

DOUGLAS COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting – May 27, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 311

PATRICIA K. HITT, COUNTY CLERK
JUN 24 2016
DOUGLAS COUNTY OREGON
FILED

PRESENT:

Lonnie Ferber, Jim Peterson, Don Larson, Bill Swift, Dennis Acton, Greg Logan, Richard Patten

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

Joe Coyne, John Hunter, M.A. Hansen, Joe Ross, Crystal Lynn Stone, Kat Stone, Alan Buntz, Larry Lynch, Susan Roden, Paul Wikstrom, Karen Roberson, Landa Baily, Rick Hinta, Dee Dee Murphey, Linda McCollum, Marty V.

Acton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Cowie announced that the Master Plan is not on the agenda due to the amount of comments received by the public and there was not enough time to integrate the comments. Once the comments are integrated the new draft plan will be posted on the Parks webpage. Cowie also confirmed the revised draft will be available on June 6th with comments due from the PAB on June 10th. The PAB supports the public comments being posted on the website.

MINUTES:

Swift motioned for the approval of the April 25, 2016, Larson seconds the motion. Minutes were approved.

REVIEW AGENDA:

Acton added Master Plan discussion by Stuart Cowie

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Agenda Items only):

Landa Bailey

Shares concerns regarding the Parks, Planning, and BOC not having the master plan on the agenda and lack of transparency. Stated she would like to see public comments on the website, explanation of process change, and additional public notification.

Joe Ross

Thanked the PAB for the Town Hall Meeting, and pointed out that the News Review only has one job posting for the County and does not include the Parks Director. He feels the director position should be advertised nationally, and seek someone with a strong parks background. Mentioned that he does not feel the Swiftwater funds should be used to fund the new director position. Would like to have more than 3 minutes to speak.

John Hunter

Would like to find out how the Parks Department Director will be funded.

M.A. Hansen

Expressed her concern regarding how this county feels logging is the only way to fund the departments rather than using tourism. Would like to know who makes the rules that this is the only way to fund the system.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Public Garbage Dumping

This has always been a problem, however, since the dump fees have been implemented it is getting worse. At this point, when personal garbage is found we have instructed the staff to get the personal information, call the Sheriff Department and wait for them so that we can file a report and press charges against the individual.

- Peterson commented that he has seen this approach work in the past within other organizations. He also addressed the News Review reporter and asked for their efforts in getting this information in the paper.

Crab Dock Update

Currently we have a tentative grant approval for \$202,000. Also in the budget we have allowed for some band aid repairs to take place this FY to keep the dock safe. The lumber has been delivered to Salmon Harbor. Paul Stallard and his department has lead the planning for this project along with his staff, Parks staff and Shutter Creek.

Kanipe Trail Grant

Groth announced that the grant application was not approved. He feels that this grant was not approved due to the type of work that was requested. He thinks the project may have appeared to be more maintenance then new construction.

Whistler's Bend New Campground

The new campground is open and is full this weekend.

- Ferber suggests we have a grand opening for the new campground.
- Acton recommended signage that explains the water conservation issue.

Amacher Boat Ramp

The bid came in significantly over the estimated budget. The bid will be rejected next week and will put it out to bid again the following week. If we do not get a successful bid then the project will be postponed until next year due to in-water work period time restraints

River Rescue Stations

The local rotary club has approached the county to get permission to installed river rescue stations at three county parks. These stations include instructions and a ring.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Park Director Replacement Status

The process for the replacement is being done with HR and the BOC. They developed a committee to review applications and interview. These members include two PABs, Equestrian group member, Rotary member, Management and Finance, HR, and Gary. It is advertised on the Oregon, California and Washington State Parks Association, Monster.com, county website, and National Parks Association. Applicants have been received from all over the states. Three of the applicants were interviewed last Monday. The HR Director is still accepting and review applications. The position will remain open and advertised until filled.

- Logan asked if there are head hunter type recruiters that specialize in Parks.
- Acton announced that the new Parks Director will only oversee the Parks

Budget Hearing Update

In March the Parks Department submitted a budget that required zero dollars from the general fund. In the past the Director's salary has been split between Land and Parks. The parks department is only 20% of the director salary. The BOC required the Parks Department to include the new director salary in full. During these hearings Commissioner Freeman requested to have the Swiftwater funds pay for the director salary. Commissioner Morgan did not support this, therefore, the department was instructed to increase revenues to absorb the difference.

- Gary explained the special event process for parking fees.

Master Plan

The comments have been sorted into categories into some main points including inventory/maps, reference list, self-sufficiency, SCORP data, volunteerism, property recommendations, lack of information of passive parks, mini park plans, and parking fee data.

- Peterson recommends not including any operation revenues in the plan.
- Logan describes that Kanipe is supposed to have some sort of educational component. Feels other educational components should be included. There could be green energy by building some sort of renewable resource.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Joe Ross

Suggests a public announcement be put in the paper regarding water safety. Commented on the master plan process, would like to see a mission statement and views this plan as an interim plan and would like to see this indicated. Would like to see how his comments were implemented, and would like more time for the public to be involved.

M.A. Hansen

Town hall meetings should be ran like others and allow more dialogue. And feels that in order to have tourism we need trees in the parks.

John Hunter

Brought to the attention of the PAB that they may want to reconsider the new Adopt-A-Park documents removal of anit-vandalism. Is concerned that there is no mention of the coastal future earthquakes.

Karen Roberson

Expressed to Stuart that she read the ORS information he provided, and asked him to review the section regarding accurate mapping. States that she would like to honor Diana Wales and her involvement within the Parks System. Asked the PAB to encourage the BOC to consider Diana for PAB.

Landa Baily

Would like to see more information on the agenda and feels the director report should be listed. Encourages the PAB to send more press releases out and work the NR to deliver more information to the public. Is thankful for putting more time into the master plan and posting the public comments.

Joe Coyne

Does not feel the public is involved enough, does not feel 3 minutes is enough time for audience participation. Does not support cabin, yurts, and park models.

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS:

Logan clarified the details of the process and his temporary re-appointment as a PAB member. Logan explained that he did not resign as a PAB member, he just withdrew his application. The BOC asked him to remain until the vacant position is filled.

Larson expressed his frustration regarding the newspapers and the public slamming people.

Peterson feels there has been quite a few misunderstandings. He feels the time spent on renaming categories was a waste of time. He feels there was a set up for sabotage for this process. The county is not all about logging but it is an option. Need to be mature and adult enough to understand that everyone is not going to get everything they want. If the members of the public feels there are hidden agendas or have other concerns they need to be addressed to the BOC.

Patten shared the importance of the crab dock at the coast. Asks the public to consider how important all the parks are not just one.

Groth, it is important to understand what the Parks system can supply. Tourism in itself does not provide direct funding to the county government. The parks department does provide camping, crab dock, trails (the facilities). If we don't have good facilities people will not come.

NEXT MEETING:

The next park board meeting will be June 17th, 2016

Location: Court House Conference Room #310

A motion to adjourn was made by Larson, Swift seconds the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Van Drimmeden

Department Assistant, Douglas County Parks Department