

Lane County Parks Advisory

November 14, 2022

Meeting Summary

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The recorded minutes are available on the Parks Advisory Committee website:

http://lccivlivefiles.lanecounty.org/information/PW_Parks/PAC_11142022.mp4

Members Present: Jim Mayo, Greg Hyde, Kevin Shanley, Richard Vasquez
Members Absent: Mike Allen, Timothy Foelker
Staff Present: Brett Henry, Ed Alverson, Dan Hurley, Cynthia Schlegel
Guests Present: None

Chair Mayo called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

00:01:00 Introductions

00:01:39 Public Comment

- None

00:01:58 Announcements

- Henry presented Kevin Shanley with a plaque for his service on the Parks Advisory Committee. Kevin served since 2016 and was a dedicated volunteer who improved Lane County Parks during his tenure in unmeasurable ways. His position (South Eugene) District 3 is advertised and the PAC will attempt to recruit a more diverse pool of applicants for vacant positions.

00:09:18 Assignment Review

- Update the PAC on illegal camping at Three Mile Prairie.
- Role the PAC can play in the Phase Three Equity and Resiliency Plan. Henry will contact Mike Allen to gather more information.

00:10:39 Review of Meeting Summary for October 10, 2022

- Shanley motioned; Richard Vasquez seconded; motion passed unanimously.

00:11:21 New Business

- Parks Levy – The public polling was remarkably similar to the results of the levy measure. Measure 20-335 passed with 60.19% support (107,298 – yes votes / 70,954 – no votes). The poll from May 2021 showed 59% support and the poll from May 2022 indicated that 61% would lean

“yes”. The 5-year levy funding will not be available until at least a year from now around November/December 2023 at the earliest. It was a two year process with assistance from many. The Facility Condition Assessments and Parks Funding Task Force provided the meaningful data required to support the funding request. Stakeholder engagement provided the support and informed the levy projects. County staff provided support to the Parks Division and the County Commissioners expressed majority approval. The levy budget for five years is estimated at \$31,383,953.

- Equity Statement in Committee Bylaws – The County reviewed all committee bylaws for congruence with current policies. The Administrative Procedures Manual (APM) has a workplace harassment statement which was missing from the PAC bylaws. Henry requested the PAC to make a motion to add the following statement to the bylaws. “All Lane County employees and volunteers are responsible for maintaining a harassment-free work environment as detailed in the Lane County Administrative Procedures Manual in Chapter 3, Section 53.” Hyde motioned to add the statement, Vasquez seconded, motion passed unanimously.

00:25:16 Old Business

- PAC Vacancies – At-Large member vacant and with Kevin Shanley leaving that will open up the District 3 (South Eugene) position. Parks received one application for the At-Large position and Henry will invite the candidate to the December or January meeting after the PAC has had time to discuss the application. Jim Mayo’s term is up in December and that will create another vacancy (District 2 – Springfield) on the PAC which will total three vacancies. Henry will notify the Commissioners and post the vacancies. Again, Henry re-iterated the need for more equity and diversity on the committee.

00:36:45 Staff Updates/Reports

- Water & Sewer Infrastructure Feasibility – American Recovery Plan Act Funding of approximately \$4.3M for repairing and replacing the water and sewer infrastructure at Armitage, Baker Bay, Orchard Point, and Richardson parks. All parks with the exception of Armitage are owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- A feasibility study of the water and sewer infrastructure at Baker Bay, Orchard Point, & Richardson was advertised as a Request for Proposals (RFP) and the deadline is November 17, 2022.
- County staff met with the USACE to brief them of the feasibility study to streamline and expedite the Corps review process for the Real Estate permitting. A representative from the Corps will attend the project kickoff meeting in December.
- Fern Ridge Water Capacity – Project consists of doubling the water storage capacity for Richardson and Orchard Point water systems which are connected with the Corps regional office as well. The four new 5K gallon storage tanks were delivered and placed at the graded site where the existing storage tank is located on Richardson Butte.
- Auden Construction was awarded the contract and the project is underway. It is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year.
- Forest Glen Landing – Held a public meeting with the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) at Blue River High School for feedback on the preliminary concept drafted by the Marine Board.

