

MARION COUNTY Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025
Time: 2:00pm – 4:00 pm
Location: Teams or Willamette Conference Room at Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE

Present: **Members:** Herschel Sangster, Bryan Hall, Wayne Rawlins, Tabitha Henricksen (Teams) and Alton Hoover (Teams)

Staff: Kevin Thompson, Whitney Ned, Toni Whitler – Boards Office (Teams) and Commissioner Kevin Cameron – Board of Commissioners (Teams)

Guests: Amanda Arthurs – appointment pending (Teams)

Absent: **Excused:**

Unexcused:

Quorum: **Yes**

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Hersch Sangster called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm.

Introductions: Commission members, staff, and guests were introduced.

Attendance/Roll Call: Done.

Agenda Changes: None.

Approval of July 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Bryan made a motion to accept minutes with correction. Alton seconded.

Discussion: Wayne pointed out a spelling/grammatical error on the second-to-last line of the first page.

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Input: None

Vote to recommend to the Board of Commissioners Amanda Arthurs' appointment to the Parks Commission

Motion: Bryan made a motion to recommend appointment. Tabitha seconded.

Discussion: None

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Appointment Of Wayne

Hersch shared that Wayne has officially been [re]appointed a Parks Commission member as of August 20, 2025.

Parks Commission Membership Update/Recruitment

Whitney stated that, effective August 13, 2025, the Board of Commissioners approved the recommendations to revise the bylaws and remove member, Stephen Staten. Members discussed improving visibility of recruitment announcements online, including adding a notice to the Marion County Parks webpage and outreach through schools and community networks.

Parks Memorial Subcommittee Update

Hersch reiterated that the goal of this subcommittee is to establish a policy for memorials (benches, trees, plaques, etc.) in Marion County parks, and that it is separate from the Park Renaming Subcommittee that was formed after the Beachie Creek fires. Research collected from local jurisdictions on existing policies has yielded little-to-no results. It was suggested at the last meeting to start looking beyond Marion County, to Portland and Eugene areas.

Parks Update

Kevin reviewed Marion County Code, Chapter 12.05, general park rules and regulations (sunrise-sunset hours, no alcohol, no smoking, etc.) as well as categories of Parks (neighborhood and community parks; natural and regional areas) and the unique restrictions/allowances for each. Members discussed potential updates, including clarity on drone use, dog leash laws, signage improvements and highlighting park amenities with icons on the website.

Other updates include the completion of the Parkdale project, with an overall positive response from the community; the fire memorial/park renaming policy that was recommended to and approved by the Board of Commissioners back in 2023 has circled back to Marion County Parks for design and execution. Kevin is discussing details with the Board of Commissioners.

Members discussed two conceptual options for the parking expansion project at Scotts Mills. Option 1 will convert the roadside parallel parking to angled spaces. Option 2 will expand into an adjacent open area for additional parking.

Parks Commission Recommendation on Scotts Mills Parking Expansion

Motion: Bryan made a motion to recommend option 1. Alton seconded.

Discussion: Benefits and drawbacks to both, opted for lower-cost and lower-impact option.

Result: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Kevin shared the following statistics for April 1 through September 15, 2025:

- Camping: nearly every weekend from end of June to the end of August were 90-100% full
 - o 352 reservations
 - o 535 nights
 - o 1,307 campers (139 dogs)
 - o Gross revenue:
 - Camp sites - \$15,811
 - Extra vehicle and firewood - \$910
 - Total - \$16,721
- Shelter Reservations:
 - o 7 at North Santiam = \$574
 - o 19 at Spongs Landing = \$1,556
 - o 6 at Scotts Mills = \$382
 - o 1 at Roger's Wayside = \$82
 - o Total gross revenue: \$2,594
- Parking: total of 12,437 parking passes sold
 - o 12,000 day-use passes = \$60,000
 - o 437 annual passes = \$13,110
 - o 39 Scotts Mills resident passes

Program Building

Kevin presented four areas for the Parks Commission to consider creating policies for. The first is an e-bike policy addressing definitions, safety and park-specific use policies. The second policy is for drones, with considerations for privacy, safety and impacts on wildlife. Policies for Special Use/Event and Commercial Recreation permits were briefly discussed.

Commissioners' Roundtable

Bryan suggested we look into a program for volunteer wardens to help with an enforcement presence, specifically at Scotts Mills. Tabitha mentioned the possibility of enrolling in the Oregon National Areas Program. Wayne requested that any materials shared on the screen during meetings be available to Parks Commission members before each meeting. Whitney confirmed digital copies of the PowerPoint will be sent to Parks Commissioners via email. Hersch promoted Keizer Fire District's Open House and Safety Fair on October 6.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 20, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m.