

**Parks Advisory Committee  
September 12, 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 Loralyn Osborne

Guests Present: Ollie Snowden, Director, Public Works

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 – a discussion about the new Covered Bridge Coin.

**II. Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2005 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings**

Alexander asked that the minutes from the May 9, 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. Discussion as to Whether or not There is Adequate Signage at Mt. Pisgah Letting Visitors Know they are Entering a Fee Area**

Winter began by briefly giving a little history regarding collecting fees at Mt. Pisgah, beginning three years ago. The first year we started collecting fees with a self-registration system using a fee tube and pay envelopes. The second year we used a fee collector with the fee tube and envelopes as a back up. Then this year we took another look at the fee collection process, and discovered that since Winter's predecessor increased the fee collection season by two months as well as the number of hours each day that we collect fees, we had to double the number of fee collectors we hired. We were now spending about \$80,000 to collect \$140,000. We also looked at the problems we were having with cash handling, keeping good extra help employees, etc. This led to the decision to go to the new automated fee machines. We have also stepped up on enforcement for non-compliance. For those visitors choosing not to pay the \$2 admission fee, receive a citation in the amount of \$141. Although this has generated several complaints, only a few of them have reached all the way to the Board. One of the complaints taken to the Board during Public comment was that there was not adequate signage telling people they needed to pay a fee when visiting the park.

Winter distributed pictures of the signs that are posted as you come to and enter the Howard Buford Recreation Area, which include sign #1, right before crossing the bridge to the park entrance – the sign reads, "Entering a fee area, follow signs to pay station." Sign #2 is located after you have crossed the bridge and says "Pay Station" and has an arrow pointing to the right to the pay machine. Sign #3 is located at the 25 mph speed limit sign, which states "Stop ahead, pay day use fee." Sign #4 is a 3' x 4' sign above the large bright yellow fee machine, which

states “Fee Station, Pay Here.” If you cross the bridge and go left instead of right, there is a large sign posted that outlines the fee requirements. On the east entrance to the park, we have the original fee tube and pay envelopes as well as a sign posted on the gate, which indicates you are entering a fee area with instructions on how to pay the fee. Winter said that he felt as a staff, that we have made every effort to supply adequate signs without going overboard.

Bottge agreed but also felt that the only other place we might add a sign is to the right where there is a place with several other information signs already. Gilbert also felt there was adequate signage but suggested that we might want the signs to be all the same color, use the same font, and the same language. Bottge asked what the process was when issuing a citation. Winter briefly went over the process emphasizing that the main goal is voluntary compliance. System-wide, we are at 98% compliance. Koehn suggested we might want to put an article in the Neighborhood section of the Register Guard thanking patrons for their high rate of compliance, maybe even on the County website as well.

#### V. **Division Manager’s Report – Todd Winter, Division Manager**

- **Admission Fee Compliance Effort Brief Overview:** Winter distributed a handout giving an overview of citation enforcement statistics from May 1 through August 31, 2005. The 785 citations were issued during a five-hour period each day, where the Ranger spent approximately one hour at each fee park. Winter will have a more detailed report at the next meeting.
- **Glenada Property – Update:** Winter stated that Gillespie & Assoc. won the bid for completing an appraisal on this 80-acre site in Florence as we were directed to do by the Board. The appraisal should be completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September. Florence citizens are collecting signatures on a petition to hold a public hearing regarding this property in Florence. Once we have the appraisal in hand, Winter will take it to an Executive Session of the Board for consideration and recommendation.
- **Length of Time for PAC Meetings -- Update:** Winter asked the Committee if the length of the current meetings was adequate as there will be times when he needs to leave by 7:00 p.m. to attend a meeting in Cottage Grove or if they felt we might want to change the day of the meetings. Also, Steve Davis has had a shift change at work and needs to work Mondays probably until November – he would like to remain on the Committee but would understand if the Committee wanted him to step down. The consensus of this Committee was to postpone this discussion until the next meeting.
- **New Play Structure at Baker Bay Park – Update:** Winter distributed copies of pictures of the new play structure at Baker Bay, which has been very well received. Day use at Baker Bay was way up this year. The closure of Fern Ridge Lake and the fact that it was a very hot summer probably contributed to the increase in use.
- **Fern Ridge Dam Repair – Update:** Reports indicate that the dam repair is on schedule and will be completed in November. They will be restoring Orchard Point to its original or better condition. They will also be using some of their surplus rock (27,000 yards of aggregate) to surface the nine-acre annex site across from Orchard Point.
- **Covered Bridge Coin:** Winter stated that since the Stewart, Currin, and Dorena covered bridges are no longer useable for any type of vehicular traffic, they are no longer eligible for Road Funds. But they are historic sites and part of the covered bridge tours. Parks adopted these sites and we provide maintenance and patrols. In an effort to raise money to help cover the maintenance costs of these three bridges, it was proposed to mint coins – two per year for a total of 17. A total of 500 will be minted of each coin; the first 50 will be auctioned off and will include a Certificate of Authenticity. The balance will be sold online for \$20 each. The first coin will be the Goodpasture Bridge and the second one will be the Lowell Bridge, to come out next June. All proceeds will come to parks.

#### VI. **Good of the Order**

Alexander asked if it might be helpful to e-mail everyone in advance regarding whether or not to change the meeting time or date.

**VII. Adjournment:**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary