

MARION COUNTY Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024
Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
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 (Teams), Marisa Roskelly (Teams)

Absent: Steve Staten, Chris Teichroew

Staff: Ryan Wade, Kevin Thompson, Cory Swartwout

Guests: Dan Handel (Teams), Bryan Hall, Seth Miller (Oregon Parks Forever)

Quorum: **Yes**

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Hersch called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Members, Staff, and Guests introductions: Members, staff, and guests were introduced.

Attendance/Rollcall: Done.

Agenda Changes: None.

Approval of May 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

Discussion: None

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Comment: None.

Guest – Oregon Parks Forever

Topics Covered:

- **Partnership Overview:** Collaborations with Marion County on funding initiatives, including reforestation efforts post-Beachie Creek fire.
- **Current Projects:** Programs such as Track Chairs for mobility assistance and Track Trails scavenger hunts for youth.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Discussion about potential partnerships for bringing additional resources to Marion County parks.

Questions and Discussion:

Commissioners expressed interest in further collaborations, especially in programs that enhance accessibility and educational experiences in parks.

Park Renaming Recommendation

A recommendation was made by Wayne regarding the renaming of North Fork Park in memory of the victims of the Beachie Creek Fire. The proposal included placing a brass/bronze plaque at a yet-to-be-determined location instead of renaming the park.

Parks Renaming Recommendation

Motion: Wayne motioned the following: “The Marion County Parks Commission recommends to the Marion County Board of Commissioners that a brass/bronze/metal (some durable metal) plaque be created and placed at a yet to be chosen location in the Santiam Canyon that memorializes the tragic death of five individuals (Named) in the Beachie Creek Fire of September 8, 2020. Final wording and formatting to be later developed for the plaque. A suitable memorial on-site dedication to be developed in coordination with the Board of Commissioners and family members and friends.” Al seconded.

Discussion: It was agreed that a memorial plaque would be more appropriate than renaming the park, and durable materials would be used.

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

New Parks Commission Appointment Recommendation

Two Parks Commission applicants were introduced.

Dan Handel introduced himself as working for the planning department with the City of Woodburn. Dan is interested in trail connections.

Bryan Hall introduced himself as a local business owner in the City of Donald. He is interested in supporting green spaces and recreational activities.

Recommendation to Appoint Dan Handel to the Parks Commission

Motion: Bob moved to recommend Dan to the Parks Commission. Al seconded.

Discussion: None.

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Recommendation to Appoint Bryan Hall to the Parks Commission

Motion: Al moved to recommend Bryan to the Parks Commission. Bob seconded.

Discussion: None.

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Parks Update

Kevin gave an update on routine park maintenance, including:

- New 12-foot-wide deck mower received, expected to improve efficiency at larger parks like Spongs Landing.
- Maintenance challenges include daily restroom cleaning, graffiti removal, and managing high trash volumes,

especially at busy parks like Scotts Mills.

-Plans for the restoration of Canyon Parks (Bear Creek and North Fork) were discussed. Three potential plans are being considered for park restoration. First, an all-in approach with a complete restoration, including RV sites and enhanced facilities. Second, a middle-of-the-road approach, restoring campsites and adding new tent sites. Third, a bare bones approach, restoring pre-fire amenities and minimal new improvements.

-The Parks team is seeking direction from the Board of Commissioners on funding and restoration priorities.

Volunteer Update

Ryan shared that a volunteer cleanup event was held at Minto County Park, organized with the assistance of Oregon Parks Forever and SOLVE. Volunteers helped to lay gravel, clear trails, and clean up trash to prepare the park for reopening. Despite challenging weather conditions, 50 volunteers participated, showing strong community involvement.

Ryan shared that Trail Keepers of Oregon (TKO) have held several trail days at North Fork Park to construct a river access trail and box steps. There were small crews of 2-4 people, 8-hour events and the events were managed by TKO and led by volunteer crew leaders.

Ryan shared that TKO is in the process of scheduling the final trail days to complete the steps at North Fork Park. Parks is working on collaborating with TKO and Oregon Parks Forever on a few events in late summer to get Minto Park ready for a fall reopening. Parks is also working on a larger contract with TKO to conduct events at other parks.

Commissioners Roundtable

Wayne shared that he would like to see the meeting minutes at least two weeks before the next meeting.

Hersch shared that he has a bike skills fair at St. Edwards Church for Kennedy, Holman and Highland Schools Family Council. They will be leading first Thursday bike rides from Keizer Rapids, past Spongs Landing on August 1st beginning at 6:30 pm and they will be family friendly.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 19, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m.