

## Parks Advisory Committee Minutes

November 4, 2013

Members Present: Pat Hoover, Larry Dunlap, Wayne Lemler, Dale Stoneburg

Members Absent: Damien Gilbert, Carlos Alvarez

Staff Present: Mike Russell, Fraser MacDonald, Sam Fox

Guests Present: Marsha Miller

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

- I. **Public Hearing** – Friends of Buford Park (FBP) Trail Proposals – Parks Manager, Mike Russell, gave an overview of the 3 proposals under consideration for realignment and improvements on Mt. Pisgah at Buford Park (HBRA) which include Trail #30 (Swing Hill trail) which currently has several rogue trails leading to the top. This proposal would be to create an official trail and to decommission the rogue trails. LCP staff is in full support of this improvement. The second proposal is for Trail #5 (Quarry trail) to install a gate to distinguish between pedestrian/hiker use and equestrian use. Gate materials and hardware will be provided by FBP. Staff has also supported this control measure. The third proposal is for the slight realignment of Trail #7 (Upper Bridge Bowl trail) to connect this trail with Trail #3 as a maintenance issue to help avoid rutting where it is getting washed out from rain runoff and use. Although Mr. Russell feels that these last two proposals could be handled administratively, he is seeking PAC support for these efforts as well as a recommendation of support for the Trail #30 realignment proposal which he will present to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. Fraser MacDonald, LCP Natural Areas Coordinator, has attended several trail meetings and performed numerous site visits working with the FBP to identify the most acceptable alternatives and strongly confirms and supports all of these proposals.

Michelle Emmons, 789 Hatton Ave., Eugene – Ms. Emmons is a volunteer coordinator for FBP who advocates for one sustainable trail to Swing Hill (Trail #30) rather than several rogue trails will help people stay out of the mud and keep the area more pristine. Ms. Emmons mentioned that FBP has also added some restoration signage in this area and cordoned off certain areas for what she termed as areas that need healing. She reports that these measures are working, but she also supports the trail realignment proposals for trails #30 and #7 with trail #3 to help these efforts.

James Nelson, 879 Shalar Ct., Eugene – Mr. Nelson is also a member of FBP who supports the proposals because the realignments will help solve some of the problems mentioned above and help to improve the park, and the gate proposal (Trail #5) will help to protect western pond turtle habitat.

Bill Montgomery, 34211 Seavey Loop Rd., Eugene – Mr. Montgomery is a volunteer with FBP who has spent considerable time over the years working on the trail crew for Mt. Pisgah. Mr. Montgomery detailed some of the trail reconfiguration progress so far, and confirmed his support for the realignments as proposed to continue enhancements and to protect the park with systematic improvements. He voiced concern for western pond turtle habitat and the need for a gate on trail #5 to

deter equestrian users to the area as he has witnessed hoof prints just a few feet away from turtle nests that were being monitored. This trail has never been designated as an official horse trail so he does not support equestrian use on this trail and feels the gate is necessary.

PAC member Wayne Lemler asked about funding for the projects which was clarified by Mr. Montgomery as being provided by FBP and its volunteers with support from LCP staff member Fraser MacDonald. Chair Hoover asked about surface material for the new trails if approved, and Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Russell confirmed the standards that FBP is using for materials and trail widths on the various trails as necessary. Member Larry Dunlap voiced concern for the gate and the ability to keep horse riders off the trail and out of the meadow area. Mr. Nelson explained that the style of gate proposed would be difficult for a horse and rider to maneuver thereby discouraging them from pursuing the trail course, and that the spot proposed for the gate is in an area known as a pinch point, so that once the gate is secured to existing trees on each side of the trail, the remaining vegetation and defined narrowed opening on the turn-style gate would be sufficient to deter equestrian riders from pursuing the path but still allow room enough for pedestrian users to walk through. Mr. Nelson stated that signage will also be established to inform trail users that the trail is for hiking use only. Mr. Russell added that trail maps will also be updated to show the trail revisions and restrictions. Chair Hoover asked for a motion to support the trail proposals.

**Motion:** Larry Dunlap moved that the PAC committee support all three trail measures and to present the Trail #30 realignment proposal to the BCC for approval. Wayne Lemler seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

**Public Hearing – Whitely Boat Landing – 1-year review of alcohol ban** – Joan Abbott, 211 Chapman Dr., Eugene – Mrs. Abbott has been a 37 year resident of Lane County and lives next to the Whitely Landing park and was in strong support of banning alcohol use inside the park. Today, Mrs. Abbott reports that although the abusers still frequent the park, it is a much quieter environment. She did voice concern over parking issues as it appears that one of the control measures LCP has utilized over the past year is to strongly enforce compliance requiring parking permits on all vehicles within the park boundary. As with many Lane County parks, users want to use the park boat launches, restrooms, picnic tables, etc. but do not want to pay to use the park so they park on the roadways leading up to the park. This is now the case at Whitely Landing and Mrs. Abbott reports that the parked vehicles could cause an unsafe situation for emergency vehicles traveling this narrow roadway which dead-ends shortly after the park into nearby residents' properties. Mrs. Abbott supports continuation of the alcohol ban and encourages stricter enforcement of the ban and parking enforcement from LCP and Lane County Sheriff deputies.

Christal Bowes, 190 Chapman Dr., Eugene – Ms. Bowes has lived near Whitely Landing park for 17 years and reports that she has noticed an improvement at the park since the alcohol ban was put in place one year ago. Ms. Bowes reports that many of the regulars who previously frequented the park and consumed alcohol continue to gather but in smaller and more quiet groups. She has also witnessed more family oriented visitors to the park since the ban, but also voiced concern over the parking issues outside of the park as noted above. Ms. Bowes supports continuance of the alcohol ban at Whitely Landing.

Chair Hoover advised those in attendance of upcoming BCC meetings where they can present their testimony to the Commissioners and encouraged them to attend.

**II. Agenda Additions/Changes/Modifications – None**

**III. Approval of Minutes – Motion:** Wayne Lemler moved to approve the October 2013 minutes with minor grammar changes as noted. Dale Stoneburg seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

**IV. 2015-2019 Parks Capital Improvement Plan –** Mike Russell presented the draft proposal of the CIP to the committee for review and recommendation for release to the public. Mr. Russell proposed a hearing in December for public comment before presenting it to the BCC for approval.

**Motion:** Larry Dunlap moved to authorize release of the 2015-19 CIP for public review for public testimony. Dale Stoneburg seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

Chair Hoover excused herself for the remainder of this meeting due to previous commitment and appointed Larry Dunlap as interim Chair since Vice-Chair, Damien Gilbert, was not in attendance for this meeting. Due to a lack of quorum once Ms. Hoover left the meeting, no further committee business could be conducted, however the meeting continued.

**V. Emerald Meadows Task Force –** Mike Russell gave a presentation to the BCC earlier this year summarizing the 2013 season and it was recommended that a task force be created to review policies and standards for conducting outdoor special events at Emerald Meadows in Buford Park. Mr. Russell plans to form the task force in November and meet through at least February and be able to report any findings or suggestions to the Board in March. The task force will focus on such topics as noise, traffic flow, and environmental impacts. Ms. Hoover stated before she left the meeting that a representative from the PAC be on the committee and Larry Dunlap volunteered for the position.

**VI. Whitely Landing Update –** Mr. Russell provided committee members a status report detailing activities conducted by LCP staff at Whitely Boat Landing park since the alcohol ban went into place one year ago. Information included documentation on weekly routine maintenance runs, compliance checks 4-5 times per week screening for alcohol use and failure to display required parking passes, and work crew projects such as painting the rest room, pruning blackberry vines and string trimming. Parks staff also replaced the alcohol signage once during the summer and removed graffiti on signage several times. Mr. Russell had requested an update from the Lane County Sheriff's office but he had not had a reply prior to this meeting. Mr. Lemler requested that some history on this issue be provided since some of the PAC members are new to the committee since the ban was put in place. Mr. Dunlap suggested that improvements to the boat ramp would bring more boaters and families to the park which might help discourage the open use of alcohol in the park and also result in less litter. Further discussion resulted in members stating that they are pleased with progress made so far as stated by members in tonight's audience, and that they are in support of continuing the ban for one more year with a review from the Parks Manager at that time.

**PAC Vacancy Update –** Mr. Russell advised the committee that a replacement for Commissioner Stewart's representative on the Parks Advisory Committee remains vacant and Commissioner Stewart has recommended that the Parks manager pursue any means available to fill the position. Mr. Russell

has advertised the vacancy and there were no applications. Mr. Russell asked committee members to assist him in finding interested people to fill the position.

- VI. Good of the Order – 2014 PAC Meeting Schedule & Tour** – The Parks Advisory meetings for 2014 will be as follows: January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, September 8, October 13, November 3, December 8. The PAC Tour is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 19 with discussion at the February or March meeting to secure this date. The tour route will include visits to Camp Lane, locations along the coast including Harbor Vista campground, and various boat ramps and waysides along Hwy 36 for the return route.
- VII. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting will be December 9, 2013.