



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

October 7, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

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

Members Present: Sandy Grulkey, Marty Heyen, Steve Koch, George Moeller, Wayne Rawlins, Ben Williams

Members Absent: None

Public/Guests: Don Alexander, Marion County Public Works

Staff Present: Brian May, Russ Dilley, Jolene Bray

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Approval of August 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Sandy said a guest had mistakenly used the term “fish ladder” when she meant “fish passage” during the discussion about the Scotts Mills Dam removal at the last meeting. Wayne made a motion to approve the August 18, 2016, meeting minutes with this correction. George seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Public Input

Russ said the county was having an issue at Bonesteele Park with homeless people who live in their cars parking at the park each day from open to close. He said the development of a disc golf course had been suggested as a way to bring in more visitors to the park, which would deter vagrancy and illicit activity. Don Alexander, who is a civil engineering associate with Public Works and avid disc golfer, was in attendance to discuss the proposed development. Don said the acreage and terrain of the park property allowed for a very nice disc golf course, and it would be built in using the foliage, oak savannah, and fields. He said the disc golf community has been pushing to have a disc golf course in a county park for years and Bonesteele is ideal for a course. Wayne asked Don how a disc golf course would eliminate loiterers in the park. Don said the first measure is to clear out the underbrush so it’s more playable, which will make it difficult for people to conceal themselves in the vegetated areas. He said secondly, consistent foot traffic through the park will deter transient from hanging out in the woods or building fires because park visitors can call 911.

Steve asked how long it took to play an 18-hole course. Don said approximately 2 hours. George asked about maintenance costs once it’s created. Don said the county has big mowers to do big jobs and the disc golf groups will get involved with projects such as pulling ivy, clearing brush, and picking up trash. There was discussion about the cost of developing the course. Don said the cost for baskets, concrete tee pads, and signage, using inmate labor would be approximately \$20,000-\$25,000.

Marty made motion to add a disc golf course to one of Marion County’s parks. Steve seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

There was discussion about the proposal, as well as other ideas for a picnic shelter and playground equipment. Ben asked Steve if he would take lead working with staff on a conceptual master plan for the park. Steve agreed to do this. Brian said staff can get an initial estimate and have it ready to include in this year’s budget recommendation. Russ said staff will need to ask the board of commissioners if they want to pursue this idea in concept since there is no master plan yet and if they think it’s an interesting idea staff can proceed.

Russ asked if the parks commission is comfortable with changing the park hours to help keep transients out. Marty made a motion to recommend limiting parking at Bonesteele Park to four hours. Sandy seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Commission Member Announcements and Upcoming Events

George said Scott Anderson did quite a bit of work on Bonesteele Park and asked how that interfaces with the disc golf proposal. He said Scott may be a resource as we move forward.

Wayne said if the letter of support that was requested at the last parks commission meeting by Anna Rankin had been written. Ben said he signed the letter this morning and members will be given a copy via email. Brian said he provided an update to the board of commissioners at a management update meeting and they're also aware of and support the letter.

2017-2018 BUDGET/PROJECT SELECTION

Commission members and staff discussed items to be prioritized for the 2017-2018 parks program budget.

Aumsville Ponds – Install a bridge to islands at the ponds

There was discussion about transferring ownership to the City of Aumsville. Marty made a motion to transfer ownership to the City of Aumsville. George seconded the motion. There was further discussion before a vote was taken and questions were raised about the original funding used to purchase this land. Russ will research this matter. Marty withdrew her original motion and made a new motion that the county investigate options about how to manage Aumsville Ponds in the future, including whether to the property or give management to the City of Aumsville. George seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Bear Creek – Repaving road and parking areas

Russ said staff had previously recommended repaving road and parking areas but this issue has been pushed to the next budget cycle.

Joryville – Establish a new picnic area at the top of the hill

Russ said he is recommending establishing picnic area at top of the hill. He said this would include a cluster of four picnic tables and would cost approximately \$28,000. After discussing this, the commission instead recommended to put one table and one bench at that location, and use the remaining balance on Scotts Mills Park.

