

Parks Advisory Committee Minutes

December 10, 2012

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

Committee Chair Pat Hoover called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

- I. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.
- II. **Approval of Minutes, Announcement/Agenda Modifications** – There was not a quorum for this meeting so approval of the minutes from November 2012 will be postponed to a future meeting. Committee members that were present for this meeting did agree that the November minutes were acceptable without any changes or modifications needed and should be posted on the website as a DRAFT until formally approved by the committee.
- III. **Staff Reports:**
 - i. Update on Whitely Landing – Mike Russell advised that the park has been posted with signage that alcohol is not allowed at this location. Park Rangers have also increased patrols through the park. Supervising Ranger Todd Bowen stated that Park Rangers have responded to calls from concerned neighbors and only one instance resulted in contact with a park user who was consuming alcohol. Ranger Bowen confronted this person and asked for identification. He also inquired if the man knew about the alcohol ban, which he said he did not. The man willingly supplied the Ranger with his i.d. and voluntarily poured out the beverage. The Ranger informed this park user of the rules and let him know that if he were to continue to bring alcoholic beverages into the park that he would be cited for failure to comply with the posted use rules. Chair Hoover asked if there has been or will be a timeline set when Rangers will begin to issue citations for this infraction and it was noted by the Parks manager that if it becomes an issue or if there are repeat offenders who refuse to comply, the Rangers will move forward with implementing the citation process. At this time the strategy is to educate users of this park about the new ruling and to seek voluntary compliance. Other calls resulted in complaints about litter up in the trees where someone has tied beer cans together and strung them into the canopy of a tree. The cans are typically hidden from view until the leaves are off of the trees in the fall. Park maintenance staff will attempt to remove the cans. Ms. Hoover also asked if staff has noticed any involvement from nearby residents or community committees performing any cleanup or maintenance inside the park, and Ranger Bowen stated that other than the

complaint phone calls making staff aware of problem behavior, the only time he has had contact with the immediate neighbors who have been most vocal about Whitely Landing is when they see Parks staff performing maintenance and patrols. No other enhancement activities have been noted outside of the duties that Parks maintenance staff routinely provide. Previously Chair Hoover made an inquiry as to when Lane County Parks became responsible for the Whitely Landing property and Dave Stockdale reported that research has indicated that the property was deeded from the City of Eugene to Lane County in 1989.

ii. Mercury Posting at HBRA (Mt. Pisgah) – Per committee member Cat Koehn’s concern of mercury levels in the coast fork of the Willamette river which runs through the Howard Buford Recreation Area, Parks manager Mike Russell contacted Chris Stein of the DEQ to learn more about this issue to determine whether or not Lane County Parks needed to post a mercury warning to park users. Mr. Stein stated that postings come from the Oregon Health Authority when there is concern of mercury accumulation in fish that swim in waters where the toxin exists in the silt and soils near the water rather than the water quality itself. Mr. Stein advised that we provide information at our kiosk on the potential for mercury in fish and the consumption of fish that are from these waters, but he stated that this location is noted for its low toxin levels compared to other water bodies and is considered to be of very low concern for that agency and they did not recommend any kind of a mercury posting for HBRA or the Mt. Pisgah area.

iii. Oregon Parks Association Legislation – Mike Russell and Dave Stockdale will travel to Salem later this week to discuss the distribution of recreational vehicle fees with state legislators. The current split of these fees is 35% to Oregon counties and 65% to state parks. Year 2015 will bring about the sunset of a revision which will revert the split of these funds to the original 30% for county parks and 70% to state parks. Research shows the Oregon counties provide 49 percent of available campsites throughout the state of Oregon. The proposal is for a 50/50 split based on the theory that if counties provide 50 percent of campsites, they should receive 50 percent of the revenue. Of this split, Lane County would receive an additional \$156,000 per year to the Parks budget. Thirty-six counties will be represented, all of them attempting to persuade legislators to revise the split evenly with counties. Chair Hoover volunteered to represent the Parks Advisory Committee on behalf of Lane County in the future if staff thought it were advantageous to have that show of support with legislators.

