

## Parks Advisory Committee Minutes

October 13, 2014

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

Members Absent: Mary Brorby

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

Guest Present: Marsha Miller, Carl Stiefbold

Committee Chair Pat Hoover called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Agenda Additions/Changes/Modifications** – Chair Hoover had one item to add to the agenda for the Good of the Order. Mr. Russell noted that the public comment item had been dropped from the agenda. It was noted that no one from the public was in attendance so there was no public comment related to this meeting of the Advisory Committee.

**Approval of Minutes** – There was a motion by Mr. Lemler to approve the September 2014 minutes as presented, Mr. Gilbert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**PAC Vacancy** – Mr. Russell introduced Carl Stiefbold to committee members and explained that Mr. Stiefbold, who served previously on the Parks Advisory Committee, is interested in filling the at-large position recently vacated by Carlos Alvarez. Committee members reviewed and discussed Mr. Stiefbold's application. Larry Dunlap made a motion to accept Mr. Stiefbold's application and to fill the at-large vacancy through Mr. Alvarez' term ending in December of 2015. Damien Gilbert seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted in favor. The motion was passed. Mr. Russell will present the motion to the Board of County Commissioners for approval in November.

### **Information Items:**

- I. *Large Events Task Force Status* – Mr. Russell reported that the Large Events Task Force (LETF) has met 5 times so far. These monthly meetings are conducted to discuss policy for large events within Lane County Parks. Mr. Dunlap, who represents the PAC at these meetings, noted that there were attorneys and other land use authorities in attendance at the most recent meeting. Mr. Dunlap also stated that Chris Orsinger of Friends of Buford Park (FBP) would like the guiding principles to come from planning documents that are present for FBP. Mr. Dunlap stated that it was apparent from the various officials speaking at the meeting that there was nothing specified in the deed that was against the master plan or that would give legal basis to halt large events in the Howard Buford Recreation Area. Mr. Dunlap also explained that further discussion resulted in acknowledgement that the master plan is a management plan, and that like the metro plan and the rural

comprehensive plan, these are guidelines that should be updated, but that they are all up to interpretation depending on each definition of what constitutes recreation, what constitutes entertainment, etc. and that the bottom line is up to the LETF and the Commissioners to come up with an interpretation that becomes policy.

Parks staff also presented LETF members a public opinion survey that will be mailed randomly to 2,000 registered voters in Lane County soliciting feedback on having large events in county parks. Mr. Dunlap reported that Task Force members were overly concerned about the short timeline for the implementation of the survey and the timing of the presentation. This concern created considerable email response to LCP management voicing their concerns and forcing a delay in the approval and implementation of the survey at this time. Mr. Russell added that LCP advertised the public meeting of the LETF soliciting public comment on large events which is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

- II. *Moorage Holder Meetings Recap* – Dave Stockdale reported on the End of Season Moorage Holder meetings that were held in late September and early October. These meetings invited seasonal moorage holders to tell Lane County Parks how we're doing. The meetings were well attended and provided LCP staff good feedback regarding safety concerns, maintenance requests, and suggestions for improvements to parks and marina areas.
  
- III. *Master Plan Update* – Mr. Russell informed PAC members on the progress of updating the Parks Master Plan (MP). LCP has hired LCOG to create a draft document to bring forward for public comment. This draft document will include a systems assessment, existing facilities and services, and help indicate where LCP has surpluses or deficits. Fraser MacDonald, Natural Resource Coordinator, discussed a timeline for the draft with a preliminary document by November 7 which is to be presented to the PAC at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The December PAC meeting will be advertised as a public meeting soliciting input. It will then go to the planning commission on January 13, 2015, and then to the BCC work session on March 3<sup>rd</sup> with adoption on April 7, 2015. Chair Hoover voiced concern that in her time with the PAC that members had not been contacted to provide input on the Parks Master Plan. Mr. Gilbert explained that the bulk of PAC involvement on the MP had happened between 2009-2010 with the creation of a technical advisory committee designated specifically for the Parks Master Plan, before the plan was shelved due to funding issues and staffing changes. Ms. Hoover voiced concern with the proposed timeline that PAC members will not have adequate time to review the draft and provide input. She also strongly suggested that the MP timeline and the draft document be presented to members of the LETF for comments and input prior to it going to the planning commission. Other PAC members expressed their support that the draft MP continue on the proposed timeline with amendments to the final MP if necessary. Mr. Russell will consider Ms. Hoover's request to amend the timeline but indicated his desire to proceed as proposed. He stated that he will get copies of the draft to the PAC in time to allow for review and input at the December meeting.

IV. *2014 Recreation Season Recap* – Dave Stockdale reported that the 2014 recreation season was a success due in part to the implementation of the Camava reservation system in 2013. Camava improved efficiencies by allowing customers to book, make changes, and cancel reservations on-line creating better customer service options. Camava also presents valuable tools for staff to provide more efficient customer service which increased revenue, and yields better tracking and reporting while increasing financial security with less risk. With greater tracking and reporting abilities, staff is better able to monitor and identify maintenance backlogs and to allocate funding to projects as needed. Mr. Stockdale stated that camping trends are up, with revenue showing a 16% increase for the year.

**Good of the Order** – Chair Hoover deferred her item until the next meeting. Mr. Dunlap requested an update on the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant application status. Mr. Russell reported that Parks staff will present the application on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and a decision should be known in November and will take it to their commission for a vote in January 2015. Mr. Stockdale will advise the committee of the decision at the December meeting.

Mr. Dunlap also asked for a progress report on the operational transition of Archie Knowles campground from the Forest Service (FS) to Lane County (LCP). Mr. Stockdale explained that the grant has been submitted and we should know in late November if it is recommended for approval. If approved, it will go to the Parks commission in January for recommendation for funding. Mr. Stockdale will advise the committee of the decision at the December meeting. Mr. Russell added that if the grant is approved, the campground will not be ready for operation until April 2016.

**Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting will be November 3<sup>rd</sup> which is one week early due to the Veteran's Day holiday.