



## MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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December 1, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
North Santiam Room at 5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, Oregon

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marty Heyen, George Moeller, Wayne Rawlins, Ben Williams

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Scott Anderson, Steve Koch, Sandy Grulkey

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jeff Bickford, Russ Dilley, Jolene Bray

**BOC LIAISON:** Commissioner Sam Brentano

**BOC:** Commissioner Janet Carlson

**PUBLIC SIGNED IN:** Richard Walsh, Walsh and Associates  
Nate Brown, City of Keizer Community Development  
Steve Nerrow, Marion County Juvenile Department

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### ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

- **Welcome and Introductions**
  - George called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves.
- **Approval of August 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes**
  - Wayne made a motion to approve the August 20, 2015 meeting minutes. Ben seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- **Public Input**
  - None.
- **Council Member Announcements and Upcoming Events**
  - Ben said at the last meeting Commissioner Brentano had asked Jeff and Russ to do research into longer term solutions for the Butteville property instead of looking at quick fixes. Jeff said he clarified with staff that this is right of way property with no park funding available. Ben said he met with Ryan Sparks, manager of Champoeg State Park, Sparks regarding the feasibility of Oregon State Parks and Recreation (OPRD) becoming involved in the maintenance of the property. He stressed that the county needs to know there is receptivity on the part of OPRD before the county moves forward and Mr. Sparks said he will discuss with his area manager. He said he is waiting to receive feedback from OPRD and will bring that information back to the next commission meeting. Commissioner Brentano said this hasn't been discussed amongst the board of commissioners so he is unclear on rules regarding right of way but suggested the possibility of transferring ownership to state parks. He said he would look into right of way rules and if it can be transferred to another organization.
- **Nomination of new Parks Commission Chair**
  - Jeff said the commission bylaws state that the nomination of a commission chair must be done at first meeting of the calendar year so this item will be moved to next meeting.

## **KEIZER RAPIDS PARK GRANT APPLICATION**

Commissioner Carlson thanked Rich Walsh and Nate Brown for attending with her. She then shared a presentation with the commission that gave background on the acquisition of additional property for Keizer Rapids Park via a grant in 2005. Commissioner Carlson said the State of Oregon owns 85 acres of the park which has been leased for 99 years for a small dollar amount. She said the City of Keizer recently purchased more property, which is where the Big Toy is located, and Marion County has invested \$427,000 in a recreation easement and \$150,000 in a conservation easement. She said there was an emphasis to purchase additional parks land when the park was created, which the Marion County Parks Master Plan and City of Keizer Master Plan also recommends. Rich said this park was built on these master plans and state land acquisition, and it tied into Governor Kulongoski's water initiative which identified a need for a motorized boat ramp between downtown Salem and Willamette Mission State Park.

Rich said because of the interest in the water trail, the partners received an unprecedented amount of grants, including one grant from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to do master planning. Commissioner Carlson said they had 2,000 surveys returned from citizens prioritizing elements of the park, with a playground being identified after other essential park features. She said out of this the big toy became an idea, as well as the amphitheater, boat ramp, and dog park. Commissioner Carlson said when the big toy was built in June 2015 they knew they needed 700 volunteers, but had tremendous community support with 800 volunteers working multiple shifts.

Commissioner Carlson said the total cost for the big toy was \$319,000 and gave credit to Rich for raising the funds. She said most was donated funds and the remaining was done as a service (i.e., gravel). Commissioner Carlson said the initial budget was \$500,000 because they wanted a spongy surface or fall area under the big toy but estimates for that alone were \$180,000 to \$230,000. She said because they were worried they wouldn't raise these funds by the deadline, they decided to instead put down manufactured wood chips. Commissioner Carlson said they are now in Phase 2 of the project and would like to make disability services or amenities a larger focus. She said the park as no ADA bathrooms and no paved trails. She said she asked Wayne to meet with them to discuss grant possibilities and are now working on that as a smaller grant group to write the grant. She said they were so successful at the outset in the city and county's joint effort that she is here today to ask the Parks Commission endorsement for the grant application moving forward. Commissioner Carlson said the grant application is April 1, 2016 and they will be able to use the purchased property as a match for the grant application.

Nate said the City of Keizer has to do their master plan indicating where the trails will go and will divide into two phases with the first phase including restrooms and fall surfaces and the second phase focusing on a paved trail. He said the total amount they are requesting for phase one is \$250,000. He said the newly purchased property is natural and the developed part of a former orchard. Nate said the restroom and fall surface is in the middle of this property. He said a portion of the park is undeveloped Marion County property but the City of Keizer is policing and maintaining. Nate said they are joining together with Marion County to strengthen the position of the grant and are asking for the parks commission's endorsement.

Marty asked about the current restrooms. Nate said they are portable restrooms with some being ADA. Commissioner Carlson said they also need feedback from people with disabilities and are meeting the Marion County Intellectual and Developmental Disability Advisory Committee (IDDAC) and will hopefully receive their endorsement. She said they met with the parks commission first because they oversee Marion County parks.

Rich said the initial plan was to have the spongy, fall surface, and it was very disappointing to not have for children, parents, and grandparents with handicaps that can't walk on the wood chip surface. He said so many people of all walks of life use the dog park and big toy as a social experience too.

Commissioner Carlson said there may be some other soft match but no money outlay. Wayne said Commissioner Carlson has done an excellent job pulling in different entities and people that could almost assure the success of the grant request. George asked Wayne to keep the commission updated on the park.

