

**Parks Advisory Committee
October 11, 2004**

Members Present: Merle Bottge, Janet Alexander, Damien Gilbert, and Emily Schue

Members Absent: Johnny Medlin, John Rosselli, and Steve Davis

Staff Present: Todd Winter, Jana Sorenson and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Ollie Snowden, Director, Lane County Public Works

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

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

There were no announcements or agenda modification.

II. Approval of Minutes – May 10, 2004 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings

Bottge asked that with no objections, the minutes from the May 10, 2004 meeting be approved as written.

Everyone introduced himself or herself to Jana Sorenson, Lane County Parks new Parks Superintendent. Jana told everyone a little bit about herself.

III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)

There was no public comment at this time.

IV. Consider Entering Into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Florence for the Future Purpose of Installing Water Wells on 40 Acres of Three-Mile Prairie

Winter began by requesting that this Committee support entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Florence for the future purpose of installing water wells on 40 acres of Three-Mile Prairie. Winter displayed a map that indicated where the 40-acre parcel being discussed was located. Winter continued by stating that the City of Florence had a permit to conduct well tests on our property. The City of Florence anticipates that over the next six years that approximately 30,000 people will move into the area. As the process for establishing new wells takes about six years before the wells are completely on-line, the City does not want to wait for our Master Plan process, which could be from 18 to 24 months, to be completed before they begin. Winter will draft the IGA to say that we will keep the option open for the City of Florence to establish six water wells at the site specified and make the commitment to consider this project a passive recreation development in our Master Plan – details to be worked on as we proceed further in the Master Plan process.

Motion: Schue moved that this Committee recommend Park’s staff move forward with negotiating this project with the City of Florence. Alexander seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

V. Consider Support of the Tax Foreclosed Properties Program

Winter stated that Lane County's Property Management Dept., headed by Jeff Turk, has a property foreclosure process in place, which take about six years from the first time a delinquent tax notice is sent to the property owner until the County actually takes possession of the property. There are currently about 50 foreclosed properties in inventory. The property is sold by conducting a Sheriff's sale and then it is put back in the tax roles. However, under ORS Statutes, it states that foreclosed properties can be designated parkland, and then put up for sale, with the money coming to Parks. The Board has approved a test to see how this process will work. Initially two properties will be selected for parkland designation and sale, which will help set the policies and procedures for future sales of foreclosed properties that have been designated parkland. Winter will draft a letter to all 92 tax districts to let them know about these changes and how it will affect them. There were two concerns indicated by this Committee, one was what if the cost of foreclosing the property exceeds the proceeds from the sale of the property. Winter stated that special care would be taken in selecting the properties to be designated parkland. We would not want any property that would require extensive clean-up, for example. The other concern was what if after the property was designated parkland, we got a lot of pressure from the public not to sell it. Winter does not anticipate this to be an issue.

Motion: Schue moved that this Committee approve this project in its current stage of development and have the staff move forward with the next step in the project. Gilbert seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

VI. Park Manager's Report – Todd Winter, Division Manager

- **Oceanwoods -- Update:** Robert Hirsch, who heads a group of property owners near Oceanwoods, wants to set up a 501C group and take over management of Oceanwoods. Winter let this group know that we would not let this happen, however, they were more than welcome to consider an Adopt-A-Park program or a Friends group. Winter will be attending a Florence City Council meeting tomorrow evening and he will let them know of our plans for this site, which are to put in small five or six space parking areas, portable toilets and garbage cans at the end of Sandrift and the end of South Beach. Mr. Hirsch's group is also holding a meeting to discuss their options, and Winter plans to attend that meeting as well.

- **Parks Superintendent and PM2 Positions – Update (Revised Organizational Chart):** The Park Superintendent position was already discussed at the beginning of the meeting. The Park Maintenance 2 position has been posted, which has been vacant for two years, and will close on Monday, October 18, 2004. Winter also added that we were able to hire our full complement of seasonal staff this season – 8 seasonal maintenance employees and 14 extra hires. We hope to have the new PM2 on by the third week in November. The Park Planner position has not been posted, but is next on the list to be filled. The revised organizational chart that was mailed to everyone was briefly discussed.

- **Parks Master Plan Process – Time-Line Chart:** The Parks Master Plan time-line chart was mailed out to everyone and indicates the tentative time-line for the Master Plan process. On October 20, 2004, the entire staff will be meeting at Camp Lane to begin discussing what direction the staff would like to see the Park Division move. The target date for completion of the Master Plan is January 2006.

- **Munsel Lake – Update:** In 2001 the Parks Division did some improvements at this site which included ADA access, a new abutment and ramp as well as two new dock sections and pilings. In 2003(?) we applied for and received an OSMB grant to put in a CXT vault toilet at this site. Issues have come up regarding the easement that allows us approximately 25 feet of the parking area and a large portion of the boat ramp that is owned by Hugh Sherwood and his family. About a year before Mrs. Sherwood (Hugh Sherwood's mother) signed the easement with the County, the property went into irrevocable trust. And although she was a trustee, she didn't sign the easement as a trustee, making the easement null and void. Mr. Sherwood has now indicated he has plans for the property and Parks and County Counsel are working with

him and his legal counsel to negotiate an agreement that benefits everyone including the park users. If we can't come to an agreement, we've already approached the Board regarding their willingness to proceed with condemnation – which of course we don't want to do. All parties involved will be meeting this Thursday to discuss. Parks staff is also working on some site plan options.

VII. Good of the Order

Christine said that the Committee member position that comes open at the end of the year has been posted. Bottge stated that her position is also expiring at the end of the year and she's willing to sign on for another term, as long as she's not Chair again (she has currently served two years as Chair).

Bottge would like to have this Committee meet as a group to discuss the public input aspect of the Master Plan process before we start having the public meetings. She would also like to see that the public meetings take place in some of the outlying areas.

Alexander mentioned that she has witnessed one of our staff driving a County vehicle with large Park Ranger decals on the sides disobeying traffic laws. Discussion followed regarding the visibility of our Parks staff and that extra care should be taken to set an example, especially if they are turning around and writing citations for non-compliance of Park rules.

VII. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary