

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD**

**Minutes of Meeting on March 20, 2008**

10:00 a.m.

Douglas County Park Department Office

**PRESENT:** Dennis Acton, Dale Christiansen, Lonnie Ferber, Dick Swartzlender, Bill Swift, and Jim Dowd

**ABSENT:** Jon Hill, Don Larson (excused)

**GUESTS:** Lois Eagleton, Diane Rannow, Bill Talburt, Jill Talburt

Ferber called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES:** Swift moved for approval of the February 21, 2008 minutes and Christiansen seconded. Motion carried.

**OFF AGENDA:** Bill & Jill Talburt reported that after visiting the proposed Equine Campground property at Winchester Bay, they want to change the layout slightly to make the access road longer. Dowd will go to the property and flag the area for the future project.

Lois Eagleton introduced Diane Rannow who has been instrumental in getting the trail maps posted at Mildred Kanipe Park. They reported that a kiosk is planned to hold the maps for visitors to access.

The Talburts were concerned about the trees at Mildred Kanipe Park that have either been cut or have fallen over the winter. They would like to see the wood used as firewood. Dowd will look into the restrictions of the will to see if there is a way to remove the 'down' trees and will report back to the Board.

Dowd reported that one option to help generate more income for the Park Department would be to develop a campground at Mildred Kanipe Park. Considerations will need to be addressed such as potable water and restroom accommodations.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

2008 – 2009 Park Department Budget: The Board of Commissioners directed the Park Department to reduce its general fund dependency by 30%. This reduction amounts to \$259,128. In order to offset this reduction, Dowd explained that we will receive approximately \$71,622 in additional revenue from the State for RV licensing fees. The Department will also receive an additional \$27,500 from an ATV maintenance grant.

The BOC directed staff to increase fees at Half Moon Bay which will result in an estimated \$39,600 increase in revenue. The Board is also allowing staff to look into parking fees at Ben Irving, Cooper Creek and Galesville. The parking fees could result in an additional \$35,473 in income based on the estimated number of user days at each facility. There was some discussion regarding monitoring and ticketing procedures when this is implemented. Dowd said that staff is looking into possible solutions.

Even with this added revenue, cuts in expenditures will still need to be made. We will lose 1.8 full time staff, a part time caretaker, and 3 seasonal maintenance staff. A reduction in materials and services will be \$33,673 which includes \$14,673 that we pay in transient room tax to the City of Reedsport.

In order to provide services to the majority of the park users in Douglas County, staff has recommended that a number of outlying parks either be transferred to other agencies or be closed indefinitely. The potential closures have resulted in a few residents coming forward to volunteer in order to provide some form of maintenance to keep their favorite park open. Dowd reported that it costs the Park Department around \$79,518 to keep these outlying parks open.

The BOC directed staff to look at selling some dedicated park property as another means of adding revenue. They asked staff to order an appraisal of Ada Park and the southern portion of Scottsburg Park. The BOC is also considering selling the RV section of Pass Creek. The board members expressed a strong concern regarding selling and losing park property. They were not in favor of it.

Overall, Dowd reported that we will be in good shape. We will hold the line on maintenance costs and no capital improvements other than Chief Miwaleta Campground are budgeted.

Ferber expressed his position on the appraisal of park property stating it would be a conflict of interest for him to be involved in the process.

There was more discussion regarding budget concerns and possible solutions including guide fees, "pay for play" system, and a creation of a Park District to receive tax dollars. Dowd encouraged the Board to think creatively on a long term basis to help keep the Parks open.

**MOTION:** Christiansen moved and Acton seconded that the Park Department not sell any park property. After some discussion, Swift moved and Christiansen seconded to amend the motion to include "unless such sale could revert to the Park Department for a long term benefit." The amendment passed unanimously. The motion with the amendment also passed unanimously.

**OFF AGENDA:** Dowd reported that the boat races will not be held this year due to a conflict in scheduling of the sponsors.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Park Board meeting will be April 17, 2008, 10:00 a.m. at Park Headquarters.

A motion to adjourn was made by Acton and seconded by Swift. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wilson, Office Manager  
Douglas County Park Department