

Parks Advisory Committee Minutes

January 14, 2013

Members Present: Pat Hoover, Carlos Alvarez, Larry Dunlap
Members Absent: Damien Gilbert
Staff Present: Mike Russell, Todd Bowen, Dave Stockdale, Sam Fox
Guests Present: Commissioner Pat Farr

Committee Chair Pat Hoover called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

- I. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment. Newly elected County Commissioner, Pat Farr, attended the meeting.
- II. **Approval of Minutes, Announcement/Agenda Modifications** – There was not a quorum for this meeting. A few changes were noted by staff and the committee. Changes will be made and approval of the minutes from November 2012 and December 2012 will be postponed to the next meeting.
- III. **Staff Report: Volunteer Host Program** – Volunteer park host, Sam Frogner, was unable to attend the meeting as scheduled. This item will be rescheduled to a future agenda.
- IV. **FY 2014-18 Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee Recommendation** – Mike Russell presented the Parks CIP plan, with changes noted. At the last meeting, the three attending committee members approved the plan, but without a quorum present the committee could not take a vote to recommend staff to present it to the Board. Although there was no quorum, all present said they fully supported the proposed CIP. Mr. Russell asked the committee if he had their approval to combine the support of those in attendance tonight with those from last month's meeting to proceed with recommending this revised version of the CIP to the Board of County Commissioners. All present agreed.
- V. **Annual Committee Report** – Mr. Russell presented DRAFT documents which listed the Advisory Committee's accomplishments for 2012 as well as a list of goals for 2013. Chair Hoover recommended the addition of a couple of items to the list of accomplishments, and also some feedback on suggested items to add to the list of goals. Committee members expressed interest and a shared desire to explore ways to generate funding to support parks while appreciating efforts already put forth by staff. Commissioner Farr also expressed support for parks and encouraged staff to continue to pursue funding opportunities.

VI. Staff Reports

1) Parks Manager

- I. **Committee Vacancies** – Current vacancies are all commissioner appointed which means instead of advertising or going through an application process, the Commissioners have the opportunity to appoint someone to the committee vacancy. The commissioners have indicated to the Parks manager of their intentions to fill these vacancies with their personal appointees. The PAC will wait to hear more details at the next scheduled meeting.
- II. **Volunteer Host Program** – As noted earlier in the meeting, volunteer park host, Sam Frogner, was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Russell provided the committee with an overview of Mr. Frogner’s duties and accomplishments at the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery location. Because the property is vacant at this time, the Parks department was concerned about security for the buildings and the grounds. Mr. Frogner greets visitors and contractors who visit the property, picks up litter and provides a security presence. It is the opinion of parks staff that for this purpose, the pilot program with St. Vincent de Paul is working well. Parks management will continue to monitor the program and make changes if needed.

2) Dave Stockdale

- I. **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)** – LCP is often asked how it identifies projects for its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), how those projects are prioritized, and how they are budgeted or funded in order to carry out the mission and goals of the Parks department. Dave Stockdale, budget analyst for Parks, detailed the steps for the committee by identifying some of the materials referenced in this process such as the LCP Master Plan, the HBRA Master Plan, Trails Plan, the Oregon State Marine Board 5-year plan, and the SCORP. The SCORP is a statewide survey conducted to identify key factors such as activities and providers, for the purpose of determining which projects qualify for potential funding and where funding dollars are awarded. Projects can be identified several ways; by Parks staff recommendation due to maintenance or safety needs or from discussions with advisory committee members, and requests and recommendations from the general public. A general discussion ensued regarding efforts to update the Parks Master Plan and how current budget issues might affect its progress. The committee agreed that they now have a better understanding of the selection and funding process and how important it is to review parks property inventories annually.

VII. Good of the Order/Concerns of the Committee – Chair Hoover requested an update on the following:

- a) Whitely Landing – Ranger Bowen reported that he has increased Ranger patrols at this location and also created a report log to track the number of visitors in the park,

the overall appearance and cleanliness of the park, and the work completed by staff during each visit. Ranger Bowen also contacted the garbage service provider and confirmed the pickup schedule, as well as requested a change in the size of the trash container to better accommodate the seasonal use of this park.

- b) Oregon Parks Association Legislation – Mike Russell and Dave Stockdale travelled to Salem in December to discuss the distribution of recreational vehicle fees with state legislators. The current fee split 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 that Oregon counties provide 49% of available campsites throughout the state of Oregon. The proposal is for a 50/50 split, of which Lane County would receive an additional \$156,000 per year to the Parks budget. Mr. Russell and Mr. Stockdale reported that they connected with 4 out of 6 of the legislators they had scheduled appointments with and both agreed that the response was favorable and that the more equitable split proposal is moving forward in a positive direction. It is also believed that the legislature will request an emergency action which would move the effective date to July 2013 rather than waiting for the law to expire in 2015 which would make funds available even sooner than hoped for.
- c) Parks Advisory Committee meeting calendar – Meeting dates for 2013 were discussed. The committee confirmed the following meeting dates: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, October 14, November 4, December 9. Parks staff coordinates a Park Tour for committee members in June; the exact date will be announced at a future meeting. There will be no meetings during the months of July, August, or September.
- d) Volunteer Conditions of Service – Committee members were asked to acknowledge and complete forms for an injury protection plan which places all County volunteers under the County insurance umbrella for injury protection. This plan does not provide personal medical coverage for volunteers, but allows for coverage should a volunteer be injured in the course of their volunteering time for the County.

VIII. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m. The next meeting will be February 11th.