



Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board
Tuesday July 18, 2023
Metzler Park, Area #4 at 6:00pm

PAB Members Present: Chair Justin Ostrander, Rob Smoot, Dana Hindman-Allen, Walter Hull, Louise Lopes, Chad Parker, Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson, Thomas Hester, Morgan Parks

Staff Present: Tom Riggs, Mark Shaw, Thomas Gray, Sandy Weijland

I. Call to Order

Justin O called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm

II. Citizen Input

- a. Tom R said that Barton Park was mentioned in a social media post. Someone who camped at Barton Park and floated the river gave positive remarks: clean restrooms and no mosquitoes. Thomas G said that Vector Control claims that Barton has some of the best mosquito eaters in the county and will often come to Barton to collect the mosquito eaters to be released elsewhere.
- b. Walter H suggested that the road signs along the road near Carver Park be cleaned and straightened to be more visible and help with the parking situation on the roadside.

III. Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Louise Lopes made the motion to approve the revised May and June 2023 minutes; seconded by Walter H. Approval was unanimous.

IV. Administrative Updates – Tom Riggs

- a. Shuttle Service – We have a potential ambitious vendor interested in providing a shuttle between Barton and Carver Parks. They anticipate operating 7 days/week and would set their own rate: around \$15/day. We require shuttle vendors to purchase a one-year Commercial Parking Pass (\$135), or a Commercial Day Pass (\$27). The agreement is currently in the legal approval phase. Thomas H commented that this venture may open up new opportunities for more concessions in the parks for revenue.
- b. Code Changes – page-by-page changes:
 - pgs 1-3: Department name changes from BCS to DTD
 - pg 5: New cancelation/refund policy
 - old camping cancelation policy states: If cancelation is made 4 or more days in advance of arrival date a refund will be issued by Parks Division less the reservation fee and a cancelation fee.*
 - If cancelation is made within 3 days of the arrival date, a partial refund will be issued by the Parks Division less the reservation fee, a cancelation fee and the first night's camping fee.*

There was confusion regarding the “within 3 days of the arrival date” as it was sometimes understood to be on either side of the arrival date. The cancelation window is proposed to be increased and a 3-tiered policy
new camping policy: If cancelation is made 7 or more days in advance of arrival date a refund will be issued by Parks Division less the reservation fee and a cancelation fee. If cancelation is made within one to six days in advance of the arrival date, a partial refund will be issued by the Parks Division less the reservation fee, a cancelation fee, and the first two night’s camping fee. If cancelation is made on or after the arrival date, a partial refund will be issued by the Parks Division less the reservation fee, cancelation fee, and the first 4 unused nights’ camping fees.

The group camping area(s) will be in line with the picnic area cancelation policy: if canceled 15 or more days in advance a refund is issued less the reservation and cancelation fee. Within 14 days of the reserved date, no refunds are issued.

There was a question as to how many refunds were processed each day. On our busiest day, Monday, there could be upwards of 30 refunds. Many are from people canceling or changing reservations; several can come from picnic area security deposits being refunded. Justin O asked if the policy is similar to the State Parks or other cancelation policies. Tom R stated that there isn’t an industry standard. Policies vary widely with county, state, local and private parks & campgrounds.

pg 6: added “permanent” and “memorial” for signs & markers in response to recent activity in the parks

Green text indicates verbiage that was moved from one section to another, no changes.

Added verbiage regarding harassing or obstructing staff from performing duties.

pg 7: added “except in areas designated.” to incorporate the potential of future use of RC devices/drones in areas.

pg 8: Reorganized some items & moved to other sections.

Added 1) prohibiting the release of animals (people dropping off unwanted pets in the parks), 2) prohibiting damage to trees by driving nails, hooks, etc into the tree, 3) prohibiting hammocks that may cause damage to trees and structures, 4) limiting electric use in parks (using A/C units in tents), 5) limiting water usage in parks (water misters/cooling devices that have ongoing water use)

pg 11: replaced the filling of swimming pools (now covered on pg 8) with prohibiting the use of unreasonable lighting devices (cutting down on light pollution)

Eric P-R asked about the enforcement of the new policies. The main priority is Education. We will ease into the new policies by educating the public and giving instructions/warnings unless the situation needs to be documented and enforced right away (a situation when someone becomes injured, etc). The second level is patron experience. Making sure that the public is able to have a positive experience – while understanding and complying with the policies.

[Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson left the meeting at 6:55 pm and was absent for the following motion]

MOTION: Dana H-A made a motion to approve the new policy changes as written in the draft. Thomas H seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Other: There is a change with our port-a-potty vendor. The current vendor had not rebid before the contract expired, so we will be back to using United again.

V. Park Updates

- a. Barton Park is experiencing a water leak, causing low water pressure throughout the day-use area. The new CTX restroom has been closed and we have provided port-a-potties until the leak is located and repaired.
- b. Kids in Parks TRACK Trails is now complete in Eagle Fern and Metzler Parks, adding the parks to the network of activities throughout the states. There was a small opening ceremony on July 12. <https://www.kidsinparks.com/>
- c. Just recently a wildfire sprouted near Promontory Park, named the 244 Fire. It has currently burned a little over 30 acres and is 38% contained. It is projected to be out and Promontory Park opening back up by the weekend.
- d. This last weekend had the highest revenue brought so far this season at Barton Park, bringing in over \$9800 total.
- e. We are working with Mt Hood Territory on providing river floating information to the public: float times, alternate floats, etc.
- f. KGW's *Let's Get Out There* series with Jon Goodwin spotlighted Wilhoit Springs and the caretakers there, Deborah Winter and Steve Bishop. You can find it here: <https://www.kgw.com/letsgetoutthere> (titled: *There's more treasure than meets the eye at this history Clackamas County park: 'This is a beautiful, wonderful place'*)
- g. New uniforms for full-time field employees are still in the works. We're using the same vendor used by the Sheriff. We are coordinating logos, etc for the uniform.
- h. Other:
 - i. Morgan P asked what happened to the interpretive sign that was installed at Eagle Fern Park. Thomas G replied saying that it was taken down, but he has recently found it and will be installing it back in its original place.
 - ii. Walter H reinforced the idea of taking photos when citing vehicles for parking violations.
 - iii. Thomas H asked for an update on the possible acquisition of Dodge Park. Tom R said he discussed the park with Department Director Dan Johnson. Dodge Park does not appear to have enough revenue potential to cover the cost of its operation, so barring some other funding stream or operational arrangement, does not seem like a viable venture.

VIII Adjournment

- a. Thomas H made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Walter H. Approval was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

After the adjournment, Tom R led PAB members on a tour around Metzler Park and the new primitive campsites.

Next meeting: August 15, 2023, at Wilhoit Springs Park, dinner at 5:30 pm, meeting at 6:00 pm.