

DOUGLAS COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting – June 17, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 311

DOUGLAS COUNTY OREGON
FILED

AUG 08 2016

PATRICIA K. HITT, COUNTY CLERK

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Don Larson (excused)

GUESTS:

Joe Coyne, John Hunter, M.A. Hansen, Joe Ross, Kat Stone, Brandy Stone, Bill Fuller, Nancy Fuller, Rich Mouser, Joanne Gordon, Larry Lynch, Susan Roden, Paul Wikstrom, Landa Baily, Diana Larson.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT:

MINUTES:

Logan motioned for the approval of the May 20, 2016, Ferber seconds the motion. Minutes were approved.

REVIEW AGENDA:

Acton added Master Plan discussion by Stuart Cowie

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Agenda Items only):

Joe Ross

Feels there are important points that are not included in the plan in relation to OPA, and feels there are gaps in the plan. Would like to request a longer comment time, 3 minutes is not enough.

Kat Stone

Three minutes not enough time, supports Joe Ross' comments and commented on the re-opening of a park by a commissioner .

Brandy Stone

Supports Joe Ross, and does not support the Master Plan as is.

John Hunter

Supports others' comments regarding the Master Plan and expressed his concern with parking fees.

MA Hansen

Supports others' comments, and is concerned with how the public is being informed about the parking fees. She would like to have more time to comment, as well.

Larry Lynch

Commented on the fact that there is more timber in Oregon but no National Parks in Oregon. Feels there should be a 10 year halt when it comes to a timber harvest at Iverson Park.

Joe Coyne

Original plan started as protection of public resources, and now it seems to be about allowing additional amenities. Would like to have more information available prior to meetings and stated other counties utilize much more public involvement. Would like to see the PAB wait for the new director before any decisions are made.

Diana Larson

Doesn't feel time allowed is adequate to comment and supports Joe Ross.

Landa Baily

Has not seen the public comments, and would like to know who recommended the suggestions, requests more transparency. 3 minute rule is not adequate for comments.

Joanne Gordon

Represents the Carl C Hill Wayside Adopt A Park. She is concerned that the current Master Plan will be null and void. Made correction to previous comment regarding Commissioner opening park. Carl C Hill Wayside is a success story.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director's Recommendations:

- Groth announced that he will be retiring at the end of June, and that he is very happy with the accomplishments that have been made within the department. The Parks Department was charged with getting off the General Fund; that has been accomplished.
- Parks Foundation Fund 501c3 could be utilized to help the Parks Department. There needs to be a mechanism in place for receiving donations of property, could be in conjunction with the state planners.
- Promoting volunteerism more in addition to Adopt-A-Park, and should develop a list for reference when asked about things that need to be done.
- Vending in Parks, this has been coming up more often each year. Feels this could be managed somehow, especially since we are charged with being off General Fund. Combine park revenue with guest convenience.

Greg Logan

Started on the PAB when Dowd was still director, and stated how impressed he was Gary's quick and passionate response. Also agrees with the public that a 3 minute limit is too short, however feels that 10 minutes is too long, and may need refining.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parking Fee Citations

Explain current process since we started July 1, 2015. Explained the problem we are having with compliance issues, and would like to get feedback from the PAB to move forward with asking the Sheriff's Office to issue citations or at least do a periodic compliance check.

Patton explained SO program for the coast.

Logan would like to see additional education prior to citing.

Ferber would like to see what the SO has to say.

PAB discussion included a possible education course on-line to reduce or remove fee, and notices in the paper more often.

Coast Parks Road Work

Half Moon Bay has recently been graveled, Parks Department paid for the gravel and Public Works did the grading work.

Eagle Scout Project – Fish Cleaning Station

Acton shares concern with the cleanliness of the station; need for water and sewer.

Ferber is interested in hearing what they would like to offer. Possible locations are: Amacher, Hestness, River Forks and Miwaleta.

Groth recommends giving options if the station will not work.

OLD BUSINESS:

Master Plan

Cowie explained that currently the parks page includes the park directions, pictures, and amenities under Park Tour. In the future there will be a map for each one. Reiterated the passive park properties information; stating that this will be identified separately.

Lane County's plan is very different and has been going on for 10 years due to many issues, in addition they have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on the plan and it is still not adopted.

This Plan does not change the nature of the parks. It is the nature of the Plan; that it allows changes as part of the process to help meet the current and future needs. Each change/update is noted on the website for review and comment.

The properties have been categorized: Active, Passive and Unclassified. Changes in the Plan will not affect Adopt-A-Park; although, volunteerism is noted for both Adopt-A-Park and other parks.

Adoption process: This Draft of the Plan would be presented to the 6 Planning Advisory Committees that represent 6 geographical areas in the county for review as well as the Community Citizen Involvement Group in August.

In September, the Planning Commission will have workshops regarding the Draft of the Plan

October will be the public hearing with the Planning Commission then they will make recommendation to BOC in November.

Then BOC will have a public hearing and hopefully an adoption of the Plan. There could be changes during this time frame. Recommendations will be brought back to the PAB for discussion.

The new revision includes 33 policies and 7 additional implementation policies, as well as information related to parking fee data. There is information on the Adopt-A-Park language and Recreation needs (SCORP) data. This includes what is needed in the Parks from the Park Providers' view as well as the Public's view. The priority need of camping types shows that Douglas County appeared first as needing Cabins/Yurts over the other 32 counties in Oregon.

The plans in Master Plan are conceptual at this time for the RV Park, waiting for info from the State; however, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) sent a letter asking for more information regarding location and plans. Will need more accurate development plans put together when moving forward.

References are now listed at the back end for manuals and documents and other items that have been referred to within the Plan.

Patton – asked for confirmation regarding modifications to the plan. Cowie explained that it can be changed and informed the PAB that there is a process that will have to be followed to do so. Minor changes can be made without public hearings and formal adoption, however, there is not a clear definition of minor or major. Same language is used in other departments to provide for minor clarifications and etc. Amendments would require Public Hearings.

Swift – Not ready to make a recommendation. The plan is not for detail, it is for background and opportunity. The details are not collected until it is time to develop the plan for that specific project.

Peterson – Is pleased with the plan, however, feels the plan may be a little too specific.

Motion to accept the plan as is, and for the plan to become an agenda item for review quarterly to address problems as they arise. Also include the parks identification table in the plan. Lonnie seconds the motion with the understanding that the Plan goes through all the proper review process before adoption. Motion carried unanimously.

Adopt a Park Documents

The documents have been presented to the BOC and accepted. The question is asked with regards to: Will citizens who have already adopted parks be grandfathered in? Gary said he would look into the issue.

Crab Dock Repair

Gary reports that FY 1516 to spend about \$40k. Balance due to some bandaid repairs. Kudos to Paul Stallard at SH and his crew. They took it from there. Got a crew and replaced 75 to 100 deck boards. Should be safe for the next year and half. Long range plan to replace pilings and bracing in the 1617 FY. It will probably take a year to get all the permits to do the repairs. Contract out a lot of the project. In water work period November – December can't do anything until Fall of 2017

Amacher Boat ramp repair.

Took almost a year to get permits. Put out to bid. Bid was almost twice the estimate. Rejected bid. Put out to bid again and received 3 bids. Discovered the bid language wasn't very clear. Rejected again. Just put it out to bid for a third time. In water work period is July 15 through the end of August. It is a tight timeframe. Update by next meeting and completed by August meeting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:Joe Ross

Encourages PAB to look for ways to improve access to use unclassified parks; comments on promoting volunteerism and a readily available project list. Suggestions regarding special event fees. Vending concerns. Would like to see schedule regarding when website is updated. Request update on status of new director. 3 minutes is not enough time, request increase to 8 or 5. Wished Gary luck.

Kat Stone

Made a public info request to ask for copies of resumes of applicants and any exclusionary or additional questionnaires for interviews. Asks for the PAB to reconsider the 3 minute rule.

Brandy Stone

Feels moving forward with plan without the OAR is not responsible.

John Hunter

Feels it is important that the new director be known at this time, sacrifice from being off General Fund is Busenbark.

MA Hansen

Would like to know who new director is. Concerns about parking fees. Doesn't feel the SO has the man power to enforce. Master Plan is a live document. Concerns about being grandfathered in.

Joe Coyne

Restated Cubic's memo and does not feel it is presented in the plan. Feels this plan is a way to bypass current zoning. Concerns about passing the plan.

Landa Baily

Requesting clarification regarding public comments and how the decision was made to incorporate, the previous version of the plan, would like to see inventory of where parking fee stations are located. Transparency.

Susan Roden

Feels Groth's recommendation regarding volunteerism is a good idea. Recommends mailing non-compliance to guests that do not pay by taking picture of license plate as reminder. Recommends free parks day similar to free fishing day.

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS:

Groth - confirmed that the Parks Department does not pay for the staff that is monitoring the parking fees. The parking fees are monitored by volunteers. The new Parks Director position is currently in negotiations and at this time cannot be discussed, BOC makes that decision.

Ferber, Peterson, Patton - Big thanks to Gary and expressed their appreciation.

Acton - commended Groth for making sure the drinking water in all parks were safe day one on the job, for improvements made to parks, addressing safety concerns, cooperation with groups to assist with operations and planning.

Logan - would like to see a motion in the future to extend the time allowed for Agenda Items only audience participation. Suggests including this on the July agenda. Online maps for all parks and park usage data is important; would like to see these discussed as high priority.

Cowie - indicated that the CCI committee does not require a legal notice; however, the news review is notified. These public comments will be noted on the website.

NEXT MEETING:

The next park board meeting will be July 15th, 2016
Location: Court House Conference Room #310

A motion to adjourn was made by Swift, Peterson seconds the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Desiree Hernandez

Department Assistant, Douglas County Parks Department