IV. Good of the Order – Larry Dunlap had several questions that he requested further discussion or input from Parks (LCP) staff, with the first question inquiring about the future development plans for Three Mile Prairie (TMP) and why is LCP requesting access to it? TMP has no current public access and must be accessed by permission from nearby property owners. LCP is asking land use approval agencies that access be granted to TMP as nearby properties become developed. The access would allow LCP to create a parking area, and development would involve interpretive signage and possible structures for sensitive wetlands in this area. The long-range plan for this property is to retain it as a natural area and does not include any sort of

playground or campground facilities. Mr. Dunlap's second question was regarding what type of process Lane County uses to determine if a campground or a marina would be a good use at a LCP. The determination takes several things into consideration such as public demand, funding, grant opportunities, and sustainability once a facility has been created. LCP has considered adding a limited-use campground without hook-up facilities, also known as 'dry camping', at locations such as Hendrick's Bridge Wayside. Mr. Dunlap suggested a boat moorage marina for the Westlake boat ramp on Siltcoos lake. Mr. Russell admitted that although a marina on Siltcoos Lake had not been considered, he thought it was a good idea and would give it further consideration. Budget analyst Dave Stockdale talked about Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) funding and discussions that LCP has had with OSMB about enhancement of the boat ramp and restroom facilities at Hendrick's Bridge Wayside. LCP will continue to work with OSMB and is considering adding a 20-24 space dry camping area providing shower facilities can be incorporated into the restroom design as required by state law for overnight camping that lasts longer than 3 days. Mr. Stockdale also talked about the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) process that the State of Oregon uses to identify projects and determine scoring for possible grant funding opportunities. The 2013-17 SCORP plan has recently been distributed and Mr. Stockdale will plan to discuss this program with the PAC at the January Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Dunlap's next question was regarding enhancement plans for Schindler Landing park and boat ramp and Mr. Russell indicated that future federal highway dollars will be used to pave the parking lot, add designated parking spaces and boat trailer parking spaces, and construct a permanent bathroom facility which will replace the current portable toilet. Mr. Dunlap's fourth question was about LCP property known as Oceanwoods located in Florence. He asked if this property is under consideration for sale. Mr. Russell replied that the Oceanwoods property is not currently on the market but he is considering the revenue possibilities of this property and will begin working with the Board of County Commissioners for their support of the sale of this property as it does not meet the required needs of Lane County Parks to turn the area into usable park land for recreational or natural areas use.

- V. 7:00 P.M. Public Hearing: FY 14-18 Parks Capital Improvement Program** – Chair Hoover recessed the advisory committee meeting and opened the public hearing. There were no members of the public signed up for public testimony. Mike Russell addressed items that were omitted from the previous DRAFT of the CIP which includes a generic line item for play structures. \$100,000 per year will be earmarked as a place holder starting the in 2015-16 year per the PAC's recommendation. Also omitted, under the boat ramps designation, was the expansion of the Perkins Park Peninsula boat ramp to a double ramp with added striping. This \$250,000 expansion planned for the 2015-16 year will allow multiple uses on the ramp at any time to accommodate fishing and pleasure boats as well as kayakers and canoes. Because there was no quorum at this meeting, the PAC could not move for a motion of a vote but all committee members in attendance expressed full support of the proposed 2014-2018 Parks Capital Improvement Plan. The vote will be held over to the next meeting. The public hearing was closed at 7:10 P.M.

- VI. Concerns of the Committee** – Chair Hoover asked about the current vacancies on the Parks Advisory Committee and what efforts were being made to fill those vacancies. Mr. Russell reported that he has forwarded Mr. Bill Fisher’s application to Commissioner Bozievich for recommendation but has not received a response from the commissioner. As of this meeting, there will now be three vacancies resulting from the completion of two of the member’s at-large terms and the one appointment opening from Commissioner Bozievich’s district. Mr. Russell plans to advertise in the local newspaper as well as a posting on the Parks website. Chair Hoover strongly encouraged fellow committee members to consider recommending the openings to others within the community that members think might be interested in serving.
- VII. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.