

**Parks Advisory Committee
October 17, 2005**

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

Members Absent: Johnny Medlin and Steve Davis

Staff Present: Todd Winter and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Ollie Snowden, Director, Public Works and Faye Stewart, Lane County Commissioner

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

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

There were no announcements and one item to be added to the Division Manager's Report – an update regarding John McWade.

II. Approval of Minutes – September 12, 2005 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings

Alexander asked that the minutes from the September 12, 2005 meeting be approved. Bottge moved that the minutes be approved. Schue 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. Lane County Parks Master Plan – Update: Celia Barry

A complete information packet was mailed out to each Committee member prior to the meeting. Celia Barry began by stating that we are about four months behind the initial work plan schedule from last November, due to a temporary reallocation of her time to a different department. Barry briefly went over some of the highlights of the public participation process. Input was gathered from a variety of sources, which included a staff visioning retreat, 22 public meetings, and a questionnaire that was distributed by mail, the Internet and at the public meetings that were conducted. All verbal comments were transcribed and entered into the public record. A complete list of comments will be included verbatim in an appendix of the Master Plan. Barry said, by way of a reminder, that the purpose of the public process is to get diverse feedback from a lot of different users and interest groups and to let the public know we care about them and what they think. The process is as important as the outcome. Four major themes emerged from this process, they included: 1) infrastructure and maintenance, 2) financial stability, 3) having enough park space to accommodate population growth, and 4) preservation of open space for passive recreation, i.e. hiking, birding, etc.

Schue asked if Barry got the impression that people are aware of actually how the Parks Division is funded. Barry's impression is that the general public does not have an awareness of how the parks are funded or what it takes to maintain the parks. Winter added that very few people were aware that we are not part of the General Fund and that we get no property tax dollars. Schue also added an observation about the grants we get to build something, the public thinks that Parks now have money but they are not aware of how grants work and that the money can only be spent on that project and nothing else.

Koehn asked are we doing a national outreach, and are there any policies on the protection of riparian areas. Barry said she could respond to the second part of the question. In the County jurisdiction there is a land use development section that lists set back requirements for riparian areas and is found in under Lane Code 16.253 for areas outside the Urban Growth Boundary. There was further discussion, which included the remodel of I105 along the river and Snowden commenting on the extensive permitting process that is involved. He stated that the main permit contacts were the Corps of Engineers and the Div. of State Lands. From there then all the other agencies get involved.

Barry said that the next step in the Master Plan process would be to complete the detailed park property inventory, then the needs assessment, and finally the action plan for the future. At that point, she will come back to this Committee with the first complete draft of the Plan.

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

- **Glenada Property Appraisal – Update:** Todd began by clarifying the this was a 62 acre site, rather than 80 acres as previously indicated by Jeff Turk. Gillespie and Assoc., the group handling the appraisal, asked for a 15-day extension. Once we have the appraisal, County staff will review it before it goes before an Executive Session of the Board. Todd will keep this Committee updated. If ultimately the Board decided to sell the property, we will hold a public hearing as required by law. There is a citizens group collecting signatures on a petition to have the public hearing be held in Florence.
- **Two PAC Members Terms Expire 12/31/05:** Johnny Medlin and Janet Alexander's terms on this Committee expire on December 31st. As the posting process is a lengthy one, Todd asked if Alexander planned on serving another term. Although she has enjoyed the last four years, no, she did not wish to serve again as her schedule just did not permit it. Todd will contact Johnny Medlin to see if he wished to serve another term or not, then we would begin the posting process.
- **Fern Ridge Dam Repair – Update:** The Fern Ridge dam repairs were completed on October 15th – two months ahead of schedule. The restoration of Orchard Point Park and Clear Lake Road will hopefully be completed within the next month or so.
- **Parking Fee Fine Amount – Brief Discussion:** Todd will be going to the County's Finance & Audit Committee on November 8th for recommendations to take to the Board regarding the fine we charge patrons who choose not to pay the admission fee and are issued a citation. Winter distributed a handout with some general citation information. Of the approximately 35,000 vehicles entering our fee parks this past season, only about 700 were issued citations. Voluntary compliance is always our goal. Winter discussed the class of infractions and minimum fines we use and although the fine amounts are set by legislation in Salem and are consistent with the LCSO and OPRD, we do have some options if it is recommended to reduce the fine amounts. One is to change Lane Code 6.580 Non-payment of fees from a Class C violation (minimum fine of \$141) to a Class D violation (minimum of \$94) or go even lower and make Non-payment of fees an infraction, where we can set the fine amount. Bottge stated that the fine amount has to be at least greater than the cost of a Season Pass, which is \$30 – so at least \$50. Fine needs to be enough to encourage compliance. Todd will be coming back to this Committee with more information before going to the Board.

Todd is also working with Lane County's Waste Management Division to change the language in another section of the Lane Code to make it possible for interdepartmental cooperation -- with our Rangers and WMD staff able to look out for each others sites to take care of illegal dumping, illegal camping, etc., and provide back-up for each other when needed.

- **November PAC Meeting Date:** It was the consensus of the Committee to postpone the discussion of possibly changing the PAC meeting date and/or time until after the first of the year.

- **John McWade:** Todd stated that John McWade, who served on this Committee for almost 12 years passed away on October 1, 2005. John contributed so much of his time and talents to this Committee as well as the Parks Division. It was agreed that a letter of sympathy from this Committee be drafted and sent to Mrs. McWade and family.

VI. Good of the Order

Alexander asked for feedback on the tour the Committee took this past June. The tour covered the new boat trailer parking at Armitage Park, the new horse arena and White Oak Pavilion at Mt. Pisgah, the Vickery property, the new shelters at Richardson Park and the dam repair at Orchard Point Park. Everyone felt that it was a good tour and they were glad to see all the new changes in the parks. Also had a great lunch at the concession stand at Orchard Point at the end of the tour.

VII. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary