

**MARION COUNTY
Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024
Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Location: Teams or Willamette Conference Room at Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE

Present: **Members:** Wayne Rawlins, Bob Emanuel, Herschel Sangster, Alton Hoover, Tabitha Henricksen, Marisa Roskelly (Teams)

Absent: Steve Staten, Chris Teichroew

Staff: Ryan Wade, Kevin Thompson, Cory Swartwout, Brian Nicholas, Commissioner Cameron

Guests: Kathy Rogers (Teams)

Quorum: **Yes**

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Hersch called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm.

Member and Staff introductions: Members and staff were introduced.

Attendance/Rollcall: Done.

Agenda Changes: None.

Approval of January 25, 2024 minutes

Motion: Wayne made a motion to accept minutes. Alton seconded.

Discussion: None

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Comment:

None.

Welcome – Tabitha Henricksen

Hersch introduced the newest Parks Commission member, Tabitha Henriksen. Tabitha shared some of her background with the Commission.

Parks Presentation

Kevin shared a Canyon Parks Update presentation with topics including Current Accomplishments and Our Rebuilding Plan.

Spring Canyon Tour

Kevin shared the agenda for the Spring Canyon Tour. The commission will be meeting at Marion County Public Works on April 17 at 8 am and carpooling is encouraged. Cory asked that the Commission RSVP as soon as possible.

Kevin also shared preliminary campsite standards for the various campsite options. Hersch shared that he would like to see E-Bike charging stations at the campsites.

Volunteer Events

Ryan shared that Marion County is hosting an Earth Day event at Spong's Landing Park on April 26th from 3-7 pm. Parks will be hosting an information booth as well as a bird house building activity. We will be geotagging the bird houses with their family name and will be placing them out in the parks. There will be a map showing where their bird house is located. There will be multiple partners, seed bombs, nature walk, patch sewing, photo booth, free ice cream, inflatable obstacle course and more. Hersch shared he will be hosting a bike ride from Keizer Rapids Park to Spong's Landing Park for the event.

Hersch asked about name tags for the Parks Commission to wear at the event. Cory shared that we are still in the design phase of the name tag project and hope to have an update at the next meeting.

Ryan shared that Marion County will be partnering with Oregon Parks Forever, Trail Keepers of Oregon and Solve. This will be a two-day event on May 4th and 5th. There will be a morning shift from 8 am-12 pm and an afternoon shift from 1:30-5 pm. May 4th will be at North Fork Park and will focus on tasks to get the park open. The projects will include building trails, box stairs, and parks amenities construction. May 5th will be at Minto Park and projects will include finishing the trails, setting up picnic tables, trash cans and other items. Bird houses from Earth Day will also be going to the parks during this event. Lunch will be provided both days. Sign up will be through TKO and there will be a maximum amount of 32 people for each shift.

Parks Staff Updates

Kevin shared that the Parks team has tripled their field staff going from 1 to 3 full time staff. The position will be posted next week. Ryan's position is currently funded by two OWEB grants that are expiring mid-2025. We are looking for grant opportunities/funding to keep Ryan on staff.

Commissioners Roundtable

Hersch shared that he won't be able to attend the May 4th event as he will be putting on a Keizer community event at Keizer Elementary School with multiple vendors. Vendors will include Transit, Fire Department, Marion County Sheriff's Office, and Cycle Oregon. The event will be from 11 am-12 pm.

Alton shared that he will be officially starting as Vice Chair at the next meeting. He also plans to be at the Earth Day event.

Wayne shared his appreciation for the Parks staff.

Tabitha asked if Parks has a volunteer group and how we are seeking help; Kevin shared that we have volunteers through our partners and we also have a volunteer list internally as well.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 16, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.