



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 17, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

North Santiam Room at 5155 Silverton Road NE, Salem, Oregon

PRESENT: Members: Josh Faulkner, Sandy Grulkey, Marty Heyen, Wayne Rawlins, Ben Williams, Kyleen Zimmer
Staff: Russ Dilley, Jolene Bray
BOC Liaison: Sam Brentano
ABSENT: Members: Ryan Mann

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Call to Order: 1:02 p.m.

Ben called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of December 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Ben asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that the Friends of Historic Butteville, not the Friends of French Prairie, is the group working on the Butteville Landing project. Marty made a motion to approve the December 6, 2018, meeting minutes with this correction. Kyleen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Sandy made a motion to recommend to the Marion County Board of Commissioners that Ben be reappointed as Chair and Wayne be reappointed as vice-chair. Kyleen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Public Input

None.

Commission Member Announcements and Upcoming Events

Kyleen said she recently began a new job at the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and she was required to tell the commission that as a parks commissioner she only speaks for herself and does not represent the views or opinions of the OHA.

Sandy said Terry Caster owns land near the Scotts Mills County Park and attended the Parks Commission meeting in September. She said he is still interested in adding a campground on his property but is also interested in discussing if another county property is available for a trade. Sandy said he would like a meeting and wants her to facilitate and attend the meeting. Commissioner Brentano said the discussion should start by scheduling a meeting with Brian. Sandy asked how property owners can donate or bequeath land to the county. Commissioner Brentano said the county has to be able to reject the donation in the event the property has issues. Sandy said Yamhill County has this info on their website. Commissioner Brentano said he will speak with Legal Counsel and report on this at the March meeting.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Kyleen reported on her recent visit to Parkdale Park. She said the park is 6 acres and a third of it is a wetland that Marion County uses for wetland mitigation. She said according to the website, turf grass was planted to encourage informal sports activities and the grass is still doing well. Kyleen said park signs sit back from road so it is not obvious to people driving by that it's a park, but Russ told her the county plans to put paved sidewalks in front of the park and that will be a big improvement. She said the park is very clean and has a nice destination to picnic tables. She said the back half is a big field with a nice grove of trees and she saw some covered graffiti on the fence. Russ said the back half of the park is the mitigation site and East Salem Service District (ESSD) staff maintains that portion, while Parks staff maintains the front portion of the park where the picnic tables are. He said there was an attempt to develop the park several years ago, including installing a BMX track, but neighbors were opposed. He said county staff is now slowly doing some development with neighborhood buy-in. There was discussion about whether this was enough change for this neighborhood but Russ said it's a growing neighborhood and it would nice to have an area children can play. Sandy asked if the city could assume ownership. Russ said they can't because that area hasn't been annexed yet and is county land. Commissioner Brentano said he doesn't want county responsible for neighborhood parks in the city. Sandy said she agreed and advocated for the neighborhood taking over. She said neighbors of Labish Village Park are also considering asking for conditional title. Commissioner Brentano said this would be decided on a park by park basis and if it is recommended he didn't think the board would be opposed.

Ben reported on his recent visit to Niagara Park. He said Niagara is on Hwy 22 between Gates and Detroit Lake and is the most easterly park in the parks system. Ben said it's a historical site and at some point in the past there was a lava flow into the river at the park location. He showed a photo of the park's historical sign which answers a lot of questions about the arch masonry along the river at the park. Ben asked about the number of park visitors. Russ said they're low but the county has purchased a traffic counter to count the actual number of visitors. Marty asked if camping was being considered for this park. Russ said it had been discussed but it is so close to Hwy 22 that it wouldn't be a good choice for campsites. Russ said there is an interpretive trail with signage for trees and the old powder house.

Sandy reported on her recent visit to Packsaddle Park. She said this park is right down the river from Niagara and it is an adopted park. Sandy said it has a simple boat ramp and is one of the key put in and take out points on North Santiam River. She said this is a small park with one picnic table, an ADA accessible clean pit toilet, good signage, and it was beautiful and very well maintained, although there is a little ivy in the trees. Sandy met two kayakers at the park and they told her they go there almost every week year round. She asked them if they had any suggested improvements for the park or info they'd like shared with the commission, and they said they said they use the park all the time, think it's great as it is. Russ said the land is leased from the Army Corp of Engineers and the ivy is eaten by elk. Ben asked if the county has looked at the feasibility of connecting county parks along the Santiam River. Russ said the neighbors would not cooperate and the railroad has not been responsive.

Ryan's presentation on Bear Creek Park was deferred until the March meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

Preparation for 2019-20 Budget Process

- **List of Parks Commissioner Recommendations** - Russ said the presentations done by parks commissioners has helped to create a project list for capital projects. He said staff are in the preliminary stages of budget season and are preparing CIP requests for 2020.
- **5-10 Year Planning Cycle** - Russ said staff was asked to create a 5 Year Plan, and he and Brian have worked on that. He then reviewed the project list with commissioners.
- **Potential Park Property** - Russ said new Public Works director spoke with him about potential park property near the Buena Vista Ferry.

- **Future Projects** – Russ said some bigger projects are anticipated in the next few years including North Fork Park picnic shelter and Parkdale Park sidewalks. More budget discussion at March meeting.

Staff Updates on Various Parks

- **Scotts Mills** – The new vault toilet, which is the first project done in the fiscal year, was installed. Sandy said she was asked to extend the city’s gratitude for what the county is doing for the park and said residents also commented on how friendly county staff were when they spoke with them.
- **Denny Park** – Russ said two neighbors’ fences were encroaching on county property by 12 feet. One moved their fence and another is going to. Grass seed the county put down is growing great and neighbors are very happy with county efforts. He said someone called the Sheriff’s Office and complained that homeless people were camping there and leaving needles on the ground, but he checked the park and there was no one there.
- **Projects** – The old pit toilets at Joryville Park are gone. Steve demolished and hauled them away. We are installing information kiosk on N. Fork Road near first pay box. The kiosk is being provided by the Forest Service and the county will install it for them.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Other Business

None.

Planning Matrix

The commission and staff will discuss at March meeting.

Reassignment of Parks by District Discussion

Ben said Brian suggested a different approach to commissioner’s park assignments. He said all parks commission positions are filled now so Brian proposed assignments by district so commissioners report on parks closer to where they live. Russ said parks commissioners would ideally visit their assigned parks each year but would also become an ambassador and attend public meetings on behalf of those parks. Ben said original assignments were done by a blind draw and aspects such as history were not taken into account. Russ said the question is how do commissioners see themselves remaining engaged with parks. Josh said he grew up near the North Fork area parks and is attached to them. He said he thought if commissioners have a park they’re really interested in they can better represent it. Sandy agreed. All agreed they will continue this discussion at March meeting.

Future Meeting Topics

Reassignment of Parks by District

ADJOURN: 2:47 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 21, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the North Santiam Room (1st Floor) at Public Works.