



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

May 17, 2018, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pudding Room at 5155 Silverton Road NE, Salem, Oregon

Members Present: Sandy Grulkey, Marty Heyen, Ryan Mann, Wayne Rawlins, Ben Williams, Kyleen Zimmer

Board Liaison: Sam Brentano

Staff Present: Russ Dilley, Brian May, Jolene Bray

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Call to Order: 1:01 p.m.

Approval of March 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Wayne made a motion to approve the March 13, 2018, meeting minutes. Sandy seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Public Input

No members of public in attendance.

Commission Member Announcements and Upcoming Events

None.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Presentations on Roger's Wayside and Salmon Falls parks

Ryan reported on his recent visit to Roger's Wayside Park. He distributed a map of the park, which is 5.6 acres and is southwest of Silverton, just outside the city limits. He said due to the park's proximity to the highway it appears to be used as a de facto rest stop. Ryan said the trash cans were full with looked to be non-park related trash and the restrooms had an odor that could smelled from a distance and appeared to be heavily used, apparently by non-park users. He said he didn't see many people there and the primary purpose of parkgoers appears to be the BMX track.

Ryan said he looked at the master plan for Roger's Wayside and the goals listed were to create path throughout the park, provide amenities (such as a picnic table), and upgrade the signage. He said each of these have been done except for the trail. He said a philosophical question is if the committee is comfortable with the park remaining what it is, an easy stopover for travelers and BMX track users, or if there is still interest in adding amenities. Ryan said if the park is used as a brief rest stop that perhaps a car charging station could be installed and a map of all the county parks so people can see other county parks to visit.

Kyleen said there is a city park across the road with skating and a dog park, and suggestions with the city how the two parks connect. Ben asked if the bicycle shop in Silverton had formally adopted the park. Russ said they have not but they do take care of the BMX track and have discussed putting in a walking path.

Russ said county staff is discussion the possibility of reintroducing reservations for the picnic shelter. He said the county will now have the restrooms pumped every two weeks this summer; previously it was done as needed. He said the chimneys in the restrooms are supposed to heat up and pull odors up but the restrooms are located

in trees so they don't heat up as much as is needed to work effectively. Russ said all the park restrooms are charged by the gallons pumped not by visit, so the cost shouldn't increase. He said parks that are closed for the winter would be pumped one final time and then closed for the season. Russ said Covanta planted 10 trees near the highway to act as a sound barrier. He said they've grown but aren't full size yet.

Marty reported on her recent visit to Salmon Falls Park and shared an aerial photo of the park. She said the park has two picnic tables near the entrance and new fencing that is nice. She said she didn't go into the restroom because it was locked but there was no trash thrown into garbage cans. Marty said the doggie bag dispenser had doggie bags even though the park still closed for season. She suggested adding one more sign near the picnic table along the path that shows the direction to river access. Marty said there is a nice railing with salmon carvings on stairway down to river but the last step onto the stones was slick and the area eroded. She suggested extending the railing, repairing the erosion, and adding at least one step on staircase. Marty said the overflow parking lot is in good condition.

Butteville Landing Update

Ben gave an update on Butteville Landing project. He said the project has received rave reviews from community members, who are stopping on their way home and walking down to the water. Ben said the archeological survey is done and they are ready to start forming concrete and putting in the trail. He said they will put boulders at the bottom to stabilize the slope and install a catch basin that takes water to river, not into boulders so as not to dislodge them. Ben said they will put an ADA accessible picnic area on top. He said they plan to install the gangway abutment and 10' concrete trail in May, property line fencing in August, historical and interpretive signage in September, and the dock and gangway in 2019. He said they also need to landscape and install furnishings, and will be asking for in-kind donations from Marion County for picnic tables and garbage cans. Commission members all said they were very impressed with work done on this project and thanked Ben. Commissioner Brentano said he is serving on the Oregon Locks Foundation and is working to have the Oregon Falls Locks reopened

Site visits per year

Ben said the county would like parks commissioners to the hours they spend on site visits. He asked commission members for their takeaway on the worthiness of the time involved. Sandy said she thought tracking time would help provide leverage in the future when making requests. Marty said it would be helpful if parks commissioners teamed up with site visits to help with observations.

