

Parks Advisory Committee
April 12, 2004

Members Present: Merle Bottge, Janet Alexander, Emily Schue, Steve Davis, and John Rosselli

Members Absent: Damien Gilbert and Johnny Medlin

Staff Present: Todd Winter, Jake Risley, Loralyn Osborne, and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Ken Engleman, Friends of the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery and Chris Orsinger, Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah.

Merle Bottge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

There were no announcements and no agenda modifications.

II. Approval of Minutes – March 8, 2004 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings

Bottge asked that the minutes from the March 8, 2004 meeting be approved. Schue moved that the minutes be approved as mailed. Davis seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)

There was no public comment at this time.

IV. Request Approval for FBP Native Plant Nursery Improvements – Jake Risley

As Chris Orsinger had not arrived yet, agenda items IV. and V. were switched.

Risley began by referring to the Native Plant Nursery plans that were distributed at the last meeting, which included greenhouse buildings, planting beds and an office building. At this time Risley is asking this Committee to support these additions/improvements at HBRA. Risley added that he felt the Native Plant Nursery would be a nice educational draw for the park and an office building would not be too obtrusive at this site. Rosselli asked that if we okay these buildings for the FBP, we should give the same consideration to the Posse if they want to put in an in-door arena. Risley stated that although he understands the need for an indoor arena, he would not be supportive of it being located at HBRA. With the outdoor event area, the outdoor horse arena and the nursery already established in this North Bottomlands area, adding an indoor arena would overtax this area. Winter added that he supports the Native Plant Nursery additions/improvements mainly because of it's potential as a revenue source.

Bottge asked about the cows grazing near the horse arena. Winter stated that the contract we have with the owner is almost up and the owner will begin removing the cattle from the area in the very near future. This process will be a gradual process as it is calving season. Schue asked whether we have had any contact from the Chumwa Fen group. Winter said that we have not heard from this group at all and that the only group that has had any reservations at the outdoor event area is the An Ceangal Mara Foundation, which has two events scheduled. Bottge asked where the office building would be built in relation to the barn. Orsinger asked her to refer to the site map, but it will be located in the most northern portion of the site. He also added that a little over ½ of the beds are already planted with over 30 species of plants and the shade house has been constructed. Next on their list is to construct the seed-drying shed and then the 21' x

48' prefab greenhouse. Bottge asked about the educational aspects of the site. Orsinger stated that the lease agreement with the County requires FBP to do two educational tours a year and offer the opportunity to the Arboretum to bring people out as part of one of their programs. In addition, every time they do a work party, there is an educational component. They also work with other agencies to supply them with native plant species needed, which will also help finance the program.

Motion: Schue moved that this Committee approve the plans for the nursery as presented. Alexander seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous with one abstention. Rosselli wished the reason for the abstention be in the record, which was he did not wish to support the buildings for the nursery if we didn't give the same consideration for the indoor horse arena.

V. Requesting Approval to Apply for OWEB Grant Phase II Hydrological Modifications for HBRA South Meadow Project – Chris Orsinger

Orsinger distributed an updated budget sheet showing the grant matches from several different agencies as well as a color map. Orsinger stated that he is seeking \$500,000 from OWEB for phase 2 work on the South Meadow Restoration Project. Orsinger proceeded to describe, using the map, what has been completed to date and what is planned for the future. The completed projects included the inlet excavation, which lowered the channel to allow the water to flow more frequently. The map also indicated where excavation was not necessary and where the excavated areas have already been planted with over 8,000 native plants to control the weeds. Orsinger proceeded to discuss in a little more detail what is proposed for the future at this site. When this project is completed, it will have restored more wildlife habitat, which will benefit the Western Pond Turtle in particular, as well as provide numerous educational opportunities. Lane County Park's match will only be \$5,000 and most of this will come from the Park Planner's time in providing administrative support.

