

Parks Advisory Committee
February 7, 2005

Members Present: Janet Alexander, Damien Gilbert, Emily Schue, Johnny Medlin, Merle Bottge and Steve Davis

Staff Present: Todd Winter, Jana Sorenson, Loralyn Osborne, and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Ollie Snowden, Public Works Director and Howard Schussler, Assist. Public Works Director

Janet Alexander, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

There were no announcements and one agenda modification – Winter wished to switch agenda items IV. and V. as Chris Orsinger won't be here until about 6:00 p.m.

Loralyn Osborne presented the 2004 Volunteer of the Year Award to Cliff and Dale Laylon who have been Park Hosts at Perkins Peninsula Park for the past five years. Osborne read the article she wrote about the Laylon's for Lane County Public Works Wholeworks Newsletter. Winter added his appreciation of their passion and dedication over the years as well. Osborne presented them with a plaque in recognition of their service and then served refreshments.

II. Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2005 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings

Alexander asked that the minutes from the January 10, 2005 meeting be approved. Bottge moved that the minutes be approved as mailed with two minor typing errors corrected. Davis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)

There was no public comment at this time.

IV. Division Manager's Report – Todd Winter, Division Manager

- **Sheriff's Quarterly Newsletter** – Winter distributed a copy of the Sheriff's Quarterly Newsletter for each Committee member.
- **2005 Eugene Boat & Sportsmen's Show** – Winter stated that this event was well attended and everyone enjoyed staffing the booth. Osborne distributed a copy of the new Park's Quarterly Newsletter that was available at the show, which included a \$2 off per night coupon at Richardson Campground good Monday through Thursday, that we hope will encourage more mid-week campers at the campground this season.
- **Oregon State Parks Trust** – Winter said that Commissioner Stewart sent him a copy of the Oregon State Parks Trust By-Laws and if anyone wishes to review them just let him know.
- **Foreclosed Properties Program – Update:** Winter went before the Board on February 2, 2005 to amend Chapter 21 of the Lane Manual so that selected foreclosed properties could be deemed parkland, then sold -- with proceeds coming to parks. The Board authorized the change, so we will move forward. The next step is to go back to the Board for authorization to have the 70-acre property known as Glenada Hill deemed parkland so that it can then be forwarded to the Sheriff's auction for sale.
- **Temporary Park Closures – Update:** Also on February 2nd, Winter asked the Board for authorization to temporarily close Orchard Point and Perkins Peninsula Parks to help us to

better maintain service levels in the rest of the park system during the low-water levels at Fern Ridge this coming season. The Board approved our request so we will move forward to implement the necessary changes. The Corps of Engineers new goal is to complete repairs on the dam this summer so that they will be able to bring the lake back to full pool next year.

- **Marketing Update – Loralyn Osborne:** Briefly discussed the new quarterly Park’s newsletter and that we are also updating the glossy color Parks brochure to get it ready for another printing. This one will include all the park properties we own and not just the developed ones.

Tourism Special Projects Grant Program closed on January 31, 2005 and 52 grant applications were turned in requesting \$350,908.10 worth of projects. The amount of funds available is only \$132,000.00, so the Tourism Committee will have their work cut out for them.

The Road and Recreation Map is about two to three weeks away from printing. Just waiting for a few of the smaller cities to turn in their inset maps and the \$200 fee.

- **E-Commerce Update:** Winter said that he would be going before the Board on February 9, 2005 to ask for \$70,000 from the Transient Room Tax Special Project account to fund Park’s on-line campground reservation program. There is a County Store Front program that is going on-line in the next several weeks where Parks season passes and road and recreation maps can be purchased.

V. Review and Request Support for the Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah 2005 Work Plan – Chris Orsinger

Habitat Management Plan

Orsinger is here to request support in recommending that Lane County Parks (LCP) develop a Howard Buford Recreation Area Habitat Management Plan with the assistance of the Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah (FBP). They are also recommending that FBP be authorized to seek grant funds to support the habitat management planning process to occur in 2007 to 2008 – funding permitting. Orsinger said that at the last meeting when he first brought this request to this Committee, he was asked to provide more information on the Habitat Management Plan and the Oak Prairie Burn Program. Orsinger used a large map to indicate the areas of the park he would be referring to. When Orsinger talked about the benefits of a habitat management plan, he referred back to the HBRA Master Plan adopted in 1994 where there were three separate directions that pertained to a habitat management plan: 1) develop a vegetation management plan to address the exotic weed problems and the need to protect the native plant populations; 2) develop a wildlife management plan; and 3), maximize the value of the park as an educational resource. The available resources that Orsinger stated he had to accomplish this was a compilation baseline wildlife vegetation inventory that they have been working on since 1990, a group of professional biologists that have volunteered to assist, and the willingness of FBP to write the grants to raise the funds to accomplish their goals.

