

**Parks Advisory Committee Minutes
March 14, 2011**

Members Present: Pat Hoover, Cat Koehn, Carl Stiefbold, and Les Weinstein

Members Absent: Jennifer Oberst, Damien Gilbert

Staff Present: Howard Schussler, John Moriarty, and Dave Stockdale

Guests Present: No guests were present.

Cat Koehn, Chair, called the meeting to order shortly after 5:30 p.m.

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

Howard requested two items to be added to the Staff report: Potential reduction of fees and customer input regarding the marinas.

II. Review and Approve March Minutes

It was motioned and seconded to approve the February PAC minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)

There were no guests present at this meeting and no public comment to report.

IV. Action Items

Howard shared that the PAC is required to identify their top Accomplishments and Goals. PAC members will provide Howard with a list of the PAC Accomplishments that were discussed at a prior meeting. Howard will share the information with the group at the April PAC meeting.

The committee then reviewed the following Goals:

- Conduct at least one park tour with the PAC.
- Increase PAC involvement and direction to address Parks issues and provide assistance with policy changes to BCC.
- Interact more with the public and conduct outreach to user groups as necessary. Work with other agencies to achieve this goal.

- Continue to provide a platform to develop and maintain cooperative business relationships. Be aware of potential conflicts of interest with the County and BCC.
- Explore interest in creating a friends of Lane County Parks Foundation (development, fundraising, and donation efforts).
- Support adoption of new 5-year CIP.
- Review and recommend Master Plan.
- Continue to participate at various events, based on personnel availability. The County has a contract and relationship with SVELCO. We could partner with them at events (like Eugene Sportsman Show). PAC members agreed to participate at events as well.

Park Tours:

Howard proposed taking the PAC on an HBRA tour as well as working with the Friends of Buford Park to tour the Wildish area. It was suggested that the PAC invite the McKenzie River Trust on the tour too. It was requested that Parks include a list of upcoming tours and dates to each of the PAC agendas. Howard will schedule the HBRA tour for June 4th, per the PAC's request.

At-large PAC Vacancy:

Howard will request to be added to the BCC's agenda in the next two weeks to discuss the PAC vacancy positions. Per the PAC's request, Howard will share the PAC's guidelines in selecting a member with the BCC. The Parks Division will advertise for the at-large position, upon hearing Commissioner Bozievich's recommendation for his appointee.

Natural Area Coordinator, John Moriarty:

John introduced himself to the PAC and shared his background as a natural area coordinator. He served as Executive Director from 2004-2010 for the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, a state-wide support organization. John will be assisting Parks in identifying the natural areas and resources in Lane County parks. He will review the process, relationships with agencies within the State, local and regional levels to learn more about the value of our natural areas and how it fits into the Master Plan.

John is reviewing parks records and doing on-site visits to identify natural areas. He will make recommendations for a for natural areas criteria such as: size of natural area, other protected areas nearby, rare habitats in the area, educational opportunities, maintenance needs, and public use accessibility, all of which play a role in conservation efforts and strategy.

V. Staff Report

In addition to adding the Natural Area Coordinator position, Parks has converted a Field Representative position that has never been filled into a part-time Accounting Clerk position, which is essential to assist Parks with business processing.

Howard shared that the previous Office Assistant, Judy Ferrell, is no longer employed with the County and that Parks will fill this position. Parks currently has this position staffed with part-time, temporary staff. Parks will be advertising nine field staff (eight local, one coast) for seasonal staff. They will all be able to audition for Eric's position, who will be retiring soon.

Keith Grossman's retirement party is March 31 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Works building. All PAC members were encouraged to attend.

The Parks Manager position will not be filled with a permanent replacement in the near future.

The current Parks building will be completely remodeled and will house planning, permits, parks, and surveyors. Construction will begin in May. The Parks Division will move into the operations building at Delta until the project is complete sometime in July 2012.

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Marina Updates:

Howard informed the committee that some moorage holders had suggested that each marina could form a committee which could provide input to the PAC.

Howard then shared feedback from moorage holders who are angry and disappointed with the increased moorage fees.

Moorage repairs are expected to begin in the fall. Parks is considering designating marina parking spaces at Orchard Point. Each marina has been re-keyed for security purposes.

The PAC agreed to take some fee reduction changes to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The vote was 4-0 favor. This included picnic shelter fees, pet/animal fees, and Road and Recreation map fees.

Next PAC meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2011, at 5:30 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at around 7:00 p.m.