



Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board
Clackamas County Forestry Advisory Board
Tuesday, August 20, 2024
Eagle Fern Park at 6:00pm

PAB Members Present: Chair Justin Ostrander, Louise Lopes, Chad Parker, Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson, Rob Smoot, Mike Ferrell, Tom Hester, Dana Hindman-Allen
FAB Members Present: Dan Green, Mark Rasmussen, Molly McKnight, Bill Street

Staff Present: Sarah Eckman, Tom Riggs, Thomas Gray, Sandy Weijland, Lisa Harman, Chris Dannenbring, Andrew Dobmeier

Guests Present: None

I. Call to Order

- A. Meeting Called to order at 6:05pm

II. Meeting Minutes

- A. Bill S moved to approve the Forestry Advisory Board minutes. Molly M seconded; motion passed.
B. Rob S moved to approve the Parks Advisory Board June minutes. Tom H seconded; motion passed.

III. Citizen Input

- A. A neighbor has thanked County Parks and Forestry staff for the cleanup done on the Wetten property in Oregon City.

IV. Group Discussion Topics

Proposed Tree Management Policy - There was discussion on whether the County has liability if someone is injured by a falling tree in the park. Tom Riggs responded that Clackamas County would have liability if the tree was known to be a hazard but was not taken care of. The power companies take care of the trees within 10 feet of their lines and we can let them know if there are any danger trees threatening the lines. The intention behind the new policy for staff is "see something, say something." There was discussion regarding adding annual training sessions, and how trees will be documented. FAB member, Molly M, suggested checks be conducted in the spring before camping season rather than in the fall. Andrew explained that checks were going to happen in the fall to give them time to deal with any problem trees before busy season. Tom R. replied that there is a pre-season walk through that happens at campgrounds as well. PAB member, Tom H suggested documenting on the form what will happen to the tree. Tom R replied that is on the form and Sarah responded that responsibility will be shared between the two programs. Sarah said they are also discussing fire mitigation regarding trees and planning down to operation levels, including what will be done if a fire starts in a park, to protect visitors in our parks. Tom R noted that we have procedures for emergencies and that what we have been doing is a robust program. Trees are one of the biggest liabilities in our parks. The policy will be reviewed by the County legal department since it is related to liability. Sarah and Andrew - the fire management plan will be discussed at a

future date and will address what is to be done if there is a fire.

- A. **Stone Creek Golf Club** – Sarah opened a discussion of the finances of Stone Creek Golf Club, relating to a transfer of monies from an accelerated timber harvest to pay off bonded debt. A question was asked regarding what happens to the nearly \$1 Million in revenue minus the \$225,000 that was transferred to Parks. Sarah responded that part of it goes to allocated and indirect costs, and that there is a bonus paid if revenue exceeds \$600,000. There was discussion around the fact that since the accelerated harvest, County Parks & Forestry were supposed to receive \$400-500,000, but have not been getting it. The money has stayed with Stone Creek, and no transfer was made in 2021 or 2022 because the intention was that the irrigation system needed to be replaced. Chris Dannenbring stated that Parks and Forestry were told that projects could not be completed and that transfers from Stone Creek were being held back. An FAB member wanted to know why irrigation has not yet been replaced and why money was promised to Parks and Forestry but never received, and Sarah answered that the golf course first needs to cover its own costs. Decisions about holding back money are made at the Director level. A PAB member brought up discussion about whether the golf course was initially supposed to be a park property. Chris clarified that you cannot bring all the money into one pool because they are separate budget lines. Members from the PAB and FAB requested to see a better breakdown of financials and a target date for the irrigation system. Dana H-A made a motion to explore the ability to bring all County Parks, including Stone Creek Golf Club, under one County Park sphere of management. Chad P seconded; motion passed.

V. Park and Forestry Updates

- A. Tom Riggs for Parks – Tourism has funded new camping projects, and we have had 41 reservations in the new walk-in sites. The shelter in the Barton East campground was repurposed into a hammock camping area and 13 rentals made \$500.
- B. Andrew Dobmeier for Forestry – Wild Trout Timber Sale will bring in \$1.89 million in revenue, and replanting will happen in winter. We are in the third year of planting in the Barton gravel pit expansion. Last year we lost some trees, so are increasing the effort in watering the trees this year. The NW College of Construction leveled some things out. We finished pre-commercial thinning and spraying and will be getting labor contracts for some additional work. Replanting will include 40% Doug Fir, 40% Cedar, and 20% white pine. The priority is planting things that grow well historically as well as a good mix of things. County Forestry will be getting a new flatbed fire truck.

VI. Good of the Order

- A. Chris Dannenbring is retiring at the end of August. We are thankful for her many years of service!

VIII Adjournment

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Next meeting: September 17, 2024 at BLM's Wildwood Recreation Site picnic area, 65670 E Highway 26, Welches

3:15 pm – Meet at the Development Services Building, Oregon City (Parks Admin office)

3:25 pm – Tour van leaves Oregon City

5:00 pm – Wildwood Recreation Site Tour

5:30 pm – PAB dinner

6:00 pm – PAB Meeting