



Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes, Tuesday November 15, 2022

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

Members Present Via Zoom: Dana Hindman-Allen, Don Morgan, Chad Parker, Morgan Parks, Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson, Rob Smoot

Members Present at DSB, 401: Justin Ostrander, Mike Ferrell, Tom Hester, Louise Lopes

Members Absent: Walter Hull

Staff Present: Tom Riggs, Mark Shaw, Barb Guthrie, Thomas Gray, Sarah Eckman, Chris Dannenbring, Andrew Dobmeier

I. Call To Order

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

II. Citizen Input and Correspondence

Justin related his experience at the Oregon State Parks Annual Conference. Ideas and strategies were shared on alternative funding sources – how others in the State operate and how/why they are successful.

III. Meeting Minutes

Justin called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 18, 2022. No corrections were called for; Justin called for the approval of the minutes: Tom Hester called, Rob seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

IV. County Parks Funding Framework – Chris Dannenbring/Tom Riggs

Chris presented an overview of funding strategies for Parks with suggested ways to leverage additional funds.

Current Park revenue sources:

- Beginning fund balance: \$80,836
- Grants & State RV Fees: \$766,442
- Bond Allocations: \$336,017 (Metro)
- Fees for Service: \$1,306,306 parking, picnicking, camping, sales
- Other Revenues: \$228,069 donations, interest, Lease revenue
- County General Fund \$220,200
- Forestry Timber Sales
- Stone Creek Golf Club \$275,000
- Total-2022-23 \$3,212,870

Parks expenditures are split between (1) personnel, (2) operational and maintenance costs (3) allocated costs, (4) capital repair and replacements, (5) contingency. Expenditures for 2022-23-equals the total revenue figure.

Chris explained the history of our forestry timber sale proceeds and their value to the park's operation funding. Currently a portion of the proceeds from timber sales goes to Parks.

In FY13/14 timber sales earned \$3,775,000 to pay off Stone Creek bonded debt thinking that by eliminating the interest on the bond- that money would be transferred to Parks each year.

A question was raised about the transfer, and it was clarified that the full anticipated amount was never transferred as some of those dollars were set aside for upgrades and operations of the golf course. It was further clarified that BCS oversees a contract with Total Golf Management for operations of the property.

Additional added services that the forestry staff provides to Parks and the County are:

1. Hazardous tree removal for county parks and other departments
2. Tree planting and natural resource management
3. Firewood from timber sales to parks for sale/profit in campgrounds
4. Construction project work in parks
5. Equipment sharing and operation for projects
6. BCC state policy guidance
7. County resident tree cutting questions & consultations
8. Job creation, logging, lumber mills, tree planting
9. Dump stoppers program, site cleanup on county, USFS, BLM timberlands in the county

Current funding challenges: rising costs of seasonal and FTE labor; rising costs for materials, supplies, contracted services; declining county general fund support; reduction in annual timber sales which impacts revenues for parks; looming capital improvements reducing Stone Creek net proceeds to parks; and the parks that generate no revenue, but incur costs to operate and maintain.

Possible strategies for the future-internal: (1) surplus/disposal of underperforming properties (2) analysis of allocated costs to capture potential expense reductions (3) increase revenues at existing facilities by expanding property development (4) leverage grants and Metro bond funding for capital improvements (5) evaluating services provided (6) considerations for system development charges for unincorporated Clackamas County.

Possible strategies for the future-external: (1) Explore transient room tax revenue as funding source for parks (2) build relationships with state representatives to help parks with the impacts from floaters at Barton and Carver and construction funding from the State capital construction budget (3) carbon sequestration program impacts (4) parks operating levy (5) exploration of the forestry program taking back state forest lands (6) expanding forest property acres to increase possible revenues to parks.

Sarah will talk to Stone Creek folks to share budget details at the next PAB meeting, what large cost projects will be coming up for them. BCS has hired a consultant to look at Stone Creek financial outlook for the present and future. Two very large repair projects at the golf course are the replacement of the irrigation system and the pond upgrades for the erosion and nutria infestation.

