

DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting on February 21, 2008

10:00 a.m.

Douglas County Park Department Office

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

ABSENT: Dennis Acton, excused

Ferber called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Larson moved for approval of the December 20, 2007 minutes and Swift seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

I. Project Updates – Dowd reported on the following:

Chief Miwaleta Campground Phase II – Bid documents are being drawn for Phase II of the Chief Miwaleta Campground which consists of the purchase and installation of utilities. Construction should begin mid April. The department received a County Opportunity grant for \$39,000 in addition to the previous grant for \$90,000 to help cover the costs of design and construction.

Coastal Museum Irrigation – Staff has designed an irrigation system for the Coastal Museum and will start work as soon as the materials come in. Building & Facilities, and Parole & Probation will help with the installation. The cost should not exceed \$10,000 and will be funded through the Commissioners Coastal Improvement Fund.

Kanipe Ranch Horse Barn Repair – The maintenance crew has repaired and permanently stabilized the south wall of the horse barn at the Kanipe Ranch which had slipped off one of its main piers and was in danger of collapsing. The repairs should add many years to the life of the structure.

ATV Grant Award – Oregon Parks and Recreation has approved a \$27,500 grant to offset the maintenance costs of the ATV recreational areas at Winchester Bay. The funds from the grant will be allocated to the 2008-2009 budget year.

Floating Restroom at Galesville Reservoir – At the December meeting the Park Advisory Board voted to have staff move forward with the grant request. After close consideration, staff is requesting that we table this request until we better know the outcome of our funding for 2008-2009.

Windy A Re-Roof Project – The project to replace the roof at Windy A is complete and will be open for the season in March.

Concessionaire Agreement - After discussion with Commissioner Laurance regarding the use of Park property by commercial vendors at the coast, it was suggested by the Commissioner to allow

operators to use the property under the following conditions: Use of park property is on a temporary permit basis, the operator pays a monthly rental fee, and also provides liability insurance naming the County as an additional insured. Additionally, the Commissioner suggested, in light of the potential cuts in our budget, that staff develop a plan to allow the use of park property for commercial vendors within the park system. Staff with assistance and guidance from the PAB will work on this policy in the near future.

Amacher Park Policy Changes – At the request of the PAB, policies have been changed and will be implemented when the park opens in March. Changes include the acceptance of cash or credit card only for camping fees, requirement of a tow vehicle to remain on site during the stay, the banning of a person for a year in all parks if they are arrested for an offense committed in a park and the banning of alcohol except by permit. The County Commissioners are in favor of the alcohol ban and will be moving forward with an ordinance to do so within the month.

II. Coastal Maintenance Shop Relocation

Due to the increased museum activity and proposed museum improvements, the County Commissioners have elected to move the park maintenance shop out of the boat house to a new, more suitable location. The new shop will be built near the existing Salmon Harbor maintenance shop. Staff has begun the process to hire an engineer to design the building. Funds for the project will be through the Commissioners Coastal Improvement Fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

Loss of the Safety Net Funding – The County Commissioners have unofficially suggested to department heads that they should prepare their 2008-2009 budget without funding from the safety net. Dowd shared that if we were to cut 50% of our current general fund allocation, the reduction would be around \$276,470 with no capital outlay funds available.

The Park Department is expecting the following revenue increases: \$43,687 from the RV Fee Distribution Program by the Oregon Park and Recreation Department as a result of Senate Bill 29 and the additional 45 campsites at Half Moon Bay Campground and \$27,500 from OPRD for operation and maintenance of the ATV recreation facilities on the coast. With these additional funding options, the department will still need to reduce costs by approximately \$205,283.

Staff has looked into a number of alternatives to make up this difference, but ultimately the recreating public will be affected. Dowd shared the results of the questionnaire that was handed out at the Sportsmen's Show. Closing the less visited parks, selling property and charging day use fees were a resounding no, while paying boat launching fees at boat ramps was a yes.

Other options were discussed such as leasing park property and charging commercial boat launch users and guides fees to use County boat ramps.

OFF AGENDA:

1. The Roseburg Lions Club is requesting an additional access road be added on the east side of the creek at Green Oaks Park. This is to allow access for the Sheriff's department to enforce rules. Dowd said there is no current plan to implement this request.

2. The public meeting regarding the communities request for a public swimming area at Scottsburg has not been rescheduled yet. The PAB is not in favor of putting a float in the river at this time.
3. The Kanipe farmstead has officially been listed in the national Register of Historic Places as of 1/29/08.
4. Dowd presented the names of the winners and participants of the photo contest held at the Sportsmen's Show. The Park Department is contributing 5 gift certificates for camping to the winners.

NEXT MEETING: The next Park Board meeting will be March 20, 2008, 10:00 a.m. at Park Headquarters.

A motion to adjourn was made by Swift and seconded by Christiansen. The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wilson, Office Manager
Douglas County Park Department