

MARION COUNTY Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 21, 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, Alton Hoover, Bryan Hall, Tabitha Henricksen, Marisa Roskelly (Teams)

Absent: Herschel Sangster, Steve Staten, Chris Teichroew

Staff: Brian Nicholas, Kevin Thompson, Cory Swartwout, Whitney Ned, Toni Whitler

Guests: None

Quorum: **Yes**

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Alton Hoover called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

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

Attendance/Rollcall: Done.

Agenda Changes: None.

Approval of July 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

Discussion: Tabitha moved to approve the minutes with a correction to the consistent spelling of "Beachie Creek."

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Comment: None.

Bike Rack Survey Update:

Kevin Thompson provided updates on the ODOT-funded bike rack installations and survey efforts.
Feedback:

- Improving call-to-action language on the signage, using the word "survey".
- Planning for ongoing updates to surveys for future data collection.
- Confirming the installation sites (e.g., Parkdale and Wayside).

Park Renaming Recommendation Update

Kevin shared feedback from the Board of Commissioners on the Beachie Creek Fire memorial. Commissioners emphasized:

- Avoiding overexpansion of the memorial's scope.
 - Raised concern: watering down the memory of those who died by incorporating too much
- Suggestions for separate memorial events for different groups (e.g., first responders and victims' families).

Extension of Parking and Fees

Kevin outlined an expansion of fees to raise revenue and keep maintenance going, as well as the process for implementing these fees and expanding park seasons (April 1–October 31).

Concerns raised:

- Public backlash in areas like Scotts Mills.
- Enforcing/policing.
- Managing fees for underserved populations.

Funding for Canyon Rebuild

Kevin reviewed the funding breakdown for park restoration efforts in the Santiam Canyon, highlighting challenges with FEMA reimbursements and rising costs. Commissioners requested an electronic copy of the presentation.

Memorial Program Framework

Kevin sought input for creating a structured memorial program, suggesting plaques, engraved benches, and brick memorials. Commissioners supported:

- Developing consistent guidelines for all parks.
- Exploring partnerships with local businesses for funding.

Parks Foundation Update

Kevin shared preliminary discussions on creating a parks foundation to manage private donations and fundraising. Commissioners recommended researching other local foundations for guidance.

Future Tour Planning

Staff and commissioners agreed to schedule tours to visit Linn County (and MC) parks sooner rather than later, not letting weather dictate timeline.

Commissioners' Roundtable

Shared appreciation and praise for Kevin's efforts and progress with parks this past year.

Meeting adjourned at 3:53 pm

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 16, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m.