

Parks Advisory Committee Minutes

May 9, 2011

Members Present: Les Weinstein, Damien Gilbert, Cat Koehn, Pat Hoover, and Carl Stiefbold

Members Absent: Jennifer Oberst

Staff Present: Mike Russell, Dave Stockdale, Howard Schussler, and John Moriarty

Guest Present: Kevin McGraw, Jim Nelson, Val Rogers, John Elmer

Cat Koehn, Chair, called the meeting to order shortly after 5:30 p.m.

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

Howard Schussler said there was interest for input for a Draft mission statement. Interested party said they would contact John Moriarty through the Parks office to work on this project.

II. Review and Approve April Minutes

April PAC minutes were approved and seconded for approval.

III. Staff Report

- All Parks locations (campground, marinas, restrooms) are open.
- Issue of broken concrete and safety risk at Orchard Point was brought up. Gravel will need to be added for repair. Area has been fenced off until the repair completed.

- Concern expressed about NW corner of Armitage Park Campground (group area) being closed to campers and when it is planned to be opened. It was reported that trees had fallen in the area and that debris and downed power lines created an unsafe area. That area had since been cleaned up and was waiting for Superintendent approval to reopen.
- Introduction of Mike Russell, Interim Parks Manager. Update on Lead Worker vacancy created by the retirement of Keith Grossman and scheduling for Lead Worker interviews. There are 5 qualified candidates. Parks has also hired a part-time Accounting Clerk, and Sam Fox is now the full-time Office Assistant. A part-time Compliance Officer has also been hired, and several extra help as Summer Staff. It was asked how the Compliance Officer is budgeted and Dave Stockdale explained that the position is listed as Fee Taker and budgeted for parking compliance and fee machine maintenance. Revenue potential from this position was also discussed and is to be tracked via a check sheet system.
- Discussion of vacancy on the Parks Advisory Committee and how the position will be advertised. Howard Schussler will be responsible for checking with Commissioner Sorenson on his commitment, and also with member Jennifer Oberst who has been absent from at least the past four meetings.
- Status of BCC items –
 - Delegation of Authority (rule making) to impose rules
 - Fee Reduction
 - Alcohol at Baker Bay/Army Corps of Engineers Authority and the tracking of business revenue losses due to alcohol ban. This item will be presented to the board separately at a later date

IV. **Public Comment** – HBRA Trail 3 & 4 Realignment

Kevin McGraw, past Chair of Friends of Buford Park Trails Committee submitted a proposal for relocation of trails 3 & 4. He advised that the trails are not being properly maintained and that vegetation has become a problem. The terrain where the trails intersect is a streambed and is difficult to maintain. Clearing and widening of the trails is key, as well as maintaining a sturdy tread of trail. He stressed that the existing trails will be available at all times during the proposed relocation.

Mr. McGraw introduced Jim Nelson and Val Rogers, also members of the Friends of Buford Park and stated that they would be available for questions and answers regarding the trail realignments.

John Elmer, a neighbor to HBRA who lives on Seavey Loop, stated that his wife is a member of the equestrian community and they both are in favor and support the project and the benefits that the Friends of Buford Park have provided.

PAC members asked what it means to Adopt A Trail and asked how it is reviewed. Dave Stockdale gave details consisting of: signed contracts which state the designated area and how Lane County Parks keeps a file of the contracts and interested parties. Parks also provides tools and equipment for the Adopters to use while maintaining the trails. If a complaint or issue is brought up then Parks notifies the Adopters, however, this has not been an issue in the past.

It was also asked how the Public had been notified of today's meeting as there was no opposition to the proposal from the Public and in particular, the Sheriff's Posse, who are prime users of the trails and is also an Adopt A Trail supporter.

John Moriarty and Dave Stockdale listed the various ways that the Public Hearing was advertised which include an interested parties list, paid notices in the Register-Guard newspaper, placards posted at the trailheads within the Park, and an invitation on the Lane County Parks website.

Jim Nelson, Chair of the Friends of Buford Park Trails Committee, stated that he met with members of the Posse last June to tour the proposed routes of the realignment and offered on behalf of the Friends to do the work and then turn it over to the Posse for future maintenance. According to Mr. Nelson, there was no response from the Posse on the offer.

Parks staff requested a recommendation from the PAC. The Committee voiced support for the Realignment Proposal of HBRA Trail 3 & 4 for the benefit of all users with a motion to concur and advocate for the realignment. The motion was seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion was passed.

V. Action Items

Park Tour – A tour agenda and details of the plans were discussed. The tour will be in lieu of the June Parks Advisory Meeting.

VI. Good of the Order/Concerns of the Committee

VII. **Upcoming events** at Mt. Pisgah include a Civil War Reenactment and the annual Wildflower Festival the weekend of May 14th.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned around 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2011