

Parks Advisory Committee Minutes

October 14, 2013

Members Present: Damien Gilbert, Wayne Lemler, Carlos Alvarez, Dale Stoneburg

Members Absent: Pat Hoover, Larry Dunlap

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

Guests Present: Commissioner Jay Bozievich, Bill Montgomery (Friends of Buford Park)

Committee Vice Chair Damien Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

- I. Public Hearing** – Sheriff’s Posse Equestrian Challenge Course Proposal – The Posse has proposed the addition of an equestrian challenge course on the north side of the existing horse arena in the Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA). LCP Natural Spaces Coordinator, Fraser MacDonald, presented a staff report detailing the intended course. Mr. MacDonald stated that based on reviews conducted by staff, staff recommends its support of the Sheriff’s Posse to construct a challenge course north of the horse arena at Emerald Meadows in the HBRA as it follows the north perimeter trail along the same course as the Dirty Dash event route and would create some of the same internal infrastructure within this area. Mr. Russell noted that he asked to have a representative from County legal counsel attend this hearing to answer questions regarding liability, however none was available. If there are still questions, Mr. Russell will attempt another request.

Jim Evonuk – 34435 Seavey Loop, Eugene – Mr. Evonuk supports the challenge course. He stated that although he is not a horseman himself, he feels the construction and use of an equestrian challenge course is in his opinion more in line with what the park was originally designed for. He is especially supportive because he now understands that the challenge course would be open to all equestrian users, not exclusively for the Posse.

Dave Flores – 5895 Firestone Dr., Eugene – Mr. Flores is the Captain of the Lane County Mounted Sheriff’s Posse. He discussed the use of the arena area and provided information about the challenge course and its use for the Posse in training for Search & Research services, and also allowing public use for horse exercise as well as competition events. A question from the audience asked how long the proposed course would be and the response was approximately one-quarter mile.

Bill Montgomery – 34211 Seavey Loop Rd, Eugene – Mr. Montgomery is a neighbor to the Mt. Pisgah area, he is a regular Buford Park user, and is also a member of the Friends of Buford Park (FBP) providing many hours of trail work over the years. Mr. Montgomery voiced his support for the proposed challenge course both as a neighbor and also as a FBP member who is familiar with the effects associated with equestrian use on the trails within Buford Park.

There were no other speakers and the public hearing was closed at 6:20 p.m.

Mr. Russell advised the committee that it was their decision at this time to proceed with a decision on the proposal or to table the issue to a later date for further discussion and determination. Mr. Gilbert

asked if the proposal fit into the Parks Master Plan, and Mr. Russell replied that an equestrian course is not specifically mentioned in the Plan and that he intends to do more research to determine if this would require an amendment to the Plan or if it falls within the general goals. Mr. Lemler stated that other than liability issues in question from the County's legal department, he feels that LCP should show support for the Sheriff's Posse in this proposal. Mr. Alvarez asked how many people would be using the course if it were approved, and Mr. Flores responded that typically there would be 18-20 Posse members using it intermittently from June through September, and at least two equestrian groups in the community whose members would likely use the course several times during the season, as well as the general riding public who currently ride in the park but do not necessarily belong to a riding group and whose numbers could not be predicted at this time. Mr. Flores also stated that the increased use would likely be limited to the time frame previously mentioned, and he also stated that riders other than the Posse would not usually be riding after dark, nor would they typically be riding in rainy weather therefor limiting use times somewhat on the course. He did acknowledge that a local riding center holds a couple of events each year which brings about 45 competitive riders to the area who might include the challenge course as a new place to ride during visit to the area. Mr. Gilbert asked if sufficient parking is available for potential increase of visitors to the park and Mr. Russell replied that most riders currently park either in the north gate parking lot or those who have access, park in the arena parking lot and surrounding area which is approved for this type of use and therefore not affecting parking for the hiking public who use other areas of Buford Park. Vice Chair, Damien Gilbert entertained a motion to approve the Sheriff's Posse challenge course at Emerald Meadows in HBRA.

Motion: Wayne Lemler moved to approve the challenge course. Dale Stoneburg seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

II. Approval of Minutes –

Motion: Wayne Lemler moved to approve the September 2013 minutes as written. Carlos Alvarez seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

III. Committee Handbooks – Mike Russell presented each committee member an advisory committee member handbook as requested by current Chair, Pat Hoover. The handbooks contain the by-laws, Lane Manual and Lane County APM information on serving on county committees, code of ethics, public works organizational structure, membership information, 2014 work plan and goals, and agendas and minutes from previous meetings dating back one year. Mr. Russell reviewed a couple of the areas within the book, and also reminded members that having this book, and serving on this committee does not authorize members to enforce park rules or confront park users on their behavior, and that those issues are reserved for uniformed park Rangers and employees of Lane County Parks.

IV. Trails Projects Proposals – Bill Montgomery (FBP) and Fraser MacDonald, LCP Natural Areas Coordinator, presented proposals to reroute trail 30, trail 7 and trail 5 to make the trails safer for users and to protect the mountain from years of continued use. Rerouting these trails would also work to protect endangered species such as the western pond turtle. Mr. MacDonald indicates that LCP staff supports all 3 proposals. Mr. Russell stated that the proposals do result in a change in use by enforcing specified use and restricting equestrian use around Mt. Pisgah. Costs accrued would include gates and

hardware, which would be provided by the Friends of Buford Park (FBP). Mr. MacDonald reports that a re-signing effort in these areas is currently in progress.

- V. Moorage Holder Meetings Recap & Overview of CAMAVA Reservation System** – Dave Stockdale provided a recap of the 2013 moorage holder meetings which were held in October. The meetings allow moorage customers from Baker Bay, Orchard Point and Richardson park marinas to bring concerns and ideas to parks staff, allow staff to address any issues, and also communicate upcoming marina related events. Topics discussed in meetings this season included safety and maintenance, hazardous algae blooms, low water levels at Fern Ridge reservoir, refunds and prorated moorage rates due to low water levels, a fee increase for 2014 amounting to 5%, and the new reservation system that moorage holders will utilize to renew their moorage slips at Dorena and Fern Ridge. The meetings were well attended and well received. Mr. Stockdale used the same presentation from the moorage meetings to display the slide-by-slide process for reserving a moorage slip so committee members could experience the new CAMAVA system which LCP began using for camping and day use shelters in June 2013.
- VI. Good of the Order** – Staff encouraged members to review their personal calendars and be prepared to set the 2014 PAC meeting calendar with consideration to holidays, the annual PAC tour, and other park related events.
- VII. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m. The next meeting will be November 4, 2013.