- Forest Glen Landing was significantly damaged during the Holiday Farm Fire in 2020. The Marine Board awarded the County a Waterway Access Grant for the wetland delineation and archaeological survey to improve public access to the McKenzie River.
- Public feedback included widening the new boat ramp to two lanes to accommodate usage demands, add an off-loading area, expand trailer parking, and include wayside parking for Hwy 126.
- The original double-vault restroom was damaged by the fire so the Parks Division removed the restroom and hazardous materials to make room for a replacement. Currently a handicap accessible portable toilet is on site. FEMA has obligated a cost share for installation of a new double-vault restroom and ramp.
- HBRA Waterway Access – The Marine Board awarded a Waterway Access Grant for the permitting and design of a non-motorized access to the Coast Fork Willamette River. Cameron McCarthy landscape architects are assisting with the design and permitting. The Parks Division is contracting with Heritage Research Associates to conduct an archeological study prior to the submittal of the joint permit to the Army Corps and the Department of State Lands. State Parks has river mile signage through their Willamette Water Trail program. The Parks Division requested the signage from State Parks to inform the public where the nearby “put-in” and “take-out” locations are along this stretch of the Coast Fork.
- Security at Howard Buford Park – All permanent signs informing the public to not leave valuables in parked cars are in place. Security cameras will be installed in the main (west) lot and at the main entrance. Power poles, meters, an electric transformer, and wireless service is required. Also, permission from Bonneville Power Association (BPA) is required since one of the poles will be under the power lines in their established right of way.
- Winn & Jackson Properties – Two properties are for coming for sale soon. The Parks Division was contacted by the owners. The Winn property is located upriver and directly adjacent to the east of Armitage Park. The size of the property is about 130 acres with McKenzie River frontage. The Jackson (80 acre) property is located in Cottage Grove. The homeowner is interested in establishing a park with mountain biking trails and a petting zoo for school age children.
- Three Mile Prairie – Since Mike Allen was absent he will report his findings at the December PAC meeting.

01:13:14 Open

- Members engaged in open discussion. Henry will contact Jason Blazer to give presentation on the Ponderosa Project at December PAC meeting.

01:16:30 Operations Report – Included in meeting materials.

- Coastal Zone
 - o Striping Parking Lots
 - o General Maintenance
 - o Installed Proposed Parks Levy Informational Signs
- Valley Zone
 - o Remodeled Orchard Point Marina rental house
 - o Leaf Removal

- Fern Ridge floating restroom removal and winterizing
 - Evaluation and procurement of supplies to repair vandalized restrooms
 - Winterizing all facilities
 - Closed sewer lagoon for the year
 - Roof and gutter cleaning and moss removal
 - Interviewed seasonal staff and caretakers
 - Installed Parks Levy Informational Signs
- Ed Alverson gave the PAC an update on Parks' natural areas:
- Working with Jason Blazar (Stewardship Director of Friends of Buford Park), they completed this year's phase of the Ponderosa savanna restoration project. The logging contractor completed deliveries of logs to purchasers in October. In the subsequent weeks, staff worked to keep track of delivery documentation and payments.
 - Worked with staff from Friends of Buford Park and Willamalane Parks & Recreation to prepare and submit an application to AmeriCorps CCC for a team of volunteers to work in local parks during the winter 2023 round of funding.
 - Permanent signs indicating dog leash rules on HBRA (Howard Buford Park) trails were installed this month at the main and north trailheads. Signs will be installed soon at the east trailhead.
 - Staffed the HBRA 50th Anniversary booth at Mount Pisgah Arboretum Mushroom Festival on 10/30.
 - With assistance from many partners, a 30-acre prescribed burn was conducted in the Meadowlark East Unit on 10/27. It was late in the season and the burn was very cool and patchy but still produced beneficial ecological results. The Register-Guard did an article on prescribed burning on 10/30 that included photos from the burn.
 - On 10/7, the Lane County Fire-wise Program staff did fire-wise evaluations of several structures within the Mount Pisgah Arboretum.
 - I participated in a field trip to with Max Ragazzino, an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) expert with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, to Amazon Park and Mount Pisgah Arboretum. Fortunately, no Emerald Ash Borers were observed but learned how to distinguish indicators of EAB from other native borers.

01:19:11 Meeting Wrap-up/Assignments

- Henry will connect with Mike Allen regarding a Three Mile Prairie update.
- Henry will reach out to Judy Daniel regarding PAC vacancy in South Eugene.
- Henry will send out a social media blast to advertise PAC vacancies.
- Henry will invite current PAC applicants to future meetings.
- Henry will distribute the Climate Equity & Resilience plan to the PAC prior to the December meeting.

Mayo adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.