



Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board
Tuesday March 21, 2023, 6:00 pm
Development Services Building, Rm 401
150 Beaver Creek Rd, Oregon City

Members Present Via Zoom: Rob Smoot, Don Morgan, Dana Hindman-Allen

Members Present at DSB: Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson, Louise Lopes, Mike Ferrell, Walter Hull

Members Absent: Justin Ostrander, Thomas Hester, Charles Parker, Morgan Parks

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

Guest Present Via Zoom: Mike Turley

I. Call to Order

Mike called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm

II. Citizen Input

1. Tom Riggs shared an email that Parks received about Wilhoit Springs Park. The park visitor enjoyed the park and tasted the mineral water. She met the caretaker, with whom she chatted about birds and trails. The visitor plans to return with her husband for further bird-watching. Kudos to Wilhoit!

Walter suggested that since birding is a popular activity at Wilhoit Springs, we could showcase the park with KGW's Grant's Getaways (or similar programs).

III. Meeting Minutes

Rob made the motion to approve the February 2023 minutes; seconded by Walter; approval was unanimous.

IV. Business

1. Stone Creek Golf Club – Mike Turley

Mike reported that February was a good month; they made budget goals. The golf club is on course to make budget for March. There was time scheduled to aerate the greens. Tournaments and charity events are getting booked for the spring/summer season. Tom Riggs added that Sarah Eckman reported that a draft of the assessment will be ready soon.

2. Admin Updates – Tom Riggs

- a) Budget- There is not much that is new. There are talks considering transfers from Stone Creek Golf Club and Forestry to save County Parks from severe cutbacks; nothing solid yet.
- b) Fee Updates- We've been working on some fee updates/increases; some may be moved forward to implementation, and some may not. We will have to wait to see what the Department has to say.
- c) Boater Pass- For many years, we have offered separate annual passes for Vehicles and for Boaters. The Boater Pass is less expensive than the Vehicle Pass, but only works at

certain locations and only when towing an Oregon-registered watercraft. The daily parking fee for boaters is also lower than the standard daily parking fee, because the Oregon State Marine Board helps fund boat launch operations through boat owners' registration fees. However, by offering an annual Boater Pass, a number of visitors either get confused as to which pass to get and how it's used, or intentionally misuse the pass. We asked Oregon State Marine Board how other agencies handle their annual Boater Passes, and we learned that we are the anomaly: pretty much no other agency offers a separate annual passes for boaters. Knowing that, Parks staff is planning on phasing out the Boater Passes, and consolidating to just the Vehicle Pass as the annual parking pass option. The idea was accepted by the board as a positive move.

- d) New Camping Ideas- In a conversation with Clackamas County Tourism, it was discovered that they have funding available to support recreational development. We are requesting about \$24K towards adding additional primitive campsites. "Phase One" at Metzler Park is now in the works. Ten tent campsites and 5 "vanlife" parking spaces will be added in the undeveloped area ("Metzler Meadows"). The tent sites will be primitive walk-in sites, with a centrally located water spigot (from a water line that connects to the water line near campsite #15 in the south loop). The vanlife spaces will be located adjacent to an island in the parking lot, supplied with a fire pit and table. We are hoping to have the sites open by June 1.

3. Park Updates – Mark Shaw

- a) Seasonal Staffing The applications are coming in and the hiring process has begun.
- b) TRACK Trails There is a nationwide program designed to encourage kids to enjoy the outdoors. Once signed up for the program, they would provide kiosks, signs, maps, and brochures.
- c) Oregon Parks Forever The organization is a non-profit that helps enhance Oregon parks. They are helping us by funding our enrollment and setup fees for the TRACK Trails program, and by providing disc golf signs in Metzler Park at no charge.
- d) Boones Ferry We recently had the debris cleared from the docks at Boones Ferry Marina.
- e) New Carver Caretakers Our new Caretakers are set to move in to the Carver caretaker house. Our Rangers have been working on the bathroom and rest of the house to get it spiffed up & ready for the new caretakers.
- f) Park Ranger Coordinator The job posting for the 2nd full-time coordinator for the south area will be posted on the county website soon.

V. Good of the Order

- a) Louise wondered what the protocol was to add "& Recreation" to the division name. Tom noted the risk of perception that we are "providing" the recreation. The public already confuses us with North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District (NCPRD). Additionally, NCPRD provides the classes and programs that encompass the recreation portion, which we do not. County Parks is more about providing a place for people to recreate.

- b) Eric mentioned a couple of parks: the Hopkins Demonstration Forest operated by Forests Forever and the Molalla Train Park AKA Shady Dell Train Park next door to Feyrer Park. The train park has miniature steam engine trains and is a great place for all ages.

VI. Adjournment

- a. Walter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 pm; the motion was seconded by Rob; approval was unanimous.

Next meeting: April 18, 2023