

Parks Advisory Committee Minutes

September 8, 2014

Members Present: Pat Hoover, Wayne Lemler, Mary Brorby, Damien Gilbert, Larry Dunlap

Members Absent: Dale Stoneburg

Staff Present: Mike Russell, Dave Stockdale, Sam Fox, Fraser MacDonald

Guest Present: Marsha Miller

Committee Chair Pat Hoover called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

Agenda Additions/Changes/Modifications – Both Chair Hoover and Ms. Brorby requested items be added to the agenda. Ms. Hoover also asked Mr. Dunlap for an update on the Large Events Task Force when the Parks Manager gives his update to the committee later in the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – There was a motion by Larry Dunlap to approve the March 2014 and the May 2014 minutes as presented, Wayne Lemler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PAC Vacancy – Chair Hoover announced that committee member Carlos Alvarez has resigned from the committee as he prepares to move out of the Lane County area. Mr. Alvarez' position is an at-large position so there was discussion among the members about people they know within the community who might be interested in serving in this capacity. The Parks Manager will contact Human Resources about posting the vacancy publicly and he will also contact the parties mentioned by committee members to make sure they are aware of the vacancy in case they are interested in applying. Ms. Hoover requested a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Alvarez thanking him for his service to the committee.

Chair Hoover had sent a letter to committee members asking for feedback on their commitment to the committee with a few suggestions as to how to make the advisory meetings work better for members to help increase attendance and maintain a quorum for future meetings. This committee has struggled to maintain regular quorums over the past several years which has at times hindered the groups progress to conduct and finalize business. Suggestions included adhering to a set time schedule, ending each meeting by a decided upon time, reconfiguring the room set-up to allow for more face-to-face discussion, and keeping record of attendance.

Ms. Hoover also made committee members and parks staff aware that her term as chair will come to an end at the end of December and she encouraged members to begin preparations for electing a new chairperson at the start of the next year.

Information Items:

- I. *Large Events Task Force Status* – Mr. Russell showed committee members the link on the Parks website for information on the task force progress thus far. Information available to the public includes meeting minutes, revenue reports, links to both the Parks and HBRA master plans, and event contracts. The task force has already met three times with plans to meet monthly through May 2015.
Mr. Dunlap supported information presented by Mr. Russell and suggested that time be allowed at each PAC meeting for an update on this topic. Mr. Dunlap and Chair Hoover, who has also attended each of the task force meetings, invited committee members to attend those meetings if interested.
Chair Hoover asked Mr. Russell to add this subject to future agendas so Mr. Dunlap and the Parks Manager can keep the committee apprised of task force progress.
- II. *2014 Moorage* – Mr. Russell reported that the Army Corps of Engineers has begun releasing water from both Dorena reservoir and Fern Ridge reservoir, therefor signaling the end of the LCP moorage season. Parks department staff are preparing to contact moorage holders in the marinas letting them know that it is time to begin removing their boats for the season, and sending an invitation to attend the upcoming annual end of the season meetings with parks staff to recap and provide feedback on the 2014 moorage season.
- III. *Archie Knowles CG Update* – Mr. Russell advised committee members that the Forest Service (FS) has approached Lane County Parks about taking over and re-opening Archie Knowles campground on Hwy 126 between Walton and Mapleton. LCP had previously approached the FS about this and the FS declined the offer. After community input, the FS is now reconsidering the request. LCP is requesting a 20-year lease agreement in order to take on this campground and the FS is considering the request.
- IV. *Mt. Pisgah Trail Grant Application* – Dave Stockdale reports that LCP has submitted a \$56,000 grant application for the Trail 5 enhancement project to the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to repair Trail 5 to enhance the area for park users, wildlife and to protect Western pond turtle habitat. Currently, the low lying trail collects rainwater run-off at the base of a steep slope. The lack of drainage and use during the wet season leave large holes and ruts in the trail that are dangerous to pond turtles. The desire is to re-engineer the trail or move it in order to better manage water and minimize impacts to pond turtles. A decision by the RTP grant committee regarding funding should be known by mid-October. Mr. Russell stated that a considerable amount of the volunteer work for this project, if funded by the grant, will be provided by the Friends of Buford Park (FBP). The FBP Trails Committee will finalize a trail option route and plan to bring that information to the PAC committee in March 2015 for review and approval.
- V. *Volunteer Host Program* – Mr. Russell advised committee members that LCP continues to work with St. Vincent de Paul (SVPD) to identify suitable park locations for qualified candidates from the car camper program to fill in as volunteer hosts at designated Lane County park locations to help with litter pick-up and to provide a security presence. LCP is considering Whitely Landing in Santa Clara, and also Rodakowski Landing in Springfield as

possible locations in need of hosts, however both of these locations would require improvements such as electricity and water to accommodate the host dwelling. Funding for these enhancements is not currently budgeted but is under consideration. Mr. Russell stated that current hosts from the SVDP program are working out very well for LCP. Mr. Stockdale added that Willamalane Parks and City of Eugene Parks have contacted him to learn more about this coordinated effort.

Good of the Order – Ms. Brorby suggested the addition of bicycle racks or bike lockers at Richardson Park. Mr. Stockdale advised that bike racks had been there in previous years but were removed as a result of severe vandalism over the years. Mr. Stockdale also stated that he is working with local Boy Scouts and their Eagle Scout projects and will suggest this topic as a possible future project; Ms. Hoover reported that she has visited the new Armitage Park restroom facility and was pleased with it. Mr. Stockdale advised that a grand opening is scheduled for September 18th and members of the committee and the general public are invited to attend. This new facility is ADA compliant and is complete with restrooms, showers, clothes washers and dryers. Vending machines should arrive in the coming weeks; Ms. Hoover also mentioned an article she came across in the latest AAA magazine VIA which features an article on the Mt. Pisgah arboretum; Ms. Brorby voiced her concern regarding dry weather conditions and fire danger involving any of the county parks. Mr. Russell stated that none of the fires currently burning should affect any Lane County Parks. Mr. Russell did report on a fire that recently ignited on Mt. Pisgah in the Howard Buford Recreation Park. It is believed that the fire was a result of mowing in the area and was quickly extinguished and contained to an approximate one-mile area.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting will be October 13th. Ms. Brorby reported that she will be unavailable for both the October and November meetings.