



Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes, Tuesday November 28, 2023

**Hybrid online or at Development Services
Building, Room 119, Oregon City, OR 97045
@6:00pm**

Members Present Via Zoom: Justin Ostrander, Morgan Parks, Eric Pfeiffer-Robinson, Rob Smoot
Members Present at DSB, 119: Mike Ferrell, Dana Hindman-Allen, Walter Hull, Louise Lopes, Chad Parker
Members Not Present: Tom Hester, Don Morgan

Staff Present: Tom Riggs, Mark Shaw, Barb Guthrie, Thomas Gray, Tim Farrell
Staff Present Via Zoom: Sarah Eckman
BCC Staff Present Via Zoom: Commissioner Mark Shull

I. Call To Order

Justin Ostrander called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

II. Meeting Minutes

Justin called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 17, 2023 with the correction of the spelling of Eric's last name. Motion to approve the minutes was called for; Walter motioned; Louise seconded; minutes were approved.

III. Citizen Input & Correspondence

Tom reported that an email came in from the Boring CPO and the Boring Oregon Foundation, questioning the newly instituted parking fees at the Boring Trailhead Park. They requested that the parking fees be removed. Shared similar concerns as the Barlow Wayside group with the additional concern about visitors parking on the street instead of our parking lot in order to avoid paying the parking fees; thinking this will be a safety issue moving forward. Like the Barlow Wayside group, they want changes to the fees. Wanted an explanation of the funding deficit that is prompting our need for the parking fees.

Walter asked about the survey concerning our parks that is currently on Facebook. It was a concern that was brought to him by a citizen. He was concerned that there was a straight cash reward (\$100) for completing the survey. Walter thought it would be best to "reward" them with free camping, picnic rentals, etc. to encourage their patronage. Tom explained that this survey is managed by a consultant that was hired to conduct outreach to underserved, marginalized and impoverished groups to meet the thresholds of the Metro Bond monies that the Parks are eligible to receive. The purpose of the survey is to reach out to people who do not normally visit our parks, go camping etc. This is the process that they have set up. They did not in engage with us on reward options. However, the suggestion of parking passes, camping etc. is a good one and we could in the future use this on other outreach surveys. We do want to make sure that all of the voices are at the table, not just those who are our regular customers.

There was a question about not watering the front area of the Boring Station Trailhead Park. Park staff clarified that section of grass is built on a gravel bed and watering it isn't particularly successful or cost effective, so we are focusing our irrigation efforts on the formal plantings.

IV. PAB Discussion: Recap on Citizen Input Concerning Parking Fees

Justin asked if any process has been made on the Barlow Wayside parking fees or the resolution we passed to lower the fees to \$4. We have received additional feedback from citizens. Our next step is to go to the Board of County Commissioners to get approval to change our fee schedule. They have the final say in this matter. We are tentatively slated for time with the BCC on January 17, 2024, the day after the January PAB meeting on the 16. We will review the situation with them, how we got to the fee amounts at each park, then discuss the citizens input and concerns about the parking fees. Tom will update the BCC on what the discussions were at the October

PAB meeting and review how we got to this point with fee levels, and/or instituting parking fees at locations that have not been charging for parking in the past. Will work with the BCC to find a balance between our budgetary/operational needs and the greater community. Mark and Tom will be meeting next week with the Boring CPO to get their input and have a discussion about why the fees have been put in place. We are considering new ideas for fees as the community feedback comes into us, one suggestion was charging hourly fees. However the hourly fees are not currently in our fee schedule. The \$8 fee currently is the approved fee by the BCC. Tom sent out to the PAB the materials he presented to the PAB at the October meeting; Rob asked if Tom would be willing to send that information to Mitch, Tom agreed to do that. Dana asked about our volunteer program that is in development, and an update was provided. The Justin and PAB members also discussed the possibility of a Park Levy to assist in funding the parks. It is a complicated venture and does involve staff time to promote it and working on outreach to the community, hiring a campaign manager, etc. It should be done at a time when the BCC is onboard with that and the temperature of the electorate is open to additional taxes.

Justin asked that Tom circle back with the PAB after he meets with the BCC, and the outcome of that meeting be discussed at the February PAB meeting.

V. Administrative Updates-Tom Riggs

We reviewed the parking fee issues, more to come next meeting. I did want to mention that Chris Dannenbring our Administrative Analyst was awarded the Lasting Impact Award for 2023 from the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association at their annual meeting in Portland during the week of November 6-8, 2023.

Commissioner Shull mentioned that the general fund comes solely from property tax. None of it comes from corporate or business taxes. As to going to the voters for a Park District, we need to look at the climate in the county for added taxes. Hoodland's Park District vote last year failed. It would really be tough to get those passed before the 24/25 budget. He forecasted that the budget for next fiscal year will be even tighter than this year. He thanked the PAB for the time and efforts for our parks.

VI. Park Updates-Mark Shaw

1. Project Updates-Maintenance Season Begins

- a. The project for residing of the Carver Caretaker House is starting
- b. Hazard Tree removal- 36 trees are on the list for removal-the trees are a mix of Cedar and Doug Fir. We will be working at the Wetten property and our Forester Andrew will work with park staff to teach them the safe way to bring down a tree.
- c. Modified a large planting area at Boring Station-the plants were dying due to the lack of adequate drainage--large drainage holes were drilled into the concrete bumper surrounding the planting bed.
- d. Disc Golf Course Signage-the new signs for the course are designed with information on each station and information about the surrounding trees, and plantings.
- e. Utility mapping progresses across all of the parks. We purchased a GPS device to assist in mapping out the water, electric and sewer lines. Working on getting that information converted to a electric version and away from paper maps. Each park will have their own readouts for the lines.

VII. Good of the Order

Mr. Hull asked about the budget information that was sent out with the information concerning the last PAB meeting. He wondered about the lack of monies in that budget for compliance/citations for nonpayment of the parking fees, and mentioned that he rarely gets checked for his parking pass and thinks we should be doing more to enforce our parking rules and that we could be missing out on citation fees. Tom explained that compliance happens at all of our parks daily, we have park and security staff that are trained to write the citations and most of that checking on parking is done when the guests are out enjoying the park not sitting in their cars. Tom noted that working to gain compliance is also working to gain revenue and working to gain fair access. Tom also clarified that the citation fees don't go to Parks, but to the Sheriff's office. While citations do generate funds, at this point, it appears it is more cost effective to leave it with the Sheriff's department; they have the staff/structure to collect the monies and has a Hearings Officer to hear from citizens that have been ticketed and want to appeal the ticket.

Mike asked if we were still in contact with the owners of the Tickle Creek property and at least contacting them from time to time. He would like us to make sure we don't let that opportunity slip out of hand.

Tom thanked Sarah and the park staff for stepping in during his absence, and that things were handled well.

VIII. Adjournment Justin called for adjournment at 7:32 pm—Rob so motioned, Walter seconded.