Adopt-a-Park Program

Russ said Minto, Packsaddle, Aumsville, and Joryville parks are currently adopted. He said that since parks commissioners are doing site visits to all the county parks, it seems to be a natural fit for them to help find adopters for those parks not already adopted. Russ said it would be ideal to identify an organization that will adopt each park. Sandy said it would be good to recognize businesses already involved, such as the bicycle shop in Silverton who maintains the BMX trail. Marty suggested contacting schools and asked for the time commitment. Russ said they should commit to doing 4 visits per year and will receive an adopt-a-park sign with their name on it after working 75 hours. Commission members will solicit feedback and share with Russ, and if they identify anyone who wants to adopt or volunteer, they will steer that person to Russ. He will formalize the relationship and make sure they've completed all necessary paperwork, including the liability waiver form. Russ is the point of contact for all volunteers, including adopt-a-park groups, and approves all volunteer activities in county parks.

STAFF UPDATES

Consultant visit to Minto, Bear Creek and North Fork parks

Russ said consultants have visited Minto, Bear Creek and North Fork parks. He said staff had planned to create a new campground at Minto Park but the only option there is possibly walk-in camping. Russ said the property stretches to a gulley with a waterfall to the east and they have discussed putting in a new trail to that location. He said the county has been in discussion with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) about a land swap for land near Bear Creek Campground, which would allow the county to install an extended camping area.

North Fork Corridor Update

Russ said fee collection for the year has resumed. He said there was a break-in at the well house at Bear Creek Park. Russ said the heater is gone and an inexpensive shelving unit is gone. He said the lock on the gate was gone, the cart for the garbage was on its side, and the hose was cut off and put on the water pipe. Russ said he will work with the sheriff's office to see what work needs to be done to end this. He said they hope to open the gates to the park tomorrow.

Brian said staff is having talking with BLM and Forest Service about radio usage in the canyon, how to stay in contact, and how to work together on garbage issues.

Staff Updates

Russ said the parks program has four staff members hired. He said two more start next Monday and two more need to be hired after that. Wayne said this is a great improvement over the number last year.

Denny Park – Grant Opportunity Update

Brian said the county is not pursuing the previously discussed grant opportunity for Denny Park because law enforcement has recommended against installing a restroom. He said they are instead looking at putting in a picnic area and landscaping, and will place an ADA accessible porta-potty at the park on a trial basis.

Spong's Landing and Scotts Mills parks

Russ said Spong's Landing restroom now has new stainless steel fixtures, which replaced old, porcelain fixtures. He said doors will also be put on all the stalls and a partition installed between the toilet and sinks.

Russ said Scotts Mills Park has been prepped and is ready for paving when the weather improves. He said they also plan to put in a set of stairs where there is currently a dirt path. Russ said new directional signage has been put up with arrows pointing the way to the park.

Russ showed the commission photos of the finished stairway at Minto Park. He said the Juvenile crew did a really nice job.

Russ said crews are working on trails at Spong's Landing Park. He said they have been cutting vegetation on the trails at the south end of the park so people can more easily walk through.

Board of Commissioners Role in Advisory Board Meetings

Brian said told Commissioner Brentano he appreciated him attending and helping with parks commission work. Commissioner Brentano said the parks commissioner's enthusiasm and work with county parks has helped the board of commissioners to be more aware of county park's needs.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Other Business – Recruitment for Parks Commission Vacant Seat

Ben said the parks commission has a vacancy and asked commissioners for recruitment ideas. Sandy suggested reaching out to Hispanic community. Marty said she will make an announcement about this at the next Salem Business Association meeting.

Auburn Park Update - Brian said the Salem-Keizer School District tax bond passed. He said the sale of Auburn Park to the school district will probably go through and the proceeds will be placed in escrow with a future obligation to find an alternative site. Brian said a yellow book appraisal is required and the school district will do that. He said the county can't buy an existing park with the proceeds, but must instead buy land with no amenities. Brian said the county is looking at possibly adding on to an existing park, such as Bear Creek, or purchasing a property adjacent to the Buena Vista ferry for a boat launch.

Lake Labish – Wayne asked if a skate park has been considered for Lake Labish Park because he thought it would be good for kids. Sandy said it hadn't because it was located in a closed, neighborhood environment. Russ said this is only a 1-acre park and the county would need to do survey to see if enough desire to use to do that.

Kyleen said she was on Gallon House Road and saw signs of homelessness at the Gallon House Bridge. She asked if there was any way to parlay that area into park use. Jolene said the county only owns the road and bridge and all the surrounding land around are privately owned. Russ said if she saw any issues with homeless persons at the bridge to call the Public Works office and someone would be sent out to check on it.

Future Topics

- Projects for Assigned Parks
- How children react to playground equipment in public areas vs. how they react to nature.

ADJOURN: 3:09 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 19, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in the Pudding Room (2nd Floor) at Public Works.