



Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes, Tuesday April 16, 2024

**Hybrid online or at Development Services  
Building, Room 401, Oregon City, OR 97045  
@6:00pm**

Members Present Via Zoom: Dana Hindman-Allen, Chad Parker, Angela Pederson, Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson  
Members Present at DSB 401: Louise Lopes, Don Morgan, Walter Hull, Sarah Furber, Mike Ferrell, Tom Hester

Members Not Present: Justin Ostrander, Rob Smoot  
Staff Present at DSB 401: Tom Riggs, Barb Guthrie, Thomas Gray  
Staff Present Via Zoom: Sarah Eckman  
Commissioner Shull Present via Zoom

**I. Call To Order**

Mike called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**II. Meeting Minutes**

Mike called for a motion to approve the minutes from March 19, 2024 meeting; Don motioned to approve, Louise seconded; minutes were approved.

**III. Citizen Input & Correspondence**

Tom Riggs shared several google reviews of our parks. For the last 6 months we have received several 4 star reviews on the Disc Golf Course at Metzler Park; mentioned our picnic areas are a nice place for a party; and Eagle Fern review was positive for hiking and a picnic. Some concern about the parking fee of \$8.

Commissioner Shull stated that the BCC will start work on the next budget next week. Asked the PAB if there was anything they would Commissioner Shull to bring up for Park during that budget work with the BCC. Eric asked about funding for the Parks and getting more financial support to lessen the need for parking fees in order to make parks more assessable to a wider range of citizens. Dana asked about the possibility of Parks getting some sort of General Fund monies to help sustain the parks.

Sarah Furber brought up the newly developed Metal Detecting policy. After that meeting she chatted with a metal detecting enthusiast and he wondered where the policy with approved park sites for metal detecting could be found-Tom R showed her were the information was located on our website. She wondered if there was a way for us to increase visitation by the metal detecting hobbyists, or groups. Those folks help make parks safer by removing metal needles, bottle caps, blades, bullets, etc. she wondered if we could add language about how to dispose of those items that they find. There is a metal detecting group called the Oregon Treasure Trail Society, and thought it a good idea to invite them to speak at a PAB meeting. The group has a website that we could have our metal detecting guide linked there, and they suggested we could have information about where to buy metal detecting equipment.

**IV. County Parks System Plan Visioning Discussion**

We have had some brief discussions about a comprehensive Parks System Plan to help us set goals and develop our parks and find/create a stable funding base to meet those goals. We do not have a current system plan to guide our decisions into the future and what's next for county parks. Tom R called for a round table, asking each PAB member what they thought the most important thing the system plan should include. Walter said it was the mission statement, your action plan will fall into place most easily from that starting point. Other needs would be a timeline, an action plan, data collection, etc. Figure out what you have and then what you need. Tom Hester: there should be a strategic plan for each park; Louise: expansion of park lands, more emphases on acquiring land and also looking at donations of land in a more creative way.

Sarah's suggestion was to develop a comprehensive marketing plan, with surveys to ascertain what customers want to see at our parks in the future, disc golf is a good example. Have a stronger digital presence on the web including social media venues. Other members thought talking to CPO groups to find out what they would like to have us develop, maybe have an open house for citizens. Other members asked us to continue to improve accessibility for disabled persons, level and easily traversed trails. Establishing stable revenue streams in some way must be part of this. Mike wanted to stress the need to preserve green space, and suggested that acquiring more land doesn't mean we need to develop that land right away- but hold it for the future, we don't need to expend a great deal of expense in order to just keep the land.

## **VI. Administrative Updates-Tom Riggs**

- a. Fee and fine Increases Update: The Board of County Commissioners has pushed back the discussion on our code changes and fee increases until mid-to-late summer.
- b. Summer Tours Planning Update: We will visit Barton at the June PAB meeting, July will be visiting Barlow Wayside Park, then the Hoodland property on the way to visit Wildwood Park and meet with park staff there and learn about their operation. In August, we will visit Eagle Fern Park.
- c. Boones Ferry Marina Update: River City requested that they hold off from an update until September or October after the main part of the season; they will have a more full report.

## **V. Park Updates: Mark Shaw**

### **Project Updates**

1. Barton Camping Expansion: We are installing 6 new walk-in campsites in the East campground, with a trail connecting them to the restroom and parking area. Monies for this came from our partners in county tourism. Additionally, we are putting in two host sites in Barton West, next to the existing one there. Concrete for the pads were poured in this last week. We still need to figure out the sewer connections, water connections, and electrical lines. Worked with the trade school students for the excavation and concrete pour, they do great work.
2. Barton Webcam: Mt. Hood Tourism funded 2 live feed webcams to monitor traffic at Barton, this is nearly complete. 1 unit is at the park entrance, another at the ticket booth. A link will be posted on Parks/County webpages and feed live 24/7. This part of a larger effort to encourage rafters to seek out alternative floats on days when Barton/Carver are full.

### **Operational Updates**

Hiring Update: We had a ranger leave last month, James Rholman. The position, which works with Tim Farrell in the South District, has been posted on the county HR web site, closing on 4/29

- The Park Assistant/Park Assistant Lead recruitment is off to a good start, with 7 employees cleared to start (interviewed, background checks complete and PCT passed)
- Three leads already working
- The team decided to extend 3 positions longer than the regular 4 month season because it has become more challenging to fill short seasons with quality hires. With a longer hiring season we are hoping for stability and improved recruitment/retention.

## **VII. Good of the Order**

Tom Hester if the docks could be pulled out later at the end of season if the fish runs run longer. Tom R explained that the contract with the dock install/removal company has set target dates, and that they usually need 3 weeks lead time to change those, but the request is noted and we'll do what we can with the information we have at the time.

**VIII. Adjournment** Mike called for adjournment at 7:22 pm—Tom so motioned, Don seconded.