

Parks Advisory Committee Minutes

February 10, 2014

Members Present: Pat Hoover, Wayne Lemler, Carlos Alvarez, Larry Dunlap

Members Absent: Dale Stoneburg, Damien Gilbert

Staff Present: Mike Russell, Dave Stockdale

Guests Present: Mary Brorby

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

- I. **Agenda Additions/Changes/Modifications** – Add the following:
 - ✓ Action Item: Adoption of fiscal 2014-19 Parks System Development Charge Capital Improvement Plan
 - ✓ Discussion Item: Update on Archie Knowles campground
 - ✓ Discussion Item: Update on Legislative Senate Bill 1514 outcome
 - ✓ Add to Good of the Order below: Parks tour and calendar discussion

- II. **Approval of Minutes – Motion:** Larry Dunlap moved to approve the January 2014 minutes as written. Wayne Lemler seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

- III. **Adoption of Fiscal 2014-19 Parks System Development Charge Capital Improvement Plan** – The committee held a public hearing in January 2013 for recommendations of changes or additions to the CIP. There was one request from the public regarding Orchard Point marina. Parks staff has determined that this issue can be handled through routine maintenance rather than adding or adjusting the proposed CIP. Staff has proposed and additional \$45,000 from system development charges (SDC's) be added to the current Harbor Vista campground line item under campsites. Combined with the \$180,000 Oregon State Parks opportunity grant, this brings the total adjustment for this item to \$225,000. No other changes were noted. **Motion:** Larry Dunlap moved to approve the 2014-19 Parks System Development Charge Capital Improvement Plan as amended, and to forward the recommendation to the BCC for adoption. Carlos Alvarez seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

- IV. **2013 Achievements/2014 Goals** – A typo was recognized and one other change was made to change a date from 2013 to 2014. A suggestion was made to add the investigation to improve volunteerism within the county parks. **Motion:** Larry Dunlap moved to approve the 2013 accomplishments/2014 goals of the PAC. Wayne Lemler seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

V. Information Items –

- I. **Status of Commissioner Stewart’s Committee Appointee** – Commissioner Stewart’s appointee to the advisory committee continues to remain unfilled at this time. Mary Brorby is attending this meeting to observe the meeting process. Ms. Brorby is considering submitting an application to fill Commissioner Stewart’s vacant position on the Parks Advisory Committee.
- II. **Status of Emerald Meadows Task Force** – Parks Manager, Mike Russell, and Commissioner Stewart attended a meeting December 3rd with concerned neighbors regarding events scheduled for Emerald Meadows (EM) in the Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA) also known as Buford Park (BP). The meeting resulted in 3 formal requests from those in attendance which were 1) limit amplified music after 10 p.m., 2) provide an opportunity for neighbors to comment after each event rather than on a yearly basis, 3) give notice to promoters to cancel all future events beginning in 2015. Staff is in agreement with items 1 & 2, however item 3 is not supported by staff. Mr. Russell stated that the promoters of the two events currently scheduled for 2015 have complied with the conditions of their contracts and have not generated the complaints that have been part of the recent event issues. Mr. Russell said he plans to meet with the neighborhood group over the next two months to discuss a compromise that would allow events scheduled for 2015, however Mr. John Helmer, a representative for the neighborhood group, advised that the neighbors are not interested in a compromise, only a cancellation of all future events. The BCC is scheduled to meet February 11th and Mr. Russell will report back on his meeting with the neighbors and wait for direction from the BCC whether to cancel the 2015 contracts or move forward with the larger task force that the BCC recommended previously. PAC members continued the discussion and voiced support of a collaborative process to continue dialogue with the Seavey Loop neighbors regarding the 2015 and future events at Emerald Meadows.
- III. **Status of Whitely Landing 1-Year Report** – Mr. Russell is waiting for a return call from the Sheriff’s office to learn whether they feel the alcohol ban has been effective in reducing DUIL offenses and disturbance calls at this location before submitting his report to the Board. Staff has recommended continuing the ban, and the committee urged staff reach out to the City of Eugene regarding a transfer of this property to the City. Mr. Russell will attempt to contact the City parks manager to discuss a transfer.
- IV. **2014 Annual Moorage Update** – The 2014 slip renewal application period is in full-swing. Returning moorage holders have until March 15th to log into the new Camava reservation system or contact Parks staff to renew moorage. Although there was a 5% fee increase for 2014, staff was pleased to report that the response has been favorable with approximately 1/3 of last year’s moorage clients renewing so far. Unclaimed slips will become available to the general public via the CAMAVA reservation system beginning April 1st.
- V. **Recap Eugene Boat & Sportsmen’s Show** – Parks sponsored a booth at the 3-day show where staff sold annual parking passes, handed out camping and marina brochures, road &

recreation maps, and logo printed tote bags, and answered questions about Lane County Parks.

- VI. **Archie Knowles campground** – In 2011, LCP submitted a business plan to the Forest Service (FS) for their consideration and applied for a grant from State Parks to reopen Archie Knowles campground under a lease agreement with the Forest Service. LCP realized there was a need to spend some resources to get the current facility out of mothballs and set up to run the campground, so an application was submitted to Oregon State Parks to help defray those costs and was successful in getting the grant.

In order to qualify for RV Fee distribution monies, the State required the lease with FS to be a minimum of 20 years however, FS was only willing to agree to 5 years. Ultimately, in June 2012, the Forest Service informed us that their priority for Archie Knowles Campground had changed to natural area restoration and open space. Now the FS is going public with the natural area plan and it appears there is some interest from the public to keep it a campground. Mr. Russell stated that he has been in contact with FS project staff to see whether or not there is still interest in the original LCP proposal.

- VII. **Senate Bill 1514 Legislative Report** – Parks Manager, Mike Russell and Committee Chair, Pat Hoover attended a special legislative session in Salem of SB 1514. The bill was unanimously supported for recommendation to the Ways and Means committee to support the redistribution of RV fees with State Parks. If the bill is approved, it will change the current split of 35% County/65% State to 40/60 in the first year and a 45/55 split in future years resulting in an increase of \$98,000 in annual funding for LCP.

VI. **Good of the Order** –

- ✓ 2014 Meeting Schedule and Park Tour – The committee decided to cancel the April 14th PAC meeting in lieu of the park tour scheduled for the following Saturday, April 19th. It was also confirmed that the June 9th meeting is cancelled. The PAC does not regularly meet during the months of July and August but will resume regularly scheduled meetings on September 8th. Members also confirmed that the November meeting will be held one week early on November 3rd due to the Veteran’s Day holiday. These changes will be noted and reflected on future agendas.
- ✓ Storm Damage Recap – Mr. Russell reported that there was considerable damage at several parks as a result of recent storms. Downed trees and hanging limbs and branches continued to cause dangerous situations at Armitage Park and Buford Park. The Armitage Park campground was not affected and remains open. Hendricks Bridge boat ramp remains closed but the day use area has been reopened. Most other parks that sustained damage are closed for the season so parks maintenance staff are concentrating on open parks and boat ramps. Media notice was sent alerting the public to potential dangers and reminded park users to use caution when in the parks and that if a park gate is closed then that park is not to be accessed at that time.

- VII. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m. The next meeting will be March 10, 2014.