

## Lane County Parks Advisory

June 8, 2020

Meeting Summary

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Oregon law.**

The recorded minutes are available on the Parks Advisory Committee website:

<https://lanecounty.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3585881&pageId=4279856>

Members Present: Ashley Adelman, Jim Mayo, Kevin Shanley, Wayne Lemler,  
Greg Hyde, Carl Stiefbold, Mike Allen

Staff Present: Brett Henry, Charlie Conrad, Michelle Hunt, Ed Alverson, Cynthia Schlegel

Guests Present: None

Chair Adelman called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

00:00:06 Public Comment – None

00:00:07 Assignment Review

- Henry announced Charlie Conrad is leaving Parks, and his last day will be June 26<sup>th</sup>. Hunt will take on the temporary assignment of filling in for Conrad and Henry will begin the recruitment process.
- Stiefbold revisited the topic of safety for park volunteers from the last PAC meeting. Hunt presented an overview of the plan going forward and new guidelines she created and sent out to all the volunteer groups. At this point, Hunt is not sure if the guidelines will be modified for phase two and has reached out to the City of Eugene's volunteer coordinator and will continue to access the guidelines as they change. Hunt stated the most likely change would be an increase of work groups to a maximum of 25 people in total working in groups of 10 and staggering work areas.

00:06:12 Review of May 2020 Meeting Summary

- Lemler motioned to approve minutes, Mayo seconded. Minutes approved as written.

00:06:13 Staff Updates/Reports

- *Phase Two & Three* Reopening – Henry stated that Lane County is transitioning in to phase two and is looking at opening more facilities. He plans to open up B loop at Richardson Campground as well as the closed sites in the A loop by June 10<sup>th</sup>. Henry stated the amphitheater may also open and possibly some shelters as well depending on the new recreational guidelines when they come out. Henry presented a document outlining plans for each site and stated he is looking at opening up Orchard Point and Richardson's day use areas if staffing is sufficient. Parks is also looking at opening the dog park and sport courts if they fall outside of restrictions. Group campsites are being utilized for individual camping, with no more than 8 occupants. All showers remain closed with the exception of Harbor Vista that is maintained by the caretaker and hosts. Day use parks are being maintained for possibly opening them up on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Lemler inquired if baseball at Perkins will be open and Henry stated it will remain closed and he is seeking more guidance on playgrounds and

ballfields. Henry stated that Lane County would not be entering phase three until September or later or when there is a vaccine in place. It was also noted that Camp Lane could open at that time, but for now, it remains closed for the season. Mayo inquired in which phase would the PAC resume in-person meetings. Henry stated that Dan Hurley's guidance is to use remote meetings as long as possible and stated the PAC does not meet in July and August. Henry stated he will look at September, but would prefer to keep the meetings remote if the PAC is amenable to it. Lemler stated his concern that there may be an effect on public participation with remote meetings. Allen suggested more advertising would be helpful in reaching the public if the meetings continue to be on-line. Hunt stated she has put together a cheat sheet for the public to explain how the process works to join the meeting and also the meetings are published on both the County's and Public Work's calendars. The public meeting notice includes a link to register and those who express interest email Hunt who then sends out the meeting materials prior to attending the virtual meeting.

- *Hendricks Bridge Project Update* – Henry presented a brief overview of the graph provided in the meeting materials packet of the contractor's project schedule for the Hendricks Bridge boat launch and parking project which will include an ADA accessible walkway. Henry stated construction is scheduled to begin in a week and the entire park will be closed until October. A press release will go out and the OSMB and emergency responders will also be notified.

#### 00:06:34 Old Business

- *Master Plan Action Group* – Henry stated the next meeting will be on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Members include Hyde, Stiefbold, Shanley, Henry, Conrad, and Hunt. At the meeting back in March, the group reviewed criteria for scoring strategies and the group will need to take another look at that based on the financial impact COVID-19 has created and what Parks can realistically get done. The Group will look at all strategies to make sure all six goals in the master plan are being addressed. Then staff will complete the scoring matrix for projects that can be done in the next two years. The group decided to leave all seven criteria in the strategies, but will also add in health, safety and security. Henry will send out a draft of the scoring matrix prior to the next meeting.

#### 00:06:36 New Business

- *Friends of Buford Park Lease* – Henry explained that both Parks and the Friends of Howard Buford Park have interest in leasing a portion of the North Bottomlands area to the Friends. Henry explained that a long-term lease would allow the Friends group to pursue fund raising efforts. Included in the meeting materials was an aerial photo mapping out the area considered in the lease. Alverson explained the boundaries and also stated the lease would not include the north trailhead parking lot or the County roads right of way. Parks is working with County's attorney to go over some of the language of the lease and it should be executed after the Friends review it along with the other park stakeholders and partners. Shanley expressed his appreciation for the work on the lease stating it will make a big difference to the property. Henry asked how the Friends are doing financially with COVID-19 restrictions and Shanley stated they are feeling positive and projecting out the next 12 months will be in the black. Shanley stated they were able to get an SBA loan and kept all their staff on. Henry stated HBRA'S new director Janelle McCoy will come to the September meeting to talk with the PAC.
- *Natural Area Highlights* – Ed Alverson is doing a lot of work behind the scenes. Alverson discussed the Kinney Park restoration work that is needed explaining that the park has a butte with a lot of habitat and needs habitat restoration work done. With the increase in tree growth, the diverse plant

community is slowly declining and the area needs to be opened up to give light to native species. Alverson stated he will be working in partnership with the Long Tom Watershed and Parks has a small grant for the project.

HBRA is in a state of recovery since the wildfire. Alverson stated that habitat species rely on fires to clear out overgrowth for protection and that it is a good sign the acorn woodpeckers were spotted at the site of the fire.

Alverson stated another project is needed is to clear invasive non-native species at HBRA and throughout the greater Mt. Pisgah area and he will help with choosing which area to put resources toward. He has been speaking with other land owners to help identify what the collective top priorities are.

The Fuels Reduction Project is starting to mobilize. Parks received a \$30k grant for fire prevention work at five parks: HBRA, Kinney Park, Zumwalt Park, Vickery, and Blue Mountain. Alverson stated there is the possibility of receiving a total of three grants for the work.

Lemler asked what ladder fuels are. Alverson explained that branches that are down to ground level act as fuel when a fire comes through and then it moves up to the canopy of the tree. Alverson stated this is why it is so important to remove ladder fuels to control wildfires. Shanley inquired about the possible fire danger around the new home being built by Kinney Park. Alverson stated that the area had less impact due to the water table. Shanley stated concerns over blackberry overgrowth and asked if there were any follow up plans to keep things from growing right back. Alverson stated a lot of the area has rocks so selective herbicides would be important as well as a robust fire mitigation strategy.

00:07:13 Open

- Allen thanked Charlie for all he has done for Parks, especially with Friends of Harbor Vista Park. Allen also stated the Friends group worked with the Save the Oregon Dunes group in a joint effort to cut down scotch broom and they will be having another work party on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Allen also inquired about the new lease with the Department of State Lands and Henry stated it is in progress and working on various costs as well as scope. Henry stated charging a parking fee would help with maintenance costs and reminded the group that Parks' fee increases will be effective on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

00:07:23 Operations Report

- The Parks operations report was included in the meeting materials packet with nothing specific to discuss. Henry stated the next PAC fieldtrip would be going down South when able to schedule.

00:07:25 Meeting Wrap-up/Assignments

- Henry reminded the PAC there will not be any meetings in July and August and that will give the Action Plan Workgroup time for discussions.

Adjourn – Meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2020.