



**Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes, Tuesday April 19, 2022  
Via Zoom Webinar @ 6:00 pm**

Members Present: Mike Ferrell, Mark Elliott, Tom Hester, Dana Hindman-Allen, Louise Lopes, Don Morgan, Morgan Parks, Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson

Members Absent: Justin Ostrander, Walter Hull, Chad Parker, Rob Smoot

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

Guests Present: Mike Turley, Total Golf Management

**I. Call To Order**

Mike Ferrell called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

**II. Meeting Minutes**

Mike called for a motion to approve the minutes from March 15, 2022; Louise so motioned, Don second the motion, minutes were approved by the PAB.

**III. Stone Creek Update – Mike Turley**

- In March, we exceeded our income budget by \$50K.
- We did lose some days working on the greens and sanding the rest of the week.
- April's off to a decent start, but did have a couple of days of heavy rain/snow/hail/sleet.
- Started hiring summer staff; opening the deli, the pro shop, maintenance for the course to get ready for the summer.
- We met with WES last week on the pond project; need to nail down a few questions before the project goes to procurement. Hoping for a late September or early October start date.
- We are working on replacing some damaged signs along the trail.

**IV. Administrative Updates – Tom Riggs**

- Departmental Reorganization: We were recently made aware that as of July first, BCS programs are now going to be under the auspices of the Department of Transportation and Development. Economic Development and the County Fair Event Center will fall under the County Administrators office. County Parks, Forestry, Libraries, Property Disposition and Stone Creek will all be under DTD. The County Administrator indicated that no employees are going to be eliminated as a result of the merger. We will report to the Director of DTD, so we are going underneath them—within the Community Services arm of that department. Sarah will remain as the Deputy Director reporting to Dan Johnson, Director of DTD.

We have already found some potential partnership collaboration with putting in a new well at Barton Park, needed to meet some of our irrigation and fire protection. After reviewing our budget with DTD, it turns out that they have a well at the Barton stockpile inside of the park that is drilled down to the same aquifer level we were targeting for our water well. So we are looking to run a water test and see if there is enough capacity in that well to service both DTDs needs and the park's needs, therefore saving a large amount of money on drilling a new well.

- Budget Updates: We did submit a request for an increase to our General Fund amount to help with parks operation. We now have reason to believe that our general fund going forward will be the essentially status quo-which (current general fund plus to 2%). Our additional requests are not currently included in the budget that will be moving forward.

The proposed fee increases went before the BCC last week and were approved. Being able to raise the fees will help to offset our increased cost of doing business and hopefully help with the path forward.

Mark Elliott asked about the efforts to form a special park district to help fund park operations and if by being under the DTD if that would keep us from doing so? Should we continue to pursue this and what if anything the PAB could do to help with this effort. DTD does currently collect a transportation system development charge on permits, etc., so moving under DTD may certainly have its advantages. Mark suggested that Dan Johnson of DTD attend one of our PAB meetings and meet the board.

- Service Reductions: Staff had a discussion concerning possible service reductions if we do not get our requested general fund dollars. We had discussed closing all non-revenue generating park so we can focus our core operations on service delivery at our revenue generating parks. Park fees are upwards of 44% of our funding, so we can't afford to not run those parks at peak service. We believe that service reductions, whatever that may look like are going to have to happen at this point and wanted to get the PAB's thoughts on this.

1. Reduce mowing and landscaping at little used parks
2. Reducing or suspending irrigation
3. Reducing our facilities maintenance backlog issues, defer those that we can
4. Ceasing our maintenance on the Springwater Trail - not renewing the maintenance agreement that has expired
5. Reducing the number of porta potties at parks with full restrooms
6. Leaving the non-sheltered picnic areas closed

Discussions followed with the PAB. One thought was the idea of certain park areas being adopted by community organizations - like the adopt a highway program. They also talked about the use of volunteers, but that would involve hiring a volunteer coordinator to make that happen and that's another bandwidth issue with additional staff salary. The PAB was concerned that by putting off maintenance, the problem grows and compounds. The Board asked about progress on getting vendors in the parks to help generate revenue. Tom is working on developing concession agreements. However, the revenue from concessions is not that significant. One concern was the public push back from closing some parks and complaints about unkept areas in the parks.

## **V. Park Updates – Mark Shaw**

- Seasonal Hiring: Hiring is going well, much improved over last year. Currently we have 18 spots hired out of 35-that puts us at 51% total staff filled. The pay increase seems to have helped with recruitment.
- Spring Projects:
  - Still working on the clean up from 2021 ice storm. Clearing trails and removing downed trees. Worked with the bridge shop with repairs to some of our bridges that were damaged in the ice storm.
  - Completing repair on the Carver house with replacing the roof and some of the trusses, as well as a small section of siding.

- Completing the playground inspections at all parks. Have resurfaced the mulch. Will install step pads underneath the swings to help with displacing the mulch.
- Also working on repairs to the house at Metzler; like the Carver House, there are some truss issues-the second story was an addition to the original house. Will remove the sky lights.
- The Utility mapping project is about 70% complete. The data will be applied to the plan maps.
- Waiting on procurement for projects on septic systems at Eagle Fern and Barton.
- We've gathered estimates on the curbs/paving work for Feyrer Park the numbers came in around \$350K. Chris has put in for grants and we optimistic we will receive the monies, after which we would have two years to complete the project.
- Metzler office needs work due to leaking from rain, etc. - it is an old FEMA trailer. We looked into the best fix and decided to put a larger secondary roof over the trailer to stop the rain from continuing to damage the structure. Northwest College Construction is helping out on this.
- The floor at the Metzler house has suffered water damage a few years back and will be replaced.

## **VI. PAB Meeting Options**

We are talking about having an online in-person hybrid option for our PAB meetings moving forward. Tom Riggs checked with the BCC office, and we can chose whatever arrangement we think works best for the PAB. Tom suggested that for May we meet via zoom and for the summer months-June, July, and August, we have park field trips like in the past. In the fall, we should turn to a hybrid meeting with those who wish to meet in person can along with those you will zoom in. The PAB agreed to this plan.

### Potential Summer Field Trips:

1. Feyrer
2. Boones Ferry Marina
3. Stone Creek Golf Course
4. Tickle Creek Property

## **VII. Adjournment**

Mike called for adjournment at 7:30 pm—Louise so motioned, Dana second.