Joryville Park – Rehabilitate the horse arena

Wayne said although this may have served a purpose at one time it does not anymore and he hoped the county would not put any money into this project. There was further discussion and all commission members agreed to recommend striking this item from the project list.

Labish – Install boulders along front of park

The commission agreed with this recommendation.

Labish – Install bench in park

The commission agreed with this recommendation.

Minto – Develop plans for future campground site

Russ said this would involve hiring someone to do a study at a cost of approximately \$30,000 and the site development would cost approximately \$30,000 per site. The commission agreed to push this out to the next budget cycle and write a grant request.

Minto – Install stairway at first picnic area

Russ said the estimated cost for this is \$10,000. The commission agreed this would remain on the project list.

Niagara – Engineering study to assess the existing stairway

Russ said the estimated cost for this is \$15,000 and it is a safety issue. Steve said a new stairway would also highlight the park. The commission agreed this would remain on the project list.

Niagara – Replace/repair the fence at stairway

Russ said the estimated cost for this is \$2,000. The commission agreed this would remain on the project list.

Niagara – Evaluate odor of toilets -

North Fork – Expand and partially pave parking lot

Russ said the engineering division is working on a grant application for this work and this is a project he’s wanted to do for quite a while. He said the estimated cost is \$45,000. Steve said this seems like an inexpensive way to show neighbors the county is taking appropriate action. Marty said she would like to leave on the list but take no action until the commission visits the park. Ben said there will be a project list to go over at the December meeting that has dollars attached.

St. Louis Ponds – Pave access road and parking area

Russ said the estimated cost is \$100,000 and the work can’t be done in increments. He said Tesch Road is paved and the road entering park and parking lot are gravel. Marion County only owns that and the ponds are owned by ODFW. Steve asked about partnering on this project with them. Russ said they have discussed that and ODFW has a master plan that includes installing a park host, but paving is not included. Ben suggested leaving it in until the next discussion and before then Russ can ask ODFW if there is any upgrade to their master plan.

Spong’s Landing – Upgrade restroom and review septic

This has been changed from replace the restroom to upgrade the restroom and review septic.

Spong’s Landing – Build additional picnic areas and picnic shelters

This item has been removed from the list.

Roger’s Wayside – Replace the picnic shelter

Russ said it’s been decided the group picnic area at Roger’s Wayside would not be replaced.

Auburn Park – Paved path

Marty suggested a paved path around the swamp area. Russ said the school district is offering to do a land swap and if that happens they will assume ownership of this property.

Auburn Park – Add/replace playground equipment

Russ said the estimated cost to add/replace playground equipment and a fall area at Auburn Park is \$45,000. There was discussion about the possible land swap. Ben said the commission needs to know the nature and feasibility of this proposal before voting on these improvements.

Staffing for County Parks System

Brian said the program had two seasonal maintenance workers in 2016-2017, which provided more seasonal coverage but was still lacking in vegetation control. He said in the 2017-2018 budget he wants to request hiring three seasonal maintenance workers and will change the shifts from 4/10 hour days to 5/8 hour days so more days are covered. He said juvenile crews also are used and are a big help to the program. Brian said if the program can hire a second or third worker they can have a more active vegetation plan for mowing, as well as maintenance and graffiti removal. He said he would like Russ to be able to focus more on parks planning but during the off-peak season he is the only parks employee. Marty asked if temporary employees were used because there was not enough to keep full-time employees busy. Brian said it done due to a lack of funding, but there was plenty of work to be done. Russ said one issue driving this is the new healthcare laws, which requires temporary workers be given health insurance if they work longer than 90 days.

Brian said he wants to recommend hiring a full-time parks maintenance worker in 2018, which will allow Russ to focus on planning. He said the annual cost would be approximately \$75,000. He said it may be that 2017 and 2018 may be mirrors with only temporary workers hired with a goal to hire full time in 2019.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

- Update the priority list and distribute it with dollars.
- Parks tour in November.

ADJOURN: 12:18 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: December 8, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the **Pudding Room (upstairs)** at Public Works.