

Parks Advisory Committee Minutes

February 11, 2013

Members Present: Pat Hoover, Damien Gilbert, Larry Dunlap  
Members Absent: Carlos Alvarez  
Staff Present: Mike Russell, Todd Bowen, Dave Stockdale  
Guests Present: Sam Frogner – McKenzie Hatchery Caretaker Host & 3 members of the public requested to speak.

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

- I. **Public Comment** – Steve Morgan, Brian Perry, and Nick Roberts addressed the committee about their desire to see the former BRING recycling location on Seavey Loop Road transfer jurisdiction from Waste Management to Parks. Their objective is to form a Friends of Glass Bar Island & BRING site and to adopt the property and help manage the area by removing trash, detouring homeless camps, and keep it open and available for public use.
- II. **Approval of Minutes, Announcement/Agenda Modifications** – There was not a quorum for this meeting. A few changes to the January minutes were noted. Changes will be made and approval of the minutes from November 2012, December 2012 will be postponed to the next meeting.
- III. **Volunteer Host Program** – Sam Frogner began as a volunteer caretaker at the McKenzie Fish Hatchery location through a joint venture between Lane County Parks (LCP) and St. Vincent de Paul's (SVDP) homeless placement project. Mr. Frogner lives in his RV on the hatchery property and provides a security presence to help deter vandalism while providing trash pickup and limited debris pickup. He reports that this program is working well for him as it is allowing him an opportunity to feel useful within the community and provides a place to live while he transitions to the Lane County area. LCP finds Mr. Frogner's presence at this location a benefit since there have been no reported security or vandalism incidents during the 3 months of his placement. LCP plans to continue with the placement project at the Hatchery location for the foreseeable future.
- IV. **Staff Reports**
  - a. **PAC Vacancies** – Mr. Russell has not received any direction from the Commissioners regarding appointments to the PAC for the current openings. Mr. Russell will continue communication to get the vacancies filled as quickly as possible.
  - b. **RV Fees Legislation** – The committee had previously shown support and indicated that members would be interested in appearing or providing testimony at the Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee hearing on February 14, 2013 in

Salem and Mr. Russell is encouraging members to attend and give testimony to support the proposed split in RV fees.

- c. **New Campground Reservation Software** – LCP has chosen a new reservation system known as CAMAVA to replace the currently outdated Parks Manager program. Parks staff reviewed several different programs and has found CAMAVA to be the best choice for the replacement. The former reservation system was no longer Payment Card Industries (PCI) compliant, nor would it allow customers to manage their own purchase transactions such as making a campground reservation or buying an annual parking pass. The new CAMAVA system will not only allow these types of purchases but will also allow customers to access the system at their convenience and handle more transactions at one time such as making a campground reservation while booking a marina slip during their campout and buying ice and firewood and having those items ready when they arrive. Rangers and caretakers will also have access to the system which will enable them to better assist park users during their visit. Future enhancements to the new CAMAVA reservations system will include the capability to purchase event tickets with portions of those purchases going directly to park revenue rather than a third-party ticket agent. LCP staff is very excited about the new reservation system and hopes to have it funded and available for use by June 2013. Mr. Russell and Mr. Stockdale have prepared the necessary paperwork for Commissioner review and have been working with the County I.S. department to purchase and implement CAMAVA.
- d. **2013 Calendar of Events** – Dave Stockdale updated the committee on events planned for Emerald Meadows in the Howard Buford Recreation Area in 2013 which include the return of the Dirty Dash Fun Run, and the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Faerieworlds event. New this year is the Cascadia Music Festival with featured musical artists, and a Tribal Run which is a team race that will include 3 separate race courses and overnight camping for registered entrants. Contract negotiations are ongoing with at least one other event producer for the summer season. Event revenue is estimated to generate more than \$150,000 for Parks in 2013.
- e. **Fee Changes** – Dave Stockdale provided the committee an overview of current fees charged for park use such as parking, moorage, and Camp Lane rental rates. During these fiscally lean times, LCP sees a need to raise fees to generate funds to better provide maintenance and upkeep of all of the Lane County Parks. Mr. Stockdale has proposed raising the daily and annual parking fees from a current rate of \$3 per day, or \$30 per year to \$4 per day, or \$40 per year. A rate increase for daily rental of Camp Lane from \$450 to \$500 is also being discussed. While moorage rates have remained static for the last three years, management also sees a need to increase moorage rates for the 2014 season. An average increase for seasonal moorage will be 5%, which calculates to approximately \$24 per slip rental, and the daily-weekly-monthly rate will increase by 3-5%. There is also a desire to combine the current Application Processing Fee and the Marina Maintenance Fee which would now be known as a Reservation Fee. This wording is consistent with camping reservation terminology and will help make the transition to the CAMAVA reservation system seamless. This marina reservation fee will remain \$38.00 as it is simply changing the wording. Mr. Stockdale also asked the committee for input regarding the current discount program on

parking passes. Currently, LCP offers both a Senior Discount for those over age 62, and a Disabled Veteran discount for wounded veterans. LCP intends to keep the senior discount option as it is consistent with State and Federal Parks and gives a half-price discount to those who meet the age requirement. The current veteran discount is somewhat confusing as it offers a partial discount for partial disability, and a full discount for a full disability. Documentation is required as proof from the Veteran's Affairs for each purchaser wishing to take advantage of this discount. Parks staff, and members of the Advisory Committee feel this requirement is a violation of privacy, is confusing, is somewhat discriminatory, and does not follow any state or federal guidelines. Therefore, LCP is considering updating this program to include all veterans and current active military and to offer the same half-price discount regardless of service or disability. There was discussion to consider offering the pass for free but the cost to the department would be too great of a financial burden to the Parks budget considering the number of military members in the community who would take advantage of a free offer versus a reduced price revenue generating opportunity. Staff and committee members were in agreement with this revision and all present were in favor of the Parks department pursuing the fee changes.

- V. **Good of the Order** – Chair Hoover requested a final draft of the Committee's 2013 accomplishments and 2013 work plan which were discussed in the January meeting.
- VII. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m. The next meeting will be March 11th.