

DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting on November 15, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Douglas County Park Department Office

PRESENT: Dale Christiansen, Lonnie Ferber, Jon Hill, Don Larson, Dick Swartzlender, and Jim Dowd

ABSENT: Dennis Acton and Bill Swift, both excused.

GUESTS: Lois Eagleton, Jill Talburt, Bill Talburt, John Robertson, and Tim Robeson

Ferber called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Larson moved for approval of the October 18, 2007 minutes and Christiansen seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Amacher Park** - Deputy Tim Roberson from the Douglas County Sheriff's Department passed out a letter addressing growing problems at Amacher Park, along with possible solutions. There has been a marked increase in the severity of physical violence, homeless camping and drug and alcohol activity as well as a growing percentage of NSF checks. Deputy Roberson made some recommendations to help make the park safer:
 - A. Allow alcohol by permit only.
 - B. Enforce the rule that if you don't pay, you cannot stay.
 - C. Require Identification.
 - D. Require a tow vehicle to remain on site during the stay.
 - E. Banning a person for a year in all parks if they are arrested.

Dowd also made a suggestion of only allowing cash or credit/debit cards when paying for a campsite. Also discussed was closing off the tent only sites, as that is where the majority of the problems occur. The question was raised regarding whether Public agencies are sending homeless people to Amacher Park as the number is increasing steadily.

After some discussion, Dowd suggested that the issue of closing the tent camping area should go before the public for input, and the alcohol ban would need to go before the Board of Commissioners. Dowd will look into the legal issues of requiring identification. The other recommendations could be implemented administratively.

MOTION: Christiansen moved and Larson seconded a motion to ban alcohol at Amacher Park except by permit. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Park Policy Manual** – The Board of Commissioners approved and adopted the Douglas County Park Department Policy Manual on October 31, 2007. The policy manual is now in force and will be used as a policy and management guide for the department. Dowd reported that an amendment was needed to address memorials on Park property. He will check into what can be put into the manual as policy on this issue.

3. **Baker Wayside** – The project to improve Baker Wayside was put on hold due to design issues and inclement weather. Staff met with representatives from the U.S. Forest Service regarding the error in the survey work which resulted in the contractor removing 300 cubic yards of material that should not have been removed. To correct this error, material will either need to be generated on site or imported from another source resulting in an increase of about \$20,000. This added cost may result in postponing the Smith Springs Project another year as the funds are interdependent. The contractor is scheduled to be back on the project as early as April 1, 2008.
4. **Park Foundation** – Staff has been in contact with Mr. Gary Gray of Premier West Bank regarding the need for a financial representative to be on the Park Foundation Executive Board. Mr. Gray is highly interested in the position. Dowd will talk with the Board of Commissioners regarding making this decision and report back to the Park Board.

The question was raised regarding receiving a tax credit through the Oregon Cultural Trust. Dowd will look into the details and report back to the board.

5. **Coastal Improvements** – Staff has been authorized to develop a plan including cost to construct new maintenance facilities in partnership with Salmon Harbor. Currently there is funding available to construct the park portion of the maintenance shop on Salmon Harbor grounds. The proposed shop would be adjoining to or in close proximity to Salmon Harbor's existing maintenance shop. Salmon Harbor's manager, Jeff Vander Kley, and members of the Salmon Harbor Board of Directors are all in favor of moving forward with the project. Once designed, staff will present the plan to the Commissioners for approval.

Staff has also been authorized to look at developing a plan for the coastal equine park. Coastal funds approved by the Commissioners can be used for this process. Jill Talburt and John Rosenberger will stake out an overlay plan at the property and report back to Dowd on the feasibility.

6. **Park Foundation Bylaws**

MOTION: Swartzlender moved and Christiansen seconded to approve the Park Foundation Bylaws pending revisions discussed at the November 15, 2007 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **Pitchford Master Plan** – Dowd reported that Commissioner Laurance suggested and agreed that we work around the Helleck Hall facility in regards to the master plan, yet approval and adoption for the plan should be delayed until a decision has been made for the long term use of the hall. It was questioned as to whether the Park Department could build the road to the Boat Ramp outlined in the master plan. Dowd said we can build it, but without adoption of the master plan, we could not get grant money for the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Park Name Change Request** – The County Commissioners have received a request to change the name of Canyonville Park to Pickett Park. After review of the request, the property deed transfer and the Park Department Policy Manual, Dowd reported that the request fits the criteria outlined in Park Policy to allow the change of name. However, Dowd recommended that the Park Department seek additional public input as Canyonville Park was dedicated in 1954 and there may be some opposition to changing the name.

MOTION: Christiansen moved and Larson seconded to have a public meeting regarding the name change request of Canyonville Park. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Park Advisory Board Term Applications** – Members Lonnie Ferber, Bill Swift, Dennis Acton and Jon Hill were encouraged by Dowd to turn in their application to seek another term on the Park Advisory Board. Their terms are set to expire December 31, 2007.

OFF AGENDA:

Scottsburg Petition – The community of Scottsburg sent in a petition requesting the development of a swimming and fishing area in the park. There was some concern among the board regarding safety and financing. Dowd will set up a public meeting to address the concerns and gather input.

Letter to Editor – A letter to the editor regarding the lack of soap at River Forks Park was discussed. The concerns expressed were on-going maintenance, vandalism, and cost.

GOOD TO THE ORDER:

Dowd reported that he is applying for an ATV grant for maintenance at the Coast. He also reported that we received approval for \$40,000 of the \$90,000 requested of the second Chief Miwaleta Campground grant.

NEXT MEETING: The next Park Board meeting will be December 20, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at Park Headquarters.

A motion to adjourn was made by Christiansen and seconded by Hill. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wilson, Office Manager
Douglas County Park Department