



Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes, Tuesday February 21, 2023

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

Members Present Via Zoom: Dana Hindman Allen, Chad Parker, Morgan Parks, Rob Smoot

Members Present at DSB, 401: Louise Lopes, Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson, Justin Ostrander, Don Morgan

Members Absent: Mike Ferrell, Walter Hull, Tom Hester

Staff Present: Tom Riggs, Mark Shaw, Barb Guthrie, Thomas Gray, James Rohlman

Staff Present Via Zoom: Sarah Eckman, Alex Lowe, Commissioner Mark Shull

Guests Present: Gordon Tolbert

I. Call To Order

Justin Ostrander called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

II. Citizen Input and Correspondence

We have received some citizen input from a rating site for Disc Golf. Our course at Metzler is getting a 4.0 rating with 76 total responses.

III. Meeting Minutes

Justin called for a motion to approve the minutes from November 15, 2022. Rob asked for a clarification on the status of the Knights Bridge closure for this coming summer. This correction was added: Subsequently, it has been confirmed with County Transportation Engineering & Construction that the bridge project is now planned for 2024. Motion to approve the minutes with correction was called for; Louise motioned, Dana seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

IV. Stone Creek Update and Financial Review – Gordon Tolbert

We did not make our income budget numbers for January, it was a very wet month. However by holding down expenses we didn't take as big of a hit as we thought we might. We are on track for February and have already made our budgeted income levels. Gordon alerted the PAB about rumors circulating about the sale of Stone Creek to the owners of Langdon Farms. Gordon assured us that there is no sale pending, no talks taking place in that direction. Sarah expanded on the appraisal and audit for the course. There is not a definite plan to sell it, the county is looking at all of its assets as we move through our budget process for next fiscal year. Everything is being looked at and evaluated in terms of its role in the County moving forward.

V. Discussion Items - Tom Riggs

- a. New Revenue/Funding Ideas—Tom shared a list of ideas for increasing revenues. These ideas came from a brainstorming session with Park staff.
 1. Increasing prices on our sheltered picnic areas which are very popular as wedding venues, and customers routinely communicate to staff that our sheltered picnic areas are a great deal when compared to more traditional type venues for a wedding. We have several weddings each month over the summer at Eagle Fern, Barton, and Metzler. We feel that the market will allow for these increases. Additionally, the pavilion tent at Barton is not breaking even due to the labor charges to put the tent up each May and take down in October for storage. It is important that we fix this shortcoming; this venue in particular is in need of an increase. In terms of rentals versus expense, we are losing money. Also discussed was the need to increase the security/cleaning deposit. Presently, they are low enough not to encourage picnic area renters to clean up after themselves, which costs us more in staff time.

2. Looking at the possibility of leasing park land for cell tower placement for a steady income, but not sure if feasible.
 3. Adding primitive camp sites at existing campgrounds at a moderate expense. We do have requests for no frills sites at lower rates. We have an area at Metzler on the other side of a gated area consisting of a road that was built in the early 90s with an idea of expanding the park for additional campsites (20+sites). And at Barton, we are considering extra sites in the West Campground somewhere between sites 32-35 on the other side of the camp road in the open grassy area without a large outlay of funds.
 4. Parking fees at Wagon Wheel, etc will be moved up to \$5.00 from \$4.00 for cash handling ease.
 5. Possible commercial advertising in our park spaces, or running classes with our park staff taking on more of a parks & recreation bent- but that maybe too far out of our staffing capabilities and our mission. PAB mentioned the possibility of a once a month farmers market at our parks.
- b. Fee Adjustments—It is the time for reviewing fees and to propose increases for the coming season. We have been doing increases every 2 years based on the CPI percentage, but have had discussions on making the fee increases smaller and doing them every year; the concern is how our customers will react to this. We have a third option-- to make the increases every 2 years except when the CPI exceeds 5%. However, there are two approaches we can take, make some specific target increases (picnic rental and security/cleaning deposits) and land on either yearly small increases or the two year plan. Whatever we decide, it is most always be in July, the start of the next fiscal year, which fee increases would go into effect.
- Another cost that we need to address is credit card process fees. For all of the fees for our online reservations and parking passes, the vast majority are processed through credit card transactions. The County has moved towards capturing these fees and we are charged by the Finance Department for those fees associated with our transactions. Currently we spend about \$43K for those fees each year. We could pass those charges on to the customer, but other regional parks that have done so have received push back and we've heard those parks have stopped the practice. Discussion centered on different modes of payment and looking into other ways to recapture those fees, i.e. higher cancelation fees.

VI. Administrative Updates – Tom Riggs

At Next month's PAB meeting the Forest Advisory Board may join the meeting and we can review the budgets for next fiscal year in hopes that the budgets can be reviewed at that time. Justin requested that the budget information be sent out to the PAB and FAB before the meeting date in March for review prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Shull informed the PAB about Oregon State Bill 795 which if passed would move certain state forest lands back to the counties for management for maximum benefit to the counties to stimulate economy. The Commissioner asked the PAB to send him their thoughts on this legislation at markshull@clackamas.us.

VII. Park Updates – Mark Shaw

1. Trail Keepers of Oregon- Metzler Trail Updates: We have been working on the development of this trail and we are probably 40 to 50% complete. It will have a small grade at points typically 10% or under; trail should be done by late summer. Will have very nice views of clear creek at certain points.
2. Boones Ferry Roof Upgrade/Repair: Have completed the repair, removed the old vents that were determined to have caused the ongoing leaking issues- they were removed and Ridgecaps were installed in their place and things are working well with no new leaks.
3. Barton Water Line Re-Route: We have been dealing with issues of leaking water lines and lack of water pressure at the Barton Park day use areas adjacent to the boat ramp and picnic areas. We have mapped out the lines and identified a new path for the water lines to be re-routed to add fresh water reserve supply.
4. Operational Updates:
 - a. Caretaker at Carver Park-We have selected a new caretaker and they will be moving in the middle of March.
 - b. The Bid for the Boones Ferry Dock Removal/Install has gone out
 - c. Fleet Reductions-we are eliminating motorized equipment that is no longer needed to reduce our carbon footprint such as work trailers, gators, vehicles or other types of equipment.
 - d. New Shuttle Operator—a local restaurant owner approached us about running a shuttle service over the summer between Carver and Barton for the many floaters that come out to enjoy the Clackamas river.

- e. Jr. Ranger Program- there are similar programs at Oregon State Parks to encourage young folks to learn about parks and conservation. We will have tee shirts and activities notebooks.
- f. Mark introduced our two new rangers, James Rohlman and Alex Rowe.

VIII. Adjournment Justin called for adjournment at 7:38 pm—Don so motioned, Louise second.