



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Management Update Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5231, Commissioners Boardroom

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Colm Willis, Sam Brentano, and Kevin Cameron, Jan Fritz, Jane Vetto, Laurie Steele, Brian Nicholas, Jeff White, Brian May, Scott Norris, Tom Kissinger, Russ Dilley, Barb Young, Lisa Trauernicht, Chad Ball, Jolene Kelley, and Kristy Witherell as recorder.

GUESTS:

Wayne Rawlins, Marion County Parks Commission

Jan Fritz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL:

Marion County Parks Update

- Russ Dilley, Brian May

Summary of presentation:

- Mr. Dilley gave an update of the fire damage to the parks within Marion County;
- There is extensive fire damage to all six parks;
- Three are located on Highway 22, and three are located on North Fork Road;
- North Fork Park:
 - There was 85 percent tree loss;
 - The fee collection kiosk burned;
 - The garbage can holders burned and melted;
 - Parking lot entrance and exit roads are still intact;
 - The concrete picnic tables are okay;
 - The wooden picnic tables on the beach survived, but there are burn holes in the top; and
 - Public Works is in contact with the Bureau of Land Management for the cleanup process.
- Bear Creek Park:
 - The park host and the campers were evacuated safely;
 - There is 100 percent tree loss;
 - Some picnic tables survived, but most burned;
 - Garbage can holders melted;
 - Bathroom damaged;
 - Park vehicle burned;
 - Stairs to the river burned;

- Fee collection kiosk burned;
- The well house is gone;
- The electrical melted; and
- The safe is still there, but the knob is melted off:
 - There were contents in the safe, but it is not a fire safe so the contents probably burned as well.
- Salmon Falls:
 - 100 percent tree loss:
 - Some of it was to fire and some of it was to blow down.
 - Both fee collection kiosks are gone;
 - The life jacket stand burned;
 - The garbage can stands burned and melted;
 - The restroom is intact, but a tree fell on it and snapped off part of the roof;
 - The stairway is partially gone; and
 - The split rail fencing is partially gone.
- Minto Park:
 - 80 percent tree loss;
 - Garbage can holders melted;
 - The access bridges all burned;
 - The stairway is gone;
 - The picnic tables are all gone;
 - The restrooms are intact;
 - The lower part of the park around the river needs more evaluation; and
 - The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has already cut down the trees along the highway:
 - Brushed, decked, and stacked the trees; and
 - Cleared the park roads for the county.
- Packsaddle Park:
 - 80 percent tree loss;
 - Most of the amenities survived;
 - A lot of debris down;
 - This will give the county the chance to reconfigure the parking lot area to benefit the visitors;
 - ODOT has removed the trees like they did at Minto Park; and
 - Meeting with the marine board next week onsite to discuss possible layout changes of the boat ramp:
 - There are grants that the county can apply for to help facilitate these plans.
- Niagara Park:
 - 100 percent tree loss;
 - The foot bridge survived;
 - The old Niagara sign was spared;
 - The well house and the well are gone;
 - The restrooms are damaged;
 - The chain link fence has been crushed;

- The metal stairs are intact, but have not been evaluated for stability; and
 - ODOT has cut down 75 percent of the trees.
- The county has turned in their damage estimates to FEMA;
- Parks falls under category G;
- There is a program for certain types of facilities, which parks is one of them;
- There is an option if FEMA agrees to cash out:
 - The county would not return the parks to pre-loss condition;
 - There would be an opportunity to take 75 percent of the agreed amount;
 - The only issue with the cash out is if there are further issues found after the fact, the county could not go back to FEMA and recoup that money;
 - Relieved of returning the park to the pre-loss condition;
 - Can receive the money sooner than the 75 percent, 25 percent county match; and
 - Gives the county the ability to implement a strategy to invest in parks for revenue generating.
- Total impact is 130 acres to the six parks:
 - A lot of the cost is from tree loss;
 - Clearing the park;
 - Takes into consideration the road infrastructure;
 - Any other amenities; and
 - Public Works used construction costs to come up with their numbers.
- Public Works have had several requests in the past to rename parks:
 - Currently Marion County does not have a procedure to address these requests;
 - Current Marion County park names are based on location:
 - Historical figures; and
 - Individuals that have made major contributions to the creation of parks.
 - State Parks does have a restrictive naming criteria policy so there is not a perception that it is owned by a person when the parks are owned by the public;
 - Seeking guidance from the board to pursue a naming procedure;
 - The Marion County Parks Commission is meeting next Thursday;
 - The commissioners would like a memorial of the victims of the Beachie Creek Fire; and
 - There has been a request to consider renaming a park after Wyatt Tofte who died in the Beachie Creek Fire:
 - The commissioners would like the Marion County Parks Commission to take the matter up for consideration.

Commissioners Day

- Jolene Kelley

Summary of presentation:

- Commissioners Day is one day off offered to employees that can be taken between November 15th and January 31st;

- The letter has been changed this year in acknowledgement of the tough year that the county has experienced; and
- The commissioners approve giving employees a Commissioners Day this year.

BEACHIE CREEK FIRE UPDATE:

- Public Assistance (PA) liaison has been assigned to the county and will be meeting at 1:00 p.m. today;
- The ODOT Debris Removal meeting, which is a weekly check-in meeting, is on Thursdays at 1:00p.m.:
 - Issue today is Breitenbush:
 - U.S. Forest Service is not taking proactive action on getting in for damage assessments;
 - There are 71 homes that are in the area;
 - Some are primary and some are secondary residences;
 - Some of the homes were so old that they weren't insured;
 - Some of the leases were grandfathered to the owners; and
 - Have collected more than 30 right-of-entry forms from the lease holders.
- ODOT has selected the oversight consultant:
 - Has issued the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the hazard tree removal before the ground cleanup;
 - Issuing the RFP for phase two debris cleanup contractors;
 - Public Works has asked to look at the contracts in order to provide feedback; and
 - Will select the contractors before Thanksgiving.
- On the Wildfire Economic Recovery Council Meeting they stated that they were including commercial properties under the FEMA debris removal;
- FEMA hosted a three-day training last week regarding disaster recovery;
- Talked with the Mayor of Detroit and Councilor Engle regarding the water system in the City of Detroit:
 - At least nine to fifteen weeks out for potable water in the area;
 - Insurance coverage paid for the temporary filtration plant that was brought in;
 - The city is working on applying for a USDA loan for the water plant; and
 - The county is still bringing a water truck to the city for people that are living there full time.
- FEMA has told the state that if RV's are allowed to be back on the property before the soil cleanup is done, then it will not qualify for cleanup;
- If an individual has property with no house on it, but fire damage to the property, and the property was not insured and it was not a primary residence, FEMA has stated that it is not eligible for federal cleanup:
 - The state may pay for the cleanup on those sites.
- Cost recovery:
 - Had a first meeting internally to get a project list together;
 - Working with the PA liaison on cost recovery for the fairgrounds operations:

- Emergency Operations Center.
- Meeting with the Sheriff's Office to get their projects categorized;
- Public Works has been categorized; and
- After the 1:00 p.m. meeting today, Public Works will be scheduling out the scoping meetings:
 - Will have 60 days to get everything turned into FEMA.

COVID UPDATE:

- The new OSHA rules came out:
 - New signage OSHA created that will need to be posted around the building.
- The commissioners would like to send a letter to the governor regarding not closing businesses in order to slow the spread of COVID; and
- The vaccine may be coming out in December and will be eligible for healthcare workers first:
 - General distribution will not be available until the spring.

OTHER:

Brian Nicholas:

- Emergency Watershed Protection Program letter of interest is due this Friday;
- Willing to propose that the county is to act as a sponsor:
 - The county will not commit to resources;
 - There is a section of Jennie Lane that has erosion:
 - Gives the county an opportunity to get revetment to stabilize the erosion.
 - There is a segment up North Fork Road that is in similar condition:
 - It does not qualify for FEMA because the county cannot substantiate damage; and
 - FEMA will not pay for the revetment that this program would pay for.
- The match is gas tax eligible;
- Hazard tree removal and reseeding would be what the county would advocate for, but it would be Soil and Water Conservation District Funding or the Watershed Council that the match would come from;
- This is a letter of interest;
- The process is the same as federal highway grants; and
- The match will not come from General Fund.

Legislative Update:

- Speaker Kotek would like regular session to start on time, but unsure when it will start;
- Talked about having 48 hours' notice between first, second, and third readings:
 - Holding one committee hearing at a time;
 - Looking at bandwidth issues; and
 - Holding two meetings a week.
- Special Session on November 23 and 24, 2020:

- Unsure of the topic;
- AOC found a defensible space requirements bill around wildfires that may be talked about at Special Session:
 - No one knows who submitted it;
 - Includes what people need to do to protect their homes;
 - There is a tiny piece on building codes stating that they will set up a workgroup to figure out where gaps and barriers are; and
 - Heavy on utilities.
- Senator Girod approved the rough draft on Conforming Uses Bill:
 - Waiting on the final legislative draft.
- Have not received a draft bill regarding proration of property taxes from the Assessor yet.

Jane Vetto and Jeff White:

- A California 501(c) buys mobile home parks in the area, fixes them up, and raises the rent by up to four percent;
- They would need to hold a TEFRA hearing for approval;
- Once they make these purchases, they ask for a property tax exemption, and they often get 40 to 60 percent off of their taxes:
 - The county would lose \$10,000 on the exemption.
- There are three mobile home parks in Woodburn and two in Hubbard that they are interested in purchasing;
- The group suggested that this is a significant deal for them, and are asking for the county to negotiate a deal;
- The company stated that the county can ensure that there is affordable housing in the area and restrictions on rent increases;
- There is not an inventory list of affordable housing;
- The commissioners concern is how this will help the citizens living in the mobile home parks;
- The company purchasing the properties need to issue the bonds by December 19th:
 - The hearing has to happen no later than the first week of December.
- The commissioners would like this matter to come before the board at a public hearing in order to get their questions answered; and
- Mr. Ball will send Legal Counsel examples of TEFRA hearings.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

COMPLETED BY: **Kristy Witherell**
 Reviewed by: *Joanna Ritchie*