

**Parks Advisory Committee
February 10, 2003**

Members Present: Steve Davis, Merle Bottge, John Rosselli, Johnny Medlin, Damien Gilbert, and Emily Schue

Members Absent: Janet Alexander

Staff Present: Rich Fay, Jake Risley, and Loralyn Osborne

Merle Bottge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

Fay wanted to add as item VI., the approval of the 2002-2003 Annual Accomplishments and Goals.

II. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2003 Parks Advisory Committee Meeting

Bottge asked that the minutes from the January 13, 2003 meeting be approved. Schue so moved, Davis seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)

No public comment.

IV. FY 03/04 Budget Approval

Fay distributed a copy of the budget preparation requirements as well as the actual budget. Personal Services is projecting a 9.3% increase, Health Benefits are up by 13.8%, and we've been requested to reduce our Materials & Services by 2%. Fay stated that David Garnick, in County Admin., directed him to assume we were going to get the fee increases, so the revenue section reflects the possible increases in admissions, camping, picnic reservations, and Camp Lane. Under salaries, we are continuing to budget for the two vacant positions, which we won't be able to fill if the fee increases are not approved. Fay said that he and Todd Winter worked on reducing the Materials & Services by more than 2%. The final page is a list of "unmet needs." Discussion followed which included whether or not the dedicated fund for the marinas was paid back. Fay stated that it was. Bottge suggested that the Park's Master Plan be included on the list of "unmet needs." Jake Risley added that we will be resubmitting the two Video Lottery Fund grant requests for the Parks Master Plan and the campground at Armitage Park at a later date.

Motion: Rosselli moved that this Committee approve moving the budget process forward. Schue seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

V. In the Matter of Amending the Lane Manual Chapter 18 to Revise Fees, Reservation Policies, and Special Use Permits to Increase Revenue

Fay revised the Board Order from the last meeting, distributed a copy to everyone and briefly went over it. Medlin had a question regarding item #6 on page 5 regarding volunteer concerns. Further discussion followed including a location for the fee booth at HBRA, a possible way to

provide free access times at HBRA, and a preference to having uniform opening and closing times at all the parks. Risley said that he's working with PW Engineering regarding widening the road at the entrance to Mt. Pisgah when they put in the new bridge, so then we could possibly encourage LTD to establish a stop there. Should volunteers working in the park have to pay an admission fee? And what about park users coming to the Arboretum, does the Arboretum get a portion of the fees?

Motion: Schue moved that this Committee recommend Option B for changes in the Lane Manual Chapter 18. Gilbert seconded the motion. Davis added an amendment that time periods be set aside where there is free admission into HBRA, i.e., every Tuesday. Gilbert seconded the amendment. A lengthy discussion followed regarding whether to include an amendment to provide free access time at HBRA only or all the parks, the issue of lost revenue, whether we are trying to go into too much detail at this time, rather than focusing on the motion on the floor. Davis withdrew his amendment and it will be left up to Fay to address the concerns regarding free access to the parks. The vote was five members in favor of the motion and one abstention.

VI. Park Manager's Report: As Jake had to leave to attend another meeting, it was decided to move Park Manager's Report up in the agenda so that he could give updates on the Capital Improvement Projects.

●**Richardson Creek Restoration Project:** Risley stated that all the matting has been installed and we are about 75% finished with this project. The OYCC crew planted cattails and willows, and this week the Northwest Youth Corps will be spending three days planting 750 upland shrubs and trees. Once the area has dried out, we will then be able to complete this project.

●**Richardson Park Picnic Shelter:** Risley said that all of the electrical conduit is in the ground and Park's staff is back-filling the trenches. They will also be trenching for all the other utilities. Jake is working with Steve Counard, with the Triton Group, to put the trusses together and then put them into position. Our staff will then be able to put the 2 x 6 decking down.

●**40 Acre Siltcoos Property:** Risley stated that he talked recently with Ed Becker, District Ranger for the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. Apparently this piece of property is something they have been after for years and were not approached by International Paper (IP) when IP decided to sell the property. Becker said that with all the restrictions, we may have a hard time putting in a campground there. There is also the issue of who will operate the dam. Becker, who is also a councilman for Dunes City, is also interested in the water rights issue at this site. IP applied for water rights from the State and needed the approval of Dunes City and Dunes City denied their application. Now Dunes City is willing to change their initial decision as long as IP manages and operates the dam and guarantees certain water levels. They are currently working on an a possible agreement. Risley said that with all this to consider, we don't really have a very good chance of getting this property and recommends we write the State that we are not pursuing the feasibility study and won't need the \$5,000. The consensus of this Committee was to let this project go.

●**Sitting Duck:** Risley added that the new floating restroom (the Sitting Duck), on Siltcoos Lake, will be officially christened on February 28, 2003, at 11:00 a.m. from the Westlake Boat Landing.

●**Ocean Woods:** Fay stated that we will continue to discuss options for this property with Commissioner Morrison. She has concerns regarding the availability of water wells for the city. They will be meeting with Roger Bennett and Ken Lanfear again on Friday. Medlin and Schue

added that this might be a good time to look at the County's role in providing park services within the city limits.

VII. Lane County Parks Advisory Committee's 2002 Accomplishments and 2003 Goals

Fay distributed copies of the 2002-2003 Annual Accomplishments and Goals. Bottge thought we should add under goals and objective, the development of a Park's master plan. Rosselli wanted to add that we continue our efforts to restore Camp Lane and make improvements to make Camp Lane a year-round facility.

Fay asked this Committee if they would be inclined to write a thank you note to the staff regarding how well they maintained the parks last year with reduced staff. This Committee agreed and Fay will write the letter for the Chair to sign.

Motion: Gilbert moved that this Committee approve the 2002-2003 Annual Accomplishments and Goals, including the two additions -- development of a Park's master plan and the continued restoration of Camp Lane. Davis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

VIII. Good of the Order

Rosselli asked for an update on the herbicide use at Blue Mt. Fay said that he met with Dan Green, our timber management consultant, on site. Fay has also asked Todd Winter to complete the Board Order for this issue by next Monday. It will come down to a combination of mechanical and hand removal vs. herbicides and the costs for each. Fay will bring a further update to the next meeting.

Rosselli asked for an update on the Patio RV property up the McKenzie. Fay said that he spoke with the son of the owner about two weeks ago and it basically comes down to the owner putting one value on the property and the appraiser another. And with the appraisal coming in much lower, the owners want to take a look at some other options, but there is nothing in writing as yet.

Rosselli would like to have a discussion regarding the next park tour put on the agenda for next month.

IX. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:28 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary