

Lane County Parks Advisory

March 9, 2020
Meeting Summary

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The recorded minutes are available on the Parks Advisory Committee website:
<http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/PW/Parks/Pages/pac.aspx>

Members Present: Jim Mayo, Kevin Shanley, Wayne Lemler, Greg Hyde, Carl Stiefbold, Mike Allen
Members Absent: Ashley Adelman
Staff Present: Brett Henry, Charlie Conrad, Michelle Hunt, Cynthia Schlegel
Guests Present: None

Co-Chair Jim Mayo filled in for Chair who was absent and called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

00:00:06 Public Comment – None

00:00:10 Assignment Review – None

00:03:15 Review of February 2020 Meeting Summary

- Approved as written; Lemler motioned, Stiefbold seconded, motion passed unanimously.

00:02:55 Staff Updates/Reports

Hendricks Bridge Project Update

- Henry presented a spreadsheet with the bid recaps for the project to realign the boat ramp and add more parking for boat trailers. Parks was awarded an \$850k grant for the Oregon State Marine Board. Parks received seven bids with the lowest being Delta (Babb) Construction coming in at \$765k. Daily inspections for the in-water work phase still will be hired and there is work to do pertaining to invasive species required by the Division of State Lands. In response to questions, Henry stated the work could be done in the fall, but may take longer. Performing the in-water work during the in-water work period (generally July and August) is critical.

00:08:20 ***Facility Condition Assessment Update***

- Henry presented information on the selection and scoring criteria for the facilities condition assessment (FCA) RFQ. The highest bid received was for \$1M, the second one came in at \$770K, and the third one came in at \$324K. Parks has \$170K budgeted so more funding sources are needed. In order to reduce the overall cost, Parks will pare down the list of facilities that need to be inspected, such as removing the covered bridges and boat ramps. The assessment includes both above and below ground infrastructure and will be instrumental in determining the cost to fix failing infrastructure and prioritizing work. The

infrastructure will be mapped using GIS and will include a preventative maintenance schedule. Because of the significant amount of staff time involved, a consolidated effort would be needed to be able to utilize staff time during Parks' busy season while trying to get around to a large amount of parks that are very spread out. Henry stated Parks hoped to have a contract for the FCA by April, 2020.

00:21:04 ***Willamette Confluence Preserve update***

Henry presented the Board Memo Packet and stated on February 25, 2020 Parks presented an update on the property transfer to the Board of County Commissioners. The Nature Conservancy's review committee's is concerned Parks' is unable to maintain the property with current capacity and resources as well as Parks' ability to limit public access.

The McKenzie River Trust Board (MRT) authorized them to pursue the transfer, which Parks fully supports and will partner with them in any way needed.

During the ensuing discussion Henry stated Parks would need more resources to be able to manage the property and that some restoration work remains and needs to be completed. Committee members voiced support for granting some public access to the property and allowing the public to have input. Henry stated it is uncertain if MRT is going to be able to take this on long term or not or when they will submit their questionnaire.

00:33:00 ***Parks Funding Task Force Update –***

- Henry stated Christine Moody, Lane County's budget and financial planning manager is available to join a Parks Funding Task Force (PFTF) meeting and give an overview of the County's budget process and how discretionary funds are distributed and how those decisions are made. Henry and Todd Bowen will give a presentation on deferred maintenance, what the preferred level of service would be, and what the ideal budget would look like. The PFTF facilitator, Bob Keefer, will present scope of services and facilitate a funding brainstorming session with the force.

00:36:30 ***North Jetty Update –***

- Conrad introduced Parks new social media efforts and Hunt presented a visual of Parks' new Facebook page. Hunt stated Parks had done some paid promotions to get some feedback on how the page was doing and the results show it is reaching a fair amount of viewers and 'likes' and are getting more each day on both on Facebook and Instagram. The content posted on social media includes:
 - text from the Parks Master Plan
 - photos of projects being worked on and completed
 - historic photos
 - job openings
 - volunteer opportunities
 - meeting announcements such as the N. Jetty public meeting

Henry stated the goal of social media is to increase Parks exposure and to reach 25 to 40 year olds. Mayo inquired about what is budgeted for social media and Henry stated he is still trying to determine that and will evaluate further based on effectiveness over time.

Conrad stated next meeting for the N. Jetty is scheduled for March 18, 2020 and will follow up with the PAC. The public outreach efforts include an online and paper survey. Seventy-seven responses have been received and Parks is hoping for 100. Overall responses are good with the public feeling safer and more secure at the park and overall are pleased with how Parks has been maintaining the park. The key remaining issue is whether or not park users will support paying for parking passes. An ongoing concern is that the 24 hour access allows for late-night vandalism and unauthorized activities. A security presence may be required to address these issues. Parks would like to hear the input from the public and a follow up meeting with the Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for April 7, 2020.

00:58:30 Old Business

Action Plan Group – Henry stated he, Hyde, Shanley, Stiefbold, Conrad and Schlegel attended the first Action Plan Workgroup to take a look at the evaluation criteria for action plan items, which is how Parks is going to implement the Parks Master Plan. The sub-committee will come up with a scoring methodology to evaluate these two to three year plans. A follow up meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2020. Prior to the meeting, Henry will determine which strategies Parks can realistically implement within a two year window and try to pare down the strategies to about 25 to 30 for the group to focus on.

01:01:57 New Business

- **Park Maintenance Symposium** – Henry stated Parks was contacted by Willamalane, and Lane County Parks, the City of Eugene, and all the maintenance staff are trying to find solutions to common problems they all share. Eric Adams from Willamalane had the idea of having a roundtable discussion. Parks identified their biggest problem is vandalism, which is also an issue for the City of Eugene. Eugene has dedicated funding for vandalism clean-up and map the locations. Others issues the group discussed are how others are addressing pest control, invasive species, and herbicide use.
- **Volunteer Program Planned Activities** – Hunt stated she was able to get Parks’ ‘Adopt-a-Park’ program finalized by County Council. The agreement language has been finalized and is ready to be brought to and signed by the different friends groups. Hunt stated the new documents will supersede all prior agreements with friends groups. Added to this agreement are volunteer liability waivers, volunteer code of conduct, and a safety protocol and proper use of tools. The next step is the union review process to obtain approval for the types of work volunteers can perform.
- Hunt is having good success gaining volunteers with the opportunities Parks is able to provide and will focus on current friends groups, and then expand the Adopt-a-Park program.

01:24:35 Open

- Lemler stated he is hoping the Parks Funding Task Force is successful in identifying funding sources for Parks.
- Allen stated he and his wife really enjoy their work cleaning up the roadsides on the coast.

01:26:53 Operations Report

- Henry stated the report is a compilation of summaries submitted by staff in their respective areas.

01:27:50 Meeting Wrap-up/Assignments

- Shanley commented that the PAC likes Parks' Facebook page.
- Hunt will send the members the links and also the Adopt-a-Park agreement.
- Henry will work on putting together a PAC member orientation packet to include any APM updates. Lemler wanted to make sure public meeting rules were included.

Adjourn – Meeting ended at 7:32 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2020.