



**MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

July 16, 2020, 3:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

PRESENT: Members: Marty Heyen, Alton Hoover, Ryan Mann, Wayne Rawlins, Kyleen Zimmer
Staff: Brian May, Russ Dilley, Stephanie Rosentrater
Public: Kathy Rogers
ABSENT: Member: Josh Faulkner

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Call to Order: 3:08 p.m.

Ryan will leave early due to schedule conflict.

Public Input: none

Approval of July 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Alton moves to approve minutes, Marty seconds. A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

PARKS UPDATE

Fee Increase Discussion (Bear Creek Campground)

Marion County Public Works paid the Oregon state lodging tax in retro this year. We had previously been unaware of this tax- will be paying it moving forward. To help absorb this cost, we want to raise the fees. Russ showed a chart of what other sites charge. Marty pointed out that Fisherman’s Bend takes reservations, so it’s a big advantage to have that reassurance. It was proposed to raise fee to \$15 or \$20 to help with revenue and to make it easier to pay (no change needed). We will start allowing reservations next year. Marty asked if there will be a reservation fee? We could absorb it or pass it on to the customer. Staff members have no preference. \$20 seems to be in line with what they’re seeing in the area. It’s full every weekend. It’s already full for tonight.

Alton suggests making it \$20 and then adjust it if usage goes down. Marty thinks it’s high, but if that’s what we need, then go for it. Wayne reported that he hasn’t heard any grumblings on the cost of camping and doesn’t think many will voice disapproval. Ryan is also supportive of it.

Marty makes a motion to raise it but that we are absorbing the reservation fee. Alton seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Current Funding - Funding Options

RV apportionment paperwork is at a \$2000 increase from last year. This money pays for the Parks Coordinator and pays for operation and maintenance costs. Steve is paid through general fund. There are four temp positions, three which are funded by general fund/fee collection. Eric is funded by the parks fund. Staff and Parks Commission members will brainstorm funding options: What could we be doing to raise money?

Grant funding is becoming less and less, so we’re not doing any new improvements. We’re trying to have conversations with other agencies to find more funding. Wayne would like to revisit the RV funds. Macleay, which has funding, is the only big project on the horizon. Parkdale would be the next project, which does not have funding yet. Are we allowing charitable giving like buying bricks for a pathway on a donation-basis. Would this be a good idea for Macleay.

Parks Update

Bear Creek Campground opened June 11th. Radio issues delayed opening. The Campground has been full the last four weekends. On or about June 24th, a bear began raiding campsites for food, pulling garbage out of cans, and other damage. The bear was found dead on June 30th – hit by a truck.

The main focus for staff at Bear Creek is keeping parks clean for visitors. We'll remove litter and garbage, clean and disinfect restrooms per Phase 1 and Phase 2 requirements. Aumsville Ponds, Bonesteele, Joryville, Minto, Packsaddle and Niagara are cleaned once a day. We'll focus on mowing and vegetation management. Once the grass has stopped growing, there will be a heavier focus on vegetation management and trail clearing will begin. Hot weather will lead to more time needed on the North Fork.

The Board of Commissioners did not give permission for Brian Nicholas to sign the landowner permission agreement to allow ODFW/Pudding River Watershed Council to remove the dam utilizing the park property. You can go on the BOC web page and look at the June 15 meeting minutes. One Commissioner (Cameron) was in favor, and two were not. We believe it's because it would affect the amenities at the park and thought it would change the characteristic of the park. Wayne doesn't see the Commissioners taking action in the future on their own. Members of the Parks Commission who would like to see this advance, we would need to keep it on our agenda to push the buttons to bring it back in front of them. The Pudding River Watershed Council will most likely come back to the Parks Commission, who can bring to the BOC again. Wayne would like to engage with the Pudding River Watershed Council before then... maybe in winter.

Russ received the summary to purchase San Salvador Boat Ramp area from ODFW. There are two options:

- Option 1 – Enter into a MOU with ODFW to take over management of site
- Option 2 – Purchase parameters (realistically a 9 to 12 month process)

We continue to be on hold with the Auburn Conversion Project. The Commission motioned to move forward on this. We need to see if a long term lease will fit our needs or if we want to buy it.

There were two weddings – 1 at Joryville, 1 at Spongs.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Marty – Nothing

Kyleen – Nothing.

Alton – Nothing

Wayne – Macleay. Will the County be doing long term environmental testing? We've cleared through the old landfill's testing, but we will continue to monitor it. So far, there have not been any issues. Will there be water eventually?

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Upcoming Topics/Future Business

Brian Nicholas wanted to share that currently Marion County is working on an improvement to the Sheriff's radio station. The Macleay area has a big gap. We might be looking at putting a tower at that site. The benefit would be giving us a better radio system. If this happens, it could have an effect on efforts of the park conversion. Will keep you updated.

Other Business: None

ADJOURN: 4:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 17, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.