Ben made a motion that the parks commission endorse a joint application by Marion County and the City of Keizer for grant funding for the Keizer Rapids Park. Marty seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

### **BONESTEEL PARK INFORMATION**

Since Scott was not able to attend this meeting, this discussion topic will be tabled until the next meeting. George said he also wants more work done to Parks Master Plan, particularly the Natural Heritage Parks Plan. Jeff said there is an upcoming work session with the board of commissioners to discuss the Parks Master Plan and more information will be shared with the parks commission.

### **NORTH FORK PARKS TOUR / ACTION PLANNING**

Jeff said in October, the board of commissioners did a tour of the North Fork corridor with staff from public works, sheriff's office, and BLM, looking at law enforcement, roads, and parks issues. Commissioner Brentano said there are new stresses on the North Fork area because of heat and water, and there have been several disputes with neighbors, as well as a fire at North Fork Park, so commissioners thought they'd visit and see if they could put together a plan to make things better. Jeff said there is a work session with the board of commissioners next Tuesday about these issues. He said some highlights included:

- Trees are still down at North Fork Park and not yet removed by BLM although they were told this would be done by October.
- Looking at different ideas with parking to allow parking in a more orderly fashion, including expanding the parking lot at North Fork Park.
- Looking at money handling issues at Bear Creek Park. The county has the park host pull the money but BLM has two people handle the money, so the county is looking at other options so there are always two people when doing this to ensure safety and good accounting practices. Jeff said this is a challenge because the money is pulled daily so the host can see who has paid. Commissioner Brentano said he was quite impressed with wooden stair structure at the park. Jeff said the Juvenile department created these stairs and staff is talking with them about doing the same at Salmon Falls Park.
- Salmon Falls Park has signage that the trail is closed because the railing going to the river needs to be repaired or replaced. Jeff said this is a precarious way for EMTs to get down to the water when someone is injured. He said the Juvenile department has a design and sometime before the parks opening next May they will have a new stairway done and ready for use. Jeff said the park also has a new life jacket station from the family of the young man who died at park in 2015. Commissioner Brentano said there is also a concern about people riding through the salmon passage structure, which is a tunnel with metal grates locked down.
- The parking lot Salmon Falls Park is very small for the amount of use it receives. Jeff said they are looking at the delineation of the park to make it more efficient. He said engineering staff have also written plans for a possible future expansion. Jeff said neighbors aren't supportive because they feel if there's more legal parking that will bring more vehicles that will continue to park illegally.
- Looking at efforts to work cooperatively with BLM.

George asked if are any other organizations that have plans to expand in the area. Jeff said they've not heard of anything. Commissioner Brentano said there has been increased publicity about the great swimming and recreation opportunities, which brings more traffic to area parks and increases staff workload.

## **FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS**

George said the commission hasn't heard any updates about Scotts Mills. Jeff said there was a voice message from the woman from the Pudding River Watershed Council and thought she would attend today. George said the commission is waiting for information from her and would welcome an update.

George asked about the county volunteer coordinator position. Jeff said he heard last week that the county has hired a new volunteer coordinator and she wants to contact advisory board members. He said Sandy and Scott both have terms ending after this meeting and have asked to be reappointed for another term. Jeff said he will work with her to process the paperwork to bring before the board of commissioners and will share her information with the parks commission.

George said the commission needs to schedule meetings early enough so parks commission and Commissioner Brentano can all attend. Jeff said the meeting day is usually the first Thursday and would email potential meeting dates to the commission. Commissioner Brentano said his only Thursday conflict is the department heads/elected officials meeting. Jeff said will email potential dates to the commission.

George asked about preparing a thank you letter to send to volunteers. Russ said he has a boilerplate that he can share. George said the commission can review at next meeting.

George asked about LED grant opportunities that Sandy discussed in a previous meeting. Russ said these grants dealt with switching out streetlights to LED which the county is already doing.

- **Staff Updates**

- Russ said waiting for tree removal at Bear Creek Park.
- Bonesteele Park is closed for the season. Russ said the gates are installed and one driveway was removed and planted. He said it looks great and will see how it works in the off season.
- Russ said Lt. Baldrige from the sheriff's office asked to meet and discuss how they can help in county parks. The sheriff's office is providing inmate labor pulling ivy and blackberries, and will have someone picked as crew leader and continue into the future.
- Russ said at the last meeting he said the parks program had received extra money in the budget for playground equipment at Spong's Landing Park. He distributed a schematic for the commission to review and said he wants to purchase the equipment quickly because there is a year-end sale with 30% off. George asked the cost. Russ said with everything (borders, labor, and installation) the cost is approximately \$77,000. He said other money goes to the operations division and they will clear the area and do site prep. Jeff said the playground equipment at Scotts Mills cost about \$45,000. Russ said looked at foam surfacing and the cost was \$40,000, which isn't doable.
- Jeff told the commission that this is his last parks commission meeting because he is retiring December 31. He told the commission he really enjoyed working with them and appreciates everything they put into the committee. Jeff said for now the commission will work with Russ although the public works director will name an interim manager. Wayne said he spoke for the group in thanking Jeff for his help, guidance, and enthusiasm with the committee.

**ADJOURN: 11:16 a.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: February 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the North Santiam Room at Public Works**