Motion: Rosselli moved that this Committee support the request by FBP to apply for OWEB grant funds to support Phase 2 of the South Meadow Restoration Project. Davis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

VI. Requesting Approval of Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery Master Plan Proposal – Jake Risley & Ken Engleman

Risley started this discussion by distributing a site map as well as a brief history of the site. The site map only shows about 1/3 of the actual area we have at the Hatchery. Risley read the vision and missions statements for this site as well as what the role of the Lessee is, which is to take a lead role in the development of historic preservation of the site including solicitation of grants and donations, management of grant funds, over-site of capital improvement projects and monitoring site operations and development to ensure compliance with State and Federal Historic Preservation regulations. Last year John Rowell, of Rowell & Assoc., was hired to do the initial study for a master plan for the Hatchery, which included background research, site analysis, and to facilitate a stakeholders meeting. The meeting did occur and provided a direction go in. At this point, Risley introduced Ken Engleman, President of the Friends of the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery.

Mr. Engleman stated that as part of the master plan process, they would like to involve the public again, look at current uses of the buildings and see what we might want to change or expand for the future. Mr. Rowell has given them a generalized plan for this process and has contacted the Public Affairs Research Consultants to help obtain funding through grants, etc. Mr. Engleman said that they would be looking at ways to operate the site and generate some income. He feels that the caretaker's residence is the most attractive building on the site and

would like to check into the possibility of doing some sort of commercial activity there. They are also looking at the ponds, which are ADA accessible, for fly-fishing classes, environmental studies, etc. There is also the possibility of working with ODFW to set up the three concrete ponds as back ups for the new hatchery located across Leaburg Lake. Mr. Engleman said they are currently waiting for word back from the State Preservation Office on the historic grant they applied for to rebuild the wheelhouse. They will be announcing their decisions next Friday.

Motion: Davis moved that this Committee recommend that the Friends of the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery proceed with the application to the Ford Foundation for \$15,000 to complete the master plan for the Hatchery. Rosselli seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

VII. Requesting Support for SDC CIP Process – Todd Winter

Winter asked the Committee to refer to the Agenda Cover Memo that was included in the agenda packet mailed to Committee members. Winter stated that we currently have over \$90,000 in SDC's and since these funds are restricted on how they are spent, we are trying to set up a different fund account specifically for SDC's. This will make it easier to track these funds.

Winter will be going to the Board to request that designated long range planning activities we feel are eligible to be funded by SDC revenues, be funded by SDC's. Winter determined that one-third of the new master plan will be dealing with growth; therefore one-third of the cost of the new Park Master Plan should be covered by SDC's. Bottge asked that Winter double-check with County Legal Dept. as to whether the State Legislature allows for using SDC's for long range planning.

Motion: Davis moved that this Committee support the Board Order requesting that one-third of the Parks Master Plan be paid for with SDC funds. Alexander seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

VIII. Final Draft of Park's Mission/Vision Statement – Loralyn Osborne

Osborne distributed the final draft of the Park's Mission and Vision statements. A lengthy discussion followed but it was finally decided to go with the statements as presented, with two minor corrections – remove the comma after “customer service” and add an “s” to meet. The point was made that these short Mission and Vision Statements will not replace the lengthier more detailed Mission/Vision statements that were written for the Parks 2005.

Motion: Schue moved that this Committee approve the Mission and Vision statements as presented with the two minor corrections. Alexander seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

IX. Park Manager's Report – Todd Winter, Parks Superintendent

- **Baker Bay Park Caretaker – Update:** Interviewed three applicants and selected Dawn McGeehee as the new caretaker/concessionaire and who will be online there by May 1st. In the meantime, Winter is handling the campground – collecting money and doing the other required paperwork.
- **Richardson Park Picnic Shelter -- Update:** The decking is on and the roofing material has been donated. The contract to complete the roofing is out -- start date the end of April and a finish date the end of May.
- **Budget Update:** Will be hiring about 11 Fee Collectors this week and eight seasonal staff a few weeks after that even though we are currently showing a budget deficit. The DA's office is

looking at discretionary funds (which includes the Car Rental Tax) to cover some of their budget short falls. On the positive side, Parks is collecting admission fees earlier and later in the season and at two additional parks than in the past; the sale of Oceanwoods looks promising and will add a healthy chunk of money into the Parks system; Parks proceeding with the permit process to allow camping at Perkins Peninsula during the Country Faire; and, we are looking at putting in a boat rental concession at Perkins as well.

X. Good of the Order

The next meeting in May will be at 6:30 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m., the spring park tour on June 12th will replace the regular meeting in June, and then the next meeting in the fall after the summer break will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 30th – no meeting in September.

XI. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary