

# **DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD**

## **Minutes of Meeting on June 19, 2008**

10:00 a.m.

Douglas County Courthouse, Room 310

**PRESENT:** Lonnie Ferber, Jon Hill, Don Larson Dick Swartzlender, Bill Swift, Jim Dowd and Rob Stevens

**ABSENT:** Dennis Acton (excused), Dale Christiansen (excused)

**GUESTS:** Jill Talburt, Bill Talburt, John Robertson, John Sowell, Steve Mountainspring, Francis Eatherington

Ferber called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES:** Larson moved for approval of the April 17, 2008 minutes and Swift seconded. Motion carried.

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

#### **Old Business**

Coastal Shop Bid – On Wednesday, June 11, 2008, the Board of Commissioners opened bids for construction of the new parks shop to be located in the Salmon Harbor maintenance area. Five bids were received ranging from a low of \$118,975 to a high bid of \$143,600. The design engineer estimated the cost to be around \$80,000. After reviewing the bids, the Board of Commissioners have decided to reject the bids at this time, due to the costs being greater than anticipated. It will go before the BOC officially on June 25, 2008.

#### **New Business**

1. Kanipe Resource Management Plan – Dowd thanked all those who attended the presentation and discussion of the Mildred Kanipe Resource Management Plan last Tuesday, June 10, 2008. Jim Lee provided information regarding Douglas The Water and Soil Conservation District's work on the park. Although some disagreed as to the scope of the work, many thought the work was valid and important. There was discussion and disagreement as to the size of the restoration projects, utilization of park resources, techniques of oak and fir management, and recreation priorities. Many of the concerns expressed by the public reflected their personal views of how the park should be managed.

Staff has used the Kanipe Resource Management Plan, which was developed in 2005 as a guide to improve portions of the park for wildlife enhancement, pasture improvement, and recreation opportunities. There have been public concerns whether fir trees should be removed from the oak woodland and oak savanna sites and if so, should they be sold for commercial purposes with the revenues to be used to cover park maintenance costs. A recurring issue has been the interpretation of Mildred's will.

Dowd asked the Board for direction on how to proceed with the management plan. Discussion regarding the management plan ensued. There was an overall consensus that the Hawthorne and invasive species were a problem area, but instead of working on small areas at one time, an overall long term plan should be looked at. The projects have had to be done project by project in order to secure funding through grants. Dowd will look into the percentage of acreage that has been affected by the management plan thus far and the power company's mitigation and watershed issues.

Also discussed was whether to change the size and scope of the plan in order to fit within the parameters of Mildred's will. It was brought up that in order to eradicate the invasive species, it would require money. In order to receive grants, the project needs to be tied into the restoration process. Another way to raise money would be to harvest the timber on the land, which has been a long-standing question as to the interpretation of the will to allow harvesting 'as necessary' for capital improvements.

Steve Mountainspring, the attorney who represents the trustee, Wells Fargo Bank, was asked if it would be appropriate to harvest timber to support the necessary capital improvements as defined in the will. Also asked was the definition of what is considered 'necessary' capital improvements and whether that would include rebuilding, remodeling or restoring existing buildings. Mountainspring will take the questions to his client for further clarification and report back to park staff. It was the consensus of the Park Board to wait until they have a more defined definition of the trustees' intent before making any decisions on the further direction of the management plan.

It was suggested that a long term plan be developed to identify capital projects needed at the park. Also noted was that if the Park Department cannot manage the Park within the guidelines of the will due to a lack of funds, it may be given back to the trustees.

## 2. Project Update

**Chief Miwaleta Campground:** Neatline Construction of Roseburg is currently working on Phase II of the Miwaleta Campground project. This phase consists of water, sewer and electric which the contractor is anticipating being finished by the end of the month. Phase III of the project will include placing rock and asphalt paving on the access roads and camp sites. This phase is out to bid and the bid opening is set for July 2, 2008. If bids are reasonable and awarded, it is possible that construction could be completed by mid August. Funding is still in question for the restroom, so portable toilets may go in temporarily to allow the campground to open.

**Staging Area Expansion:** Members of the Reedsport Chamber of Commerce, DuneFest Committee, have requested to the Board of Commissioners that the area directly south of the ATV staging area be expanded to allow for additional vendor space during their event. DuneFest Committee members volunteered to clear the vegetation if the County would dispose of the waste material, and place the matting and base rock. Staff estimated that the placement of matting and rock would be approximately \$20,000 plus County labor costs. The area in question is owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers and leased to the County for recreation purposes. The Corps would need to do a number of studies before any work could be done and the County may have to pay for the studies. An outline of requirements will be sent to the Park Department. As of now, the expansion will not go forward this year.

**Equine Campground:** There has not been any activity related to the Equine Campground. Funding for the campground is through the Commissioners Special Projects which expires at the end of the month. Staff will need direction from the BOC if they would choose to move forward with the project.

**Herbert's Pond:** A report on the safety of the dam at Herbert's Pond is nearly completed. The report indicates that a number of repairs need to be completed in order to ensure the safety of the structure. The items include removal of trees and vegetation from the face of the dam, construction of a new spill way, sealing of the dam to prevent leakage, removal of the nutria and other burrowing animals and easement acquisition to gain legal access for maintenance. Total costs for this improvement are expected to be over \$300,000. The pond will not be filled this summer in order to better access the pond portion of the dam for study and potential repairs.

3. Park Closure / Adopt-A-Park Update – In order to stave off some park closures and save budgeted funds, staff has entered into an agreement with a company called High Lakes Sanitation. This company will provide trash removal, litter pick up, fire pit cleaning, and restroom cleaning for the County Parks along Highway 138 as well as Cavitt Creek and Emile Park at a price that is less than our costs. Because of these savings, we will be able to keep Cavitt Creek and Emile open for public use. Additionally, personnel that normally would service that area will now be reassigned to maintain Herbert's Pond and Pickett Park.

We have received a number of inquiries regarding the proposed park closures and have been fortunate in the number of citizens that are willing to volunteer their time and equipment to keep their favorite parks open through the Adopt-A-Park program. Iverson Park has been adopted and there is additional interest in North Myrtle and Cavitt Creek. Currently staff anticipates keeping open the following parks: Bunch Bar, Emile, Herbert's Pond, Cavitt Creek, Pickett Park, Smith Springs and Iverson. Parks scheduled to be closed unless adopted are: North Myrtle, Carl C. Hill Wayside, Jackson Wayside and Madison Wayside.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Larson and seconded by Swift. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wilson, Office Manager  
Douglas County Park Department