Some suggestions were discussed, i.e.- selling Stone Creek and using that money to buy forest land, and further discussions on establishing a park district, what that would look like, the rate,- if we set it at ten cents per thousand - that would generate enough money to cover our current operating budget.

Chris suggested that the Parks Advisory Board and the Forest Advisory Board meet jointly after the New Year and discuss ways that we can find synergies between the two programs to increase funding and stability moving forward. February was suggested as a good target date for this meeting.

V. Wild Trout timber Sale – Andrew Dobmeier, TSAC /reps (Louise/Eric)

Andrew has developed a three year plan for timber sales management. We will be working in the wildcat area for the foreseeable future, the three year schedule is due in part by the limit of our forest land holdings. We will do three harvest units in the Wildcat area for a total of one million board feet, one bigger and two smaller. We have started the public comment period on the three sales/the three areas. We will need to use pole harvesting for the eighty year old stands with different varieties; there are high quality trees in those areas. The company that will do the timber harvesting will have the responsibility to pay for all the logging costs, the roads to access the trees. They will have two years to harvest two units and they can speculate on the best time to put the lumber on the market to get the best price. I do an appraisal on the units, and tell them what the minimum \$ we want out of this harvest. They decided what mill will get the logs- they do the negotiations on

price. There will be an additional tour of the harvest area on November 29; Eric and Louise are the PAB members on the Timber Sales Advisory Committee. Louise would like to see us acquire more forest land but not harvest it, protect it for conservation purposes. Eric understands the need for the revenue, but would like to see some of that money go to re-vegetate our park properties, clean out the ivy, etc.

VI. Administrative Updates – Tom Riggs

- Four members of PAB will need to reapply for membership, their terms have expired (Mike Ferrell, Don Morgan) or will expire shortly (Justin Ostrander, Rob Smoot). If you know of anyone that would like to join the PAB, please let us know and we will get the information to them on how and where to apply. Mark Elliott has decided to resign his position due to other commitments he has at this time. He has offered to be a resource if he can be of any help to move efforts forward for Parks. He was invited to tonight's meeting so we could thank him in person for his time spent with PAB, but his current commitments did not allow him to attend; a thankyou letter will be sent to him.
- We are mid-way through the move to the 2nd floor, facilities are currently reconfiguring the cubical setup for staff; we are on schedule to complete the move as of tomorrow.

VII. Park Updates – Mark Shaw

1. Re-paving of the East Campground at Barton. Project is near completion, the curbs still need to be done. It is looking good and will be a positive upgrade for access to the campsites.
2. The septic replacement project at Barton (near the Overlook property) and at Eagle Fern next to the large A-Frame picnic shelter. The new systems will be completed by the end of December and though it is a multi-step process it will be a great improvement and a benefit to the environment/ground water, etc. The system is basically expandable, so it will be able to meet capacity for many years to come.
3. The first nine hole disc golf course is in at Metzler; we have had players out there using the course every day, the second 9 (the more technical course for more advanced players) is about 90 percent done. We utilized many volunteers to get this done. The pads are in as well as the baskets. We collaborated with the county's mapping department to assist in the laying out of the course. PAB asked about a course usage fee, Mark clarified that for normal use there is no fee other than the day use parking fee.
4. On Thursday, November 17, we will begin interviews for two new ranger positions. We received a good number of applicants this time. We are developing a more enhance hands-on training program for the new recruits. Having a standardized training system will speed up the process and ensure to get a solid base set for the new staff that will get them through the process in record time.
5. NW Construction College will be helping us once again for building projects this coming year. We also signed an agreement with Coffee Creek Correctional for day use labor.

VIII. December Meeting

Justin called for a vote on cancelling the December meeting due to the holidays. Rob motioned and Tom Hester seconded- the vote to cancel was carried.

X1. Good of the Order

Parks staff are in the process of moving to the 2nd floor. In the future, if when PAB members visit Parks staff we will be in an area just off the 2nd floor lobby. Eric wished all a Happy Holiday season.

VII. Adjournment

Justin called for adjournment at 7:51 pm—Rob so motioned, Dana second.