for one more week, and will be refilled.
- Commissioner Brentano said there was discussion about making commissioners members of advisory boards where they are currently serving as liaisons and he will be opposing that. He said he's happy to attend and receive feedback but feels it is wrong to direct recommendations. Ben said he thought it was very valuable to have a county commissioner as a liaison.

- **Staff Updates**

- Seasonal Marion County Parks are opening May 1.
- Juvenile crews will start building the new Salmon Falls stairway on May 1 and it will be approximately a three month process.
- BLM is still removing trees from North Fork and want to be done in early May.
- Bear Creek Park and Campground host is returning this year.
- Temporary park aide is starting back May 1.
- Spong's Landing playground has been installed and will be available when the park opens on May 1. The fall zone will be maintained regularly by the juvenile crew.

ADJOURN: 11:34 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 9, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Pudding Room at Public Works.