

DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting on April 17, 2008

10:00 a.m.

Douglas County Park Department Office

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

GUESTS: Lois Eagleton, Francis Eatherington, John Robertson, Lynette Herlan

Ferber called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Larson moved for approval of the March 20, 2008 minutes and Christiansen seconded. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Old Business

1. Nomination to the Douglas County Parks Foundation – The Douglas County Parks Foundation Executive Board recommended that the board of directors include a member that is either a CPA, or has an extensive accounting background. Dowd introduced Lynette Herlan, an accountant for Wicks Emmett Hatfield and Chappell who is interested in serving on the board of directors. Herlan briefly shared information about herself and her interest in the Parks Foundation.

MOTION: Larson moved and Swift seconded to appoint Lynette Herlan to the Douglas County Parks Foundation Board. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Chief Miwaleta Phase II Bid Results – Dowd reported that there were six bidders on the Miwaleta Campground Phase II bid. The low bidder was Neatline Construction LLC at \$181,267. The project will begin in early May for a completion date prior to June 30, 2008. Approximately \$90,000 of the project will be funded through grants from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Phase III will consist of a restroom, paving and signage.

3. Equine Campground – Members of the Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET), landscape architect John Rosenberger, and others have provided park staff with a preliminary draft design of the equestrian campground to be developed in Winchester Bay. Dowd explained that the location is north of Triangle road fronting Winchester Bay. The site meets the requirements of the Planning Department, provides easy beach access, reduces impacts to the environment and is acceptable to OET representatives. Rosenberger has donated his time and skills to develop a preliminary plan and the OET has also put in many volunteer hours in the planning process.

MOTION: Hill moved and Swift seconded to move forward with the Equine Campground project. Motion passed unanimously.

The project will now be brought to the Board of Commissioners to decide whether to move forward. The BOC may have funds available for the project through the Coastal Projects Fund. Dowd

explained, however, that he was directed to look into moving the Park shop from the Coastal Museum, a project costing around \$75,000-\$90,000. The BOC may want to use that money to fund the equine campground instead.

MOTION: Swift moved and Christiansen seconded to make the recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to place priority for funding on the Equine Campground over building a new Park maintenance shop. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Combined Departments – Dowd reported that the Board of Commissioners has asked him to oversee and direct the melding of the Park Department and the Building Facilities Department into one department. He will now be responsible for all of the parks in the county, the majority of the County owned buildings, 45 employees and a budget of \$4,000,000. Staff from each department may be cross trained to work in areas of common expertise. The combining of the two departments will hopefully save the County money as it looks toward leaner years due to the uncertainty of the Safety Net funding.

Dowd explained that the combined departments will not affect the Park Advisory Boards responsibility. Swartzlender expressed his appreciation of Dowd's work as Park Director and encouraged him to delegate some of his responsibilities with accountability to help ease the load. Hill recommended looking to on-call help and Acton shared that Dowd has showed great leadership and direction for the Park Department.

OFF AGENDA:

Kanipe Park – Dowd explained that there have been concerns from some Douglas County residents regarding the management of the oak restoration and oak woodland areas of the Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park. The concerns include the scope of the project, the amount of trees being removed, the cutting of fir trees in some areas and that trees are being left on site. There have also been conflicts by various user groups regarding the uses of the Park.

Lois Eagleton expressed that there is a communication problem between the user groups and Francis Eatherington said there seems to be a problem of the interpretation of the management plan which was developed by a steering committee in 2001. The components of the conflicts reside in the coordination of the resource management plan, user trails, and proposed historical preservation of the buildings.

Dowd put together a report for the Board of Commissioners asking for their direction for the park for the future to better help the Park Department manage the Park. Dowd will facilitate a meeting with interested parties to discuss and educate people in hopes of providing better communication between user groups.

Park Liaison - Dowd reported that due to the combined departments, Commissioner Doug Robertson will be the Park Department Liaison.

Staging Area – Dunefest organizers have asked the Park Department to remove approximately ½ acre of timber by the staging area to allow vendors to use the space during Dunefest. Dowd is

looking into the lease from the Corps of Engineers and the Lighthouse Plan to see if this is allowable and whether it is beneficial for a once a year event.

Amacher Park – Dowd reported that Amacher will open next week. A volunteer Host has been appointed to oversee the park and it will be a cash only campground.

NEXT MEETING: The next Park Board meeting will be on May 15, 2008, 10:00 a.m. at Park Headquarters.

A motion to adjourn was made by Christiansen and seconded by Swift. The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wilson, Office Manager
Douglas County Park Department