



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

December 6, 2018, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Willamette Room at 5155 Silverton Road NE, Salem, Oregon

PRESENT: Members: Josh Faulkner, Marty Heyen, Ryan Mann, Wayne Rawlins, Ben Williams, Kyleen Zimmer

Staff: Russ Dilley, Brian May, Steve Nerrow, Jolene Bray

Guests: Frank Staley

ABSENT: Members: Sandy Grulkey

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Call to Order: 1:02 p.m.

Ben called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of September 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Marty made a motion to approve the September 20, 2018, meeting minutes. Kyleen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Public Input

Frank Staley said he wanted to share his concerns for the wildlife at Aumsville Ponds. He said there was a focus on people use, which decreased creature use of wetlands. He said because of dangers posed by humans to animals he thinks the gates need to close during the winter months. Mr. Staley requested the park remain closed until May to give animals a chance to have their babies in peace without danger from visitors and that the south end of the ponds be restricted from human use. He said the park is losing much of its water bird population because of hunting. There was discussion about staff natural resource recommendations and who made the decision about when the park was open. Brian said the commission can make a recommendation that staff can take to the board of commissioners who make the final decision. Ben thanked Mr. Staley for attending and sharing his concerns. Russ gave Mr. Staley a volunteer vest, garbage picker-upper and bucket because he regularly visits the park and picks up garbage.

Commission Member Announcements and Upcoming Events

None.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Ben reported on his recent visit to Aumsville Ponds. He said Russ provided him with some photos he took of the park in late summer, as well as an aerial photo. Ben noted that Russ said at the last meeting staff wanted to create a road to bring in the tractor, which would start at the south end of the park. He showed photos of ODFW hatchery pens that are no longer used and meadows in south east corner of park. Russ said park is partly wetland but most is forest and upland prairie. He said there are western pond turtles, which are endangered, as well as mallard ducks, egrets, herons, and Bald eagles. Russ said Aumsville Ponds is designated as a natural heritage park so it won't be overdeveloped but he doesn't want to limit people from enjoying the park. Brian said the commission only saw a small portion of the park during the park tour and there is much more to see. He said staff wants to create pathways and delineate property lines so visitors don't accidentally wander onto other

property. Brian said he agreed with Mr. Staley that a lot of damage done by visitors could be mitigated if better trails were built. Josh said this is a pristine park and he is concerned about parking in the back/south end of the park because it will invite more foot traffic. Brian said they are thinking of having fish stocked at the front of the park and a more natural area in the back. Ryan said he doesn't see natural and recreational use being mutually exclusive but thinks there are options that can be taken to improve on both. Marty asked if the City of Aumsville was still interested in this park. Brian said they have not expressed any interest in attaining it. Brian said the county is considering closing the gates at night but is not considering a seasonal closure at this time.

Butteville Landing – Ben said the Butteville Landing project is coming along well. Ben said the concrete path has been poured and the signage is installed, but they are still waiting for the delivery of two picnic tables that were donated by Parks. He said this is not a county park but rather a county right-of-way and the county supported these efforts to beautify it. Ben said Friends of Historic Butteville have done the work but it was all with the approval of Marion County because whatever is placed there becomes county property.

Marty reported on her recent visit to Joryville Park. She said Joryville has a parking lot, horse area, grassy area, restrooms, and then the trail leads up the hill. She said the park's adopters are doing a good job maintaining it but the horse area doesn't look like it is being used. Marty said there are very pretty plants planted in the back but not in the front. Russ said there were plants planted in the front but they were stolen. Marty said the vent on the door of the restroom was kicked in and there is condensation between the glass panes of the display of the large tree cut. She said there is some graffiti on the old pump house at the top of the hill and the bridge at over the creek needs paint on the rails because it's chipped and has graffiti. Marty suggested the following repairs: fix the panel on the door of the bathroom; paint tables and bridges; reseal the tree display; install some trail cameras; and remove graffiti on pump house. She said there is a very nice view at the top of the hill but handicapped people can't make it up there because vehicles aren't allowed on the path. She suggested opening the trail to cars a few times a year for handicapped people but Russ said the road is a one way lane so there would be no traffic control for those going up and down. Marty said a park visitor told her that county staff that come to maintain the park are very friendly.

Wayne reported on his recent visit to North Fork Park. He said there are three county parks along North Fork Road: North Fork, Bear Creek and Salmon Falls. Wayne said North Fork Park is the first recreational site you'll come to along the road and it is a day use site that charges a \$5 parking fee per day. He said online property maps are incorrect except for Bing. Jolene said the county surveyor has contacted Google with the correct property information but has not received a response. Wayne said park and kiosk signage are very good and fee stations are well marked. He said the toilet had easy access and the beach is very nice and well populated during the winter. He said there is a lot of wildlife in this area. Wayne said he found the BLM Business Plan for Elkhorn Valley Campground and Canyon Creek Day Use areas. Their numbers for visitation are very close to Russ's numbers for Bear Creek Campground. He said he has no recommendations, only commendations for managing a very busy site and doing a good job at it considering resources. Russ said North Fork Park is by far the most popular park in the county parks system.

The presentation on Packsaddle Park was deferred until the January meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

New Parks Employee

Russ introduced Steve Nerrow to the commission. He said Steve worked for the Juvenile Department for 18 years. Russ said much of his time there was spent with Russ in county parks supervising Juvenile crews so he came to Parks with a lot of experience in the county parks. Steve said he looks forward to working in the parks. Brian said the salmon newel posts on the staircase at Salmon Falls Park came from Steve.

Parks Open / Closed Update

Russ said with increased staffing levels, the county is able to keep more parks open during the season. The parks closed for the season are Spong's Landing, North Fork, Bear Creek and Salmon Falls, which is also done for safety

reasons. He distributed Statesman-Journal article about the addition of a second employee to the Marion County Parks Program.

Staff Updates on Various Parks

- Auburn Park – The yellow book appraisal came back as \$360,000. The county is selling to the Salem-Keizer School District and will put the proceeds in escrow until an appropriate property can be identified for purchase. Brian said county is looking at property near the Buena Vista Ferry as a boat ramp and campground because the Coast Guard will not allow that at the ferry ramps any longer.
- North Fork/BLM land swap – Staff are working with BLM on a land swap for county owned property near Fisherman’s Bend for BLM owned property east of Bear Creek, and also at possibly leasing property at North Fork Park. A consultant put together the North Fork Park proposal and will do conceptual designs.
- Scotts Mills – New restroom will be installed next week. Also looking to get shelters, concrete pads, and barbecues in before it reopens in May.
- Bonesteele – Recently mowed and looks great.
- Work session with BOC – The board of commissioners were very impressed with the presentation and excited with budget possibilities for next year. Brian thanked parks commissioners for their visits and reports because this helped with budget requests for proposed projects.
- Steve said he would be happy to meet commissioners who are doing upcoming presentations at the parks they’re reporting on to show them the park. Commissioners will call Russ to schedule visits.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Other Business

None.

January Meeting Park Reports

Reports will be given on these parks at the January meeting:

- Niagara Park – Ben
- Parkdale – Kyleen
- Bear Creek – Ryan
- Packsaddle - Sandy

ADJOURN: 2:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 17, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the North Santiam Room (1st Floor) at Public Works.