Bottge asked if they had talked to the Arboretum regarding this plan. Orsinger said he talked to them in terms of reviewing the entire plan and pointing out that it is a high priority. Medlin asked what LCP’s role is in working with FBP on this plan. Orsinger stated that he thought that in the next three to six months, we could determine how the roles would be shared. He thought that a Parks staff person should be assigned part-time. Winter added that this would be a Park’s plan and FBP would be assisting Parks in developing it. Medlin asked who would be managing the project – making the final decisions. Winter said that Parks would be making the final decisions. Medlin then asked if we were committed to follow through. Winter stated that the plan is something that is needed at HBRA – do we have the resources to do it? No. Medlin further added that since FBP was a Special Interest Group, and a plan developed by a Special Interest Group, no matter how well-meaning it is, has some complications to it. So how much over-site would LCP put into the project so it would be seen as a LCP project – supposedly

neutral looking at everything vs. a project of a Special Interest Group. Winter said that LCP would make sure that all the stakeholders are involved in creating the plan. Sorenson added that we have a staff member on their stewardship committee and that she and Orsinger have discussed the project at length. Maybe one of the grants FBP applies for can support a LCP staff person part-time – still working on all aspects to see if we can make it work.

Motion: Bottge moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that we support a plan to develop a Habitat Management Plan for HBRA as proposed by FBP. This includes support for FBP to seek grant funding for the plan development process. Medlin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Oak Prairie Burn

Orsinger said that since 1999 they have implemented five successful burns on Mt. Pisgah in the area indicated on the map in the Southeast corner of the park. Some benefits of using prescribed burns is to help maintain certain endangered plant life, provides training opportunities for local wild land fire fighting teams, reduces fuel loads, and provides research opportunities in landscape ecology.

The term “thinning” referred to in the handout falls under three different species – woody species of shrubs, trees and exotic pear and apple trees, also Douglas Hawthorne and young Douglas Fir that are all mixed into these habitat areas and are spreading. Thinning could also apply to dense clumps of Oak – lots of young Oaks that are fighting for space. Orsinger would like to start in a small pilot area first, i.e. the junction of trails no. 2 and no. 6 by the kiosk and remove pear, apple and cherry trees.

Discussion followed regarding this plan being a partnership between Lane County Parks, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, the U of O Dept. of Landscape Architecture, and the Friends of Buford Park. FBP has already been removing Scots Broom and blackberries and have also been seeding with native plant species. Also discussed were other areas in the County that were originally Oak savannah, whether the areas at HBRA should just be left alone and let nature take its course, etc.

Motion: Bottge moved that this Committee endorse this recommendation from the Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah regarding the Oak/Prairie/Burn Project, including use of prescribed fire, invasive species removal, thinning, and seeding with native plant species. Schue seconded the motion, and the vote resulted in five in favor and one opposed.

Orsinger also reported that the OWEB Grant that he applied for in the past, he was asked to re-submit with more detail. He was told that FBP has been recommended for \$75,000 to continue propagation and planting of natives and maintenance of the 30+ acres already planted. Regarding the Nursery Project, they are in the process of drafting the greenway permit as well as the permit for the seed-drawing structure and workshop.

VI. Good of the Order

Alexander asked if we had received any more applications for the vacant PAC position. Christine said that the second posting closes on February 11th. We have received several calls enquiring about the position, but don't know how many have actually applied. Sorenson said that she was at the Arboretum today for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new shelter that the Arboretum is building. Several TV stations were present to provide news coverage, which should air this evening. BRING Recycling is taking all the metal from the old

Quonset hut to recycle. The Arboretum plans to have the new shelter finished and open for use by this coming May.

VII. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary