



Work Session Summary Minutes

Parks Update

January 9, 2024. 9:30 AM
 Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
 5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Kevin Cameron, Colm Willis, and Danielle Bethell.

Board's Office: Jan Fritz, Chad Ball, Chris Eppley, Toni Whitler, and Alvin Klausen.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Public Works: Dennis Mansfield and Kevin Thompson.

Marion County Resident: Kathy Rogers.

Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Summary

Discussed the transfer of ownership of North Santiam Park from State Parks to the county, with a successful trial period and legal review of the deed. The board session will present the deed for approval. Updates included the fee schedule for park usage, with a focus on improving accessibility for annual passes and picnic shelter reservations. Challenges at Salmon Falls Park, including parking and restroom relocation, were addressed, with ongoing collaboration with nonprofits like Trail Keepers of Oregon and Oregon Parks Forever. The need for project management for future grants and potential contracting for construction projects was also discussed.

Taking Ownership of North Santiam

- Discussion with State Parks to transfer ownership of North Santiam Park back to the county:
 - Originally a county park, transferred to State Parks in the 1960s.
- The county has successfully completed a 2-year trial period of maintaining the park to industry standards.
- State Parks has provided the county with a deed for the park:
 - Will be presented to the board for approval and signature.
- The deed was reviewed by the county's survey team and legal counsel to ensure all legal descriptions were correct.
- The parks department will create a small presentation for the board session to provide background and explain how the park will be managed.

Updating Parks' Fee Schedule

- The board previously discussed updating fees for camping, day parking, and annual parking passes.

- A board order has been prepared for review and approval of the updated fee schedule.
- The county has options to allow the public to purchase annual parking passes, in person at public works, or by using the pay stations and the QR codes.
- Discuss reserving picnic shelters for shorter periods, such as three hours:
 - Challenging to manage hourly reservations, preference for full-day reservations to avoid staff time management issues.
 - Importance of tracking community feedback on shelter reservations to address potential issues and ensure fair access.

Project Management

- Needs and Potential Funding
 - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)-funded projects:
 - Salmon Falls, Canyon Park replanting and invasive species work, and roadside erosion control & stormwater runoff.
 - Project manager (Ryan Wade) cost is covered by the grants.
 - Parkdale Neighborhood Park:
 - Requires construction project management and will be utilizing PW engineering staff.
- Exploring project management options:
 - Contracting out to local nonprofits or companies based on the project scope and type (landscaping vs. construction).
- Consider applying for grants to fund project management positions:
 - Long-term sustainability of such positions is a concern.

Reopening of Canyon Parks

- Minto Park reopened:
 - Debris removal, and installation of amenities.
 - Collaboration with Trail Keepers of Oregon.
 - Non-profit
 - Passionate about trails
 - Combination of paid staff, volunteers, resources and knowledge
 - Great community engagement, coordinates with local stakeholders
 - Work done to Forest Service standards
 - Oregon Parks Forever has donated \$200,000 for tree plantings and volunteer events.

Salmon Falls

- Lease/Maintenance Option:
 - The first parking lot at Salmon Falls Park is BLM land, and no lease agreement has been in place:
 - Creates complications to charge for parking.
 - Working with BLM to get an agreement for area management and maintenance.
 - The county will reach out to the BLM state director to try to expedite the process.
 - Challenges include understaffing and the needs for a Recreation & Public Purposes Act (R&PP) lease to formalize the agreement.

Quick Update

- Niagara Park:
 - Devastated by the fire and has a significant number of hazard trees.
 - Park is long and narrow.
 - Need geotechnical assessment to evaluate soil stabilization.
- Salmon Park:
 - Need to move restroom to county property.
 - Road work impacts North Fork Road.
 - Expand parking lots and add pay station with potential internet connection:
 - Potentially use Starlink.
 - The second parking lot will have portal bathrooms until permanent facilities are rebuilt.
- Submitted the first reimbursement request to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the first quarter of 2023.
- Meeting regularly with Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) about FEMA's reimbursement process and making necessary adjustments.
- Need to adjust the FEMA plan for structural damage at Salmon Falls and potential reimbursement impact.

Next Steps

- Will track communication on shelter reservations for the first six months to monitor any complaints or concerns.
- Reach out to local manufacturers for potential contributions to bridge projects.
- Prioritize hazard tree identification and mitigation as part of Niagara Park's restoration plan.
- Ensure the Niagara Park gate is secured and not left open.
- Provide an update on the FEMA reimbursement process and next steps.
- Continue to work on securing a lease or agreement with BLM for the Salmon Falls Park parking lot.

Adjourned – time: 10:32 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White