Parks Advisory Committee Minutes

November 5, 2012

Members Present:	Pat Hoover, Cat Koehn, Carlos Alvarez, Damien Gilbert and Larry Dunlap
Members Absent:	Carl Stiefbold
Staff Present:	Mike Russell, Howard Schussler, Fraser MacDonald, Todd Bowen, Dave Stockdale and Sam Fox
Guests Present:	None

Committee Chair Pat Hoover called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

I. **Public Comment –** There was no public comment.

II. **Approval of Minutes, Announcement/Agenda Modifications –** There was a motion to approve the October 2012 minutes. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion (Larry Dunlap): The PAC recommends approval of the October 2012 PAC meeting minutes.
Second: Damien Gilbert
Motion passed

Mr. Dunlap, who was not present at the October meeting, asked for clarification regarding Ms. Koehn's request to add signage addressing mercury levels in the waterways near Mt. Pisgah that had been omitted from the previous months' minutes. Ms. Koehn updated the committee to the work she has been involved in on other committees regarding unsafe mercury levels and how it relates to the Mt. Pisgah area. Mr. Russell stated that he has obtained contact information and is in the process of contacting the proper authorities in this matter. Mr. Russell also clarified that it is not Lane County Parks' responsibility at this point to add signage because of danger within the park, but he does recognize Ms. Koehn's interest to perform a public service by educating the public to the dangers of mercury in waters where park users may unsuspectingly swim or fish nearby rivers unaware of potential health dangers.

Mr. Alvarez also inquired about a Welcome Packet for new PAC members. It was stated there is not currently any kind of a formal welcome packet assembled for new Advisory Committee members. There was discussion about what information had been provided in the past and what kind of information would be helpful to new members. Information suggested could include a copy of the Parks Master Plan, the Advisory Committee by-laws, the Parks vision and mission statements, a breakdown of the current budget and contact lists for current members. It was also suggested that new members meet with the Parks Manager to go over all of this information when it is distributed and then viewing the

Working For You video that Lane County Public Works created several years ago that provides information on all of the services provided by this agency so members have a better sense of how Lane County serves the community.

III. **Staff Reports:**

1) i. Committee Member Update – Mike Russell was asked previously by the committee to contact Bill Fisher who was interested in joining the PAC. Mr. Russell has left both a phone message and an email message for Mr. Fisher who at this time has not responded. Mr. Russell will attempt to contact Mr. Fisher again to see if he is interested in serving on the Parks Advisory Committee. Mr. Russell will also talk with Commissioner Bozievich to see if he has a recommendation to fill the current vacancy.

ii. Update on Whitely Landing – Mr. Russell stated that the matter of placing a permanent alcohol ban at Whitely Landing park has gone before the Board of Commissioners and the ban has been approved. Alcohol use will no longer be permitted at this park off Chapman Dr. in the Santa Clara area of Eugene. Mr. Russell felt that the Board provided a considerable amount of time and thought to the decision, giving value to the PAC's discussions and decision process over the past year on this subject. The Board encouraged helping to facilitate efforts between the neighborhood groups and park users, requested the Parks manager report back in one year with an evaluation on the success of the ban. Commissioners expressed their desire to move authority of Whitely Landing to jurisdiction of the City of Eugene and asked the Parks manager to pursue that change.

iii. Update on St. Vincent de Paul Program (SVDP) – Dave Stockdale reported that he has connected with the representative from SVDP and together they defined the criteria and discussed the goal of Lane County Parks (LCP) to provide a location for approved person or persons in the homeless program to be a LCP volunteer camp host and security presence. At this time, there is one approved host in residence at the old McKenzie Fish Hatchery location across from Leaburg Lake. This location was originally used as the caretaker home for the hatchery and is listed on the historic registry. It became a LCP property around 1999. The new host will provide park maintenance and security services as a volunteer in exchange for utilities and a place to park his R.V. The hatchery location currently has a designated host site with utilities hook-ups and a parking pad approved for R.V. use. The term of his contract with SVDP and LCP is for 6 months.

PAC committee members are very supportive of this program and would like to see more SVDP candidates located in County Parks. Ms. Koehn inquired about other park locations that might make good locations for volunteer hosts. Mr. Russell and Mr. Stockdale agreed that the program is beneficial especially during the winter months when the parks do not have the foot traffic of seasonal park users to keep a remote park location safe and free from vandalism or storm damage, but is also the time of year that persons in the SVDP program most need an approved location with designated utilities to live. Mr. Stockdale stated that the only other

location within the current park system that is currently vacant and equipped to accommodate full-time use with an R.V. would be Blue Mountain park, a very remote location on Blue Mountain School Road outside of Cottage Grove. Ms. Koehn suggested Rodakowski Landing off Harvest Lane in Springfield as a location that would benefit from having a security presence to help control vandalism and enforce parking compliance. Although staff agrees that Rodakowski Landing would be a good site for this program, Mr. Stockdale reminded the committee that this location is not approved or equipped to be a designated host residence. Ms. Koehn inquired as to the cost to install the infrastructure necessary to accommodate a host site and what it would take to do that. Mr. Stockdale estimated that it would take anywhere from $5,000 - $10,000 to upgrade the location with facilities that would include electricity. There is currently a vault toilet at Rodakowski, but no access to drinking water. Ms. Koehn suggested a list of potential park locations that could easily be modified should this pilot program succeed in future years.

iv. Parks Finance Report – Dave Stockdale presented a revenue versus expense equals net operations report for this season. The report indicates that LCP was flat most the year with June and October being the larger revenue months due to this being a seasonal operation. The goal was a zero growth budget which is reflected in the report. This is largely due to better controls in contract management and also a result of some seasonal staff cuts. Ms. Hoover asked how these figures compare to state, city, etc? Mr. Schussler weighed in that other parks departments throughout the state are part of their general fund and therefor receive general fund dollars, where LCP is a fee-based operation and does not receive general fund money or tax dollars.

v. FY 14-18 Parks Capital Improvement Program – Mike Russell presented a draft version of a Parks Systems Development Charge (SDC) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for fiscal years 2014-2018. The report takes the previous version and reflects two projects that have dropped off of the plan and allows input from committee members to enhance the plan for years 2016-2018. Response from the committee included suggestions for additional playground structures and soccer goals, a boat ramp expansion at Perkins Peninsula, maintenance and structural work at Camp Lane, the expansion of Eagle Rock park, expansion of the courtesy dock at Triangle Lake, and revamping of the Kensel house at Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA). Mr. Russell asked for the committee's support to present the revised CIP for public review and comment at the December PAC meeting and the committee voted unanimously to move for public review and comment.

Motion (Damien Gilbert): The PAC recommends presentation of the 2014-2018 Parks Systems Development Charge (SDC) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for public review and comment at the December Parks Advisory Committee meeting.
Second: Cat Koehn
Motion passed unanimously

2) Natural Areas Update

i. Meadowlark Oak Savannah Restoration Project – Fraser MacDonald

Fraser MacDonald discussed the projects that have been worked on this year.

1. Meadowlark Oak Savannah
2. Native Plane Nursery Expansion
3. South Meadow Interpretive Trail – Wildlife Viewing Blind
4. Springbox Prairie
5. Trail #3 Realignment

For the Meadowlark project we are on the leading edge of how organizations can develop relationships to get project like this done. The project is 25 acres at the intersection Trail #2 and Trail #3. The project is intended to establish 30% canopy cover of Oak trees. Fraser presented a visual tour of the work completed over the last month including brush cutting, logging, and mowing.

There was a good sense of the work by all parties, the contractor was efficient, there was a clear plan, and ongoing communication throughout the process contributed to the success of the project.

There was material left onsite from the logging process that will be used in other areas throughout the park. Certain trees that were not identified as valuable timber were left in place and turned into snag trees.

Part of the work also addressed fire potential by clearing invasives, limbing standing trees, and mowing the area.

Some logged timber was milled on site and will be available for use within the park.

To date, revenue generated from timber sales is around $50,000. Those revenues will be used to help defray the costs of the project and be used for other projects in the park.

There was an ecological burn conducted today within the project area outside of the logged area (prior year's project area). This was performed in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Forestry and Friends of Buford Park.

Fraser reviewed the project proposal going forward including more ecological burning.

Pat Hoover asked what the percentage of the entire park we wanted to do the Oak release work on. The Meadowlark project area is 230 acres or 10% of the park area. We are trying to identify appropriate areas that are limited to the south east side of the park.

There was a public project tour that occurred last week. It was attended by several members of the public. Pat Hoover found it very interesting and very well done.

Larry Dunlap asked if any of the work had been done by the County. Mike Russell said there was not any done on the Meadowlark project, but much of the work performed on the Springbox Prairie project was done by County forces.

Pat Hoover asked if the money generated goes back into the Meadowlark project or the park in general. Mike Russell said that anticipated revenue was not realized and that it looked like there would not be very much money left over to use in other areas of the park. Final accounting will occur at a later time and it will be determined what, if any, resources are available.

Good of the Order/Concerns of the Committee –

Larry Dunlap asked about information on The Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery facility and the Kinsel Barn.

Pat Hoover encouraged new committee members to sit with the Parks Manager and go over a Parks orientation one-on-one.

Pat Hoover wanted to state that part of the way she feels about the way the neighbors to Whitely Landing have handled the issue has to do with the fact that the park was probably there before these folks moved into the area. She suggested that we add an establishment date for each park in our Parks Site & Directional Maps book as a reference.

Larry Dunlap asked about the Marina Holder's meetings that Parks staff held in October. Mike Russell summarized the feedback received from the meetings.

Baker Bay – 12 of the 25 moorage holders attended. Request from users to upgrade the marina. Appreciation for the park appearance and the new Caretaker.

Orchard Point – 24 of the 90 moorage holders attended. Concern over the break-ins that occurred over the season and the need to increase security. Pat Hoover mentioned that the idea of having someone on the water in a houseboat stay at the marina. Kat Koehn asked if this would be a good candidate for the Homeless Host Pilot program. Mike Russell said that there is not a site there right now and there needs to be some issues addressed with Lane County Land Management to establish a site at that location.

Richardson – Less than 20 of the 170 moorage holders attended. Appreciation for the marina hosts. Appreciation for the new docks. Discussion about the Blue-green Algae bloom and Eurasian Millfoil.

The committee confirmed the next meeting be December 10, 2012.

IV. **Adjournment –** The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.