



Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes, Tuesday November, 2024

**Hybrid online or at Development Services  
Building, Room 118, Oregon City, OR 97045  
@6:00pm**

Members Present at DSB 118: Justin Ostrander, Mike Ferrell, Walter Hull, Louise Lopes

Members Attending via Zoom: Tom Hester, Dana Hindman Allen, Chad Parker, Angela Pederson, Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson, Rob Smoot

Members Not Present: Sarah Furber, Don Morgan

Staff Present at DSB 118: Tom Riggs, Mark Shaw, Barb Guthrie, Thomas Gray

Commissioner Shull and Sarah Eckman Present via Zoom

## **I. Call To Order**

Justin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

## **II. Meeting Minutes**

Justin called for the approval of the October 15 minutes. Walter called for the motion, Louise second the motion; it was approved by the PAB.

## **III. Citizen Input & Correspondence**

Tom Riggs shared several of our online reviews with the Board. He shared the last 5 most recent reviews.

- Barton Park got 4 stars; serene and picturesque, perfect for outdoor enthusiasts.
- Eagle Fern got 5 star reviews; great place to take the kids, it's got everything you could want to get out into nature.
- Feyrer Park had mostly 5 stars; some 1 or 3 stars that the camping spaces are a little bit more than just a glorified parking lot; the campsites do have grass between them, but they are a little tighter packed than at some of our other parks.
- Metzler Park several 5 stars, a 4 star and a 3 star; beautifully maintained park, very clean. Some concern about signage for finding your camp site, the Frisbee golf course is good, walking trails are well maintained.

Kudos for our Parks Board from the office of Public and Government Affairs (PGA). Barb has been working with them to promote our new volunteer program. Barb shared with them the backstory about how the PAB had provided input on that program, wanting to make sure that we provided opportunities for people to volunteer at the parks while earning parking passes and camping nights. Cameron in PGA was really impressed at the level of involvement by the PAB and their efforts to make access to our parks affordable for a larger group of people.

## **IV. Stone Creek Update-Mike Turley**

Stone Creek had a fantastic summer; we did close to a hundred charity events, ranging from schools to local organizations. As we get closer into winter, and the rains of November, things slow down. We had a little bit of a mix of snow yesterday. We are ahead of budget going into the off season, which is a good place to be. Mike was asked for a figure on how much these charity events raised. Each Charity charges certain amounts with undisclosed total amounts that Stone Creek is not privy too. A guess would be around \$300K for dollars raised at Stone Creek through charities this past year. The number of individual players on the course this year was about even with the previous year. We did have almost a

hundred tournaments this past summer and about 25% percent of those have already booked for next year. Tournaments usually book after February/March of each year.

## **V. County Park System Plan Scoping**

We have worked up the 1st draft of our scope of work for our county park system plan, outlining the overall project that will help us define the future of Clackamas County Parks. The draft was based on the input we gathered working with North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD). Our parks portfolio fits somewhere between city parks and forest service areas, though we are more akin to state parks in terms of the types of facilities and the size of our parks. We determined several key questions to define system plan needs. (1) Best ways to engage people in the process (2) What is the core mission and vision of County Parks (3) What are the goals and objectives for County Parks (4) What actions are needed to achieve the vision/goals/objectives (5) How and what should be funded and (6) How can we market the parks. PAB members stated that the public engagement strategy is critical, suggesting that we hire a commercial firm to help facilitate that endeavor. And figuring out what the public wants in our parks, then tell us how to market our parks. The last over-arching county parks plan update was in 2004. We do have an internal staff member who has been assigned to help us with public outreach on the system plan. Dana suggested linking up with area events and having advertising for our parks and a “soft survey”- Sandy, Gresham, Oregon City. Eric agrees with hiring a consultant; and opening up an online survey as soon as possible. Would NCPRD share their survey results with us? Eric also suggested that we form a sub-committee to discuss these matters in greater detail, PAB meetings are not long enough to do this. Rob raised some concerns; he thinks it is way too broad, we should narrow this down a lot. Like, do you have a budget you can’t exceed for this plan? What are the limitations that the county has in terms of system development? Tom Hester-he thinks that this kind of inquiry begins with building a template by listing the purpose of a question, and what kind of data would it take to address that purpose. Justin suggested using the smart goals system, aim for measurable specific actions that are realistic. The main point is to determine the level of service vs. the level of funding.

## **VI. FY 25/26 Budget Planning**

Tom shared with PAB a list of Potential Capital Projects for FY 2025-26. The total price tag for that list is \$1.33 million. It breaks down \$730k- Metro Local Share dollars, \$115K from Park Ops Budget and \$484K TBD. The projects include sewer system utility for the Barton expansion, and the water system upgrade. Other projects could be an off-leash Dog Park at Feyrer, Caretaker Residence Upgrades at Eagle Fern Park, and an automatic gate at Madrone Wall. Some of these projects will not be done unless we secure grant funding for those projects. This is a starting point only, shared ahead of drafting next year’s budget, for PAB to ask questions. Eric asked about a line item about planting more trees, especially out in the Barton Park expansion. We have been planting trees at Barton out of both the Parks and the Forestry budgets. Chad asked if we consider the projects, like new cabins at Barton to be done, that focusing on projects with a ready financial impact on our budget, if those projects would be moved to the top of the list. Tom clarified there are a lot of considerations, but revenue is certainly one of them.

PAB reviewed the list of revenue ideas the PAB came up with at our last meeting. Tom Riggs asked the Board to come up with two items from the list (12 items) - after discussion, the PAB reached a consensus to move ahead with items number 5 (farmer’s market) and 11 (concerts/events).

## **VII. December Meeting**

The PAB was asked about canceling the December meeting due to the constraints of the holiday season. Angela motioned to cancel the December meeting, Louise second, motion passed; next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

## **VIII. Administrative Updates**

Tom Riggs shared with the Board information about the numbers for last summer season. For the season we pulled in approximately \$305k in camping fees, \$385k in parking fees, along with other fees, for a total of \$765K. Summer visitation was well over 600,000.

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

(1) Park staff are busy with winter maintenance: at Eagle Fern the team installed 250ft of split rail fence around the A Frame picnic shelter, repaired the roof of the Park office/shop and repaired the gutters on that building.

(2) At Feyrer, work on the water system included a rebuild of the Booster Pump, 3 new pressure tanks and a re-calibration of the controller, floats and pump.

(3) Trails work continued with three successful work parties at the Madrone Wall with TKO and the Madrone Wall Preservation Committee, 1+ miles. Steady progress was made at Barton with the River Access Trail and Primitive Trail. Flagged a route for a new connector trail at Metzler, named Entrance Hill Trail, 1+ miles.

Upcoming projects include Barton Shop remodel; install PFD Loaner Kiosk at Boones Ferry; adding 2 changing stations near Feyrer Park beach (simple design, 4x6 concrete pads).

Boosting Host recruitment for 2025. Multiple vacancies exist and candidates can now apply through the County Jobs board. Please spread the word and direct folks to apply at the address below –

<https://www.clackamas.us/des/temp>

## **X. Good of the Order**

Mark Shull asked about grant monies opportunities. Thought we could use that money for surveys. There are some planning grants available through the state and can be used for some of the plan and design work. The Metro Local share bond will address some of those needs. Commissioner Shull was asked about any grant opportunities that he knows of at present and requested that he forward that information to us.

Mike asked about guided tours by the Park Rangers for school groups. We do arrange for those tours when requested, most usually during the school week. School buses are not charged for parking at any of our properties. We were just talking with the Clackamas School District to bring a group of students out to Barton to release salmon eggs into the Clackamas River.

## **XI. Adjournment** Justin called for adjournment at 7:44 pm—Walter so motioned, Louise seconded.