

**MARION COUNTY
Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021
Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Location: Zoom or Willamette Conference Room at Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE

Present: **Members:** Wayne Rawlins, Robert Emanuel, Malcolm Aquinas
Members present via Zoom: Marisa Roskelley, Katy Waid, Steve Staten

Absent: Alton Hoover, Chris Teichroew

Staff: Tom Kissinger, Pattie Phillips, Brian Nicholas

Guests: Herschel Sangster

Quorum: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Wayne called the meeting to order @ 3:05 p.m.

Member and Staff introductions: Marty Heyen resigned. Members and staff were introduced.

Attendance/Roll-call: Done

Agenda Changes: None

Approval of July 15, 2021 minutes

Motion: Malcolm made a motion to accept minutes with corrections. Katy seconded.

Discussion: Malcolm pointed out the misspelling to his name, and requested that parts of the minutes be reworded.

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Approval of August 7, 2021 minutes

Motion: Malcolm made a motion to accept minutes with corrections. Katy seconded.

Discussion: Malcolm pointed out the misspelling to his name, and requested that parts of the minutes be reworded.

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Input: No

Quorum: Yes

Role of Parks Commissioners

Wayne discussed the role of the Parks Commission and reminded members that their role is not

to get involved with staff operations. Commission members should contact Tom, Brian or Russ if they see something going on in the parks that they think needs addressing. The new Parks Commission members may not understand their role.

Bylaws and Handbook

Tom said that the Board of Commissioners passed the most recent version of the bylaws. The big change will be that the Parks Commission went from having only seven members to having between seven and eleven members. There are now three open positions because Marty resigned. The Parks Commission needs to be active and engage because of the upcoming choices and decisions. All commission members will receive an email version of the new bylaws.

Santiam Canyon Update

FEMA

Tom said the results from the project called the Consolidated Resources Center (CRC) came back from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The estimates that FEMA provided were lower than expected and that is because FEMA does not really know the real costs of replacing parks. Tom will be going through the results line by line, like an insurance adjuster and will go back and forth with the CRC until the numbers get closer to what we can expect. Once Marion County knows what FEMA will settle on, then we can figure out how to get the rest of the money for the concept plans that we have from Walker Macy.

Walker Macy

Marion County is currently negotiating a scope and fee for phase 2. Phase 2 is going to take those concepts and layout funding options like the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the new infrastructure bill, and parks fees. That funding plan will look at Marion County parks as a whole not just Santiam Canyon. This will be a 10-year plan that will define how we will rebuild the area.

The last phase focuses on reconstruction by returning the parks to a natural state. With the restoration phase, there has been a lot of interest from other organizations such as state parks, the North Santiam Watershed Council, Marion Soil and Water Conservation. They will work with us to help restore Santiam Canyon and adapt it for the future.

Packsaddle is open to the public, though that can change from day to day depending on what the Oregon Department of Transportation schedule for clearing trees.

Brian Nicholas said that FEMA is not usually included in the recovery process. The interaction to get funds from FEMA will be a battle. Tom said that we are exploring other options because of that.

Staff Updates

Ice Storm

Tom said that clean up from the ice storm was complete except for a small section of Eola Bend. Marion County is working with FEMA again to put together as a recovery package, but a lot of the work that we already performed will not count. What will be reimbursable are instances of when Marion County hired contractors to do part of the cleanup.

Auburn Conversion

Tom said that the Board of Commissioners was presented with Macleay and they responded by asking Marion County to look at other options. Macleay is still an option. Katy asked clarification questions regarding the value of land that for the conversion project.

Road Closure/Gates

Gates were installed at North Fork Road, Pioneer Road, and Gates Hill Road but are not yet functional. The North Fork Recreation Group is taking a trip to the gates the following day to discuss access through the gates. Access will be one of three methods: a code (key pad), a clicker (like a remote control) or a card depending on the user. The roads and engineering team has built a turnaround and added lighting and signs to make the area safe. The gates will break away when/if someone runs their car or truck through them.

Upcoming ORPA Conference

The Oregon Recreation & Parks Association is coming up in October if anyone is interested in attending. Tom and Russ will be attending as staff. Parks Commission members should let Tom know if they want to attend. Wayne said that he thought that the recordings of the classes were available up to two weeks after the conference.

North Santiam State Recreation Area

Marion County is talking with the state to manage operations of the North Santiam Recreation Area. The area has river and boat access. Rafters put in at Packsaddle and exit at North Santiam State Recreation Area. The campsite that is part of the recreation area is currently open for day use only. Marion County is looking to build 16 cabins in the area. The team that manages the site will be able to use an additional building that will be built for that purpose.

Nominations Chair/Vice-Chair

Wayne said that the Commission normally has nominations in January, but due to unforeseen circumstances, chair and vice-chair nominations are happening now. The two positions serve for two-year terms. The Commission discussed the expectation that the vice-chair would normally transition to the chair position at the end of the two years.

Wayne opened the floor for nomination for chair for the Parks Commission.

Motion: Bob and Malcolm nominated Wayne. Marisa seconded.

Discussion: There were no other nominations.

Results: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Wayne will be chair subject to the actual appointment by the Marion County Board of

Commissioners.

Wayne opened the floor for nomination for vice-chair for the Parks Commission.

Motion: Malcolm nominated Katy as vice-chair.

Discussion: There were no other nominations.

Results: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Katy will be vice-chair subject to the actual appointment by the Marion County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioners Roundtable

Katy asked how Marion County is working around the Oregon Department of Transportation's cleanup of trees. Tom that Marion County and ODOT's team are working together with a schedule.

Bob asked if there was staff to be able to handle all work involved with FEMA and Auburn Conversion. Tom said that Marion County has Steve Nero (Medium Equipment Operator) and Russ Dilley (Parks Coordinator). Tom oversees coordination of the parks. Tom initially had three parts to his job, Parks Program Supervisor, Waste Reduction, and Scales Attendant Supervisor, but the Scales Attendant Supervisor position is no longer a part of his job description as Marion County is hiring a new person just to manage Scales Attendants.

Malcolm acknowledged that the BOC had asked Marion County to explore different avenues for the Auburn Conversion project. He asked if a field trip to Macleay was still possible. Tom said that it was possible and that we would issue a Doodle poll to find the best time for most members. Tom reminded the commission that Macleay still had some storm debris. Wayne reminded the group that the commission needs to be considerate of the rights of the neighbors but also of the group. Wayne is equally excited about the possibility of Macleay being a park for the future but will understand if that does not occur. The neighbors of Macleay may become more comfortable with the site given time and information.

Wayne introduced Brian Nicholas.

Wayne thanked Herschel for coming to the meeting.

Steve had to step away for part of the meeting but had questions about the gate operations at North Fork Road, Pioneer Road, and Gates Hill Road.

Wayne said the newspaper reported that there are currently two lawsuits generated by families in relation to the Santiam Canyon fire. Wayne asked Brian if Marion County was named in the lawsuits, though he is aware that Brian cannot make any statements. Wayne asked if there was any anticipated effect on the operations of the parks due to the lawsuit. Brian said that the only issue is the request that the Board of Commissioners made regarding renaming a park after one of the victims who died in the fire.

Wayne thanked staff for all that they do. He looks forward to the future operations of the parks.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm

Chair

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 18, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.