

# DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

## Minutes of Meeting on August 21, 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:** Francis Eatherington

Ferber called the meeting to order.

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

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

#### **Old Business**

1. Chief Miwaleta Campground Grand Opening – Phase III of the campground has been completed. The park has potable water, electricity, sewer, and is paved. Park staff will be installing informational signs, picnic tables, fire rings, minor landscaping and bringing in portable toilets over the next few weeks. The cabin is still in need of water and electricity as well as furniture. During the next year, the Park Department will be applying for grants to help defray the costs for a new restroom/shower facility.

The Board of Commissioners has elected to celebrate the completion of the project with a grand opening scheduled for Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 2:00pm. The campground will then be open to the public for camping over Labor Day weekend.

2. Herbert's Pond Update – Phase I which consists of reconfiguring the spillway and discharge pipe, filling the SW corner of the pond, removing the nutria and beaver population, and reducing the wind load on the trees growing on the dam is nearly complete. The Public Works Department and the engineering consultant have developed the spillway and discharge plans for the pond. The plan for the construction access road and the bid documents are still in progress. The SW corner lobe will be filled and parking will eventually be added. The consultant noted that we may need to get a wetland fill permit from DSL prior to filling that portion of the pond.

It was discussed that the county is spending a lot of money on something that is not being used very much. Most of the users of the park are people traveling along the highway. Eatherington suggested that the area could be used as wetland mitigation and turned into a bird watching area. The Board requested that Dowd take the issue up with Commissioner Robertson regarding the long range vision for the park in relation to the costs of the current project in light of the loss of the Safety Net. Dowd will also bring the written dam safety report to the Board at the next meeting.

3. Umpqua Lighthouse Advisory Committee - At the July Park Board meeting, discussion ensued regarding whether the PAB would appoint the Umpqua Lighthouse Advisory Committee as a sub-

committee in order to provide planning input to the board for a one year period. This topic was tabled to the August meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board that any sub-committees should be project based rather than time based. The Board asked Dowd to share the Park policy with the Museum Director and see what their guidelines are so a better decision can be made.

4. Dune Fest Recap – Dowd shared that overall, Dune Fest 2008 was a successful event. New this year was additional camping on the “ATV closure area” directly below the lighthouse, allowing the use of ATV’s on the streets into Winchester Bay business district, expanded camping on Triangle Road, and the use of the park building on Triangle Road for security.

There were a couple of complaints about the camping below the lighthouse, mainly due to the disturbing of the vegetation that had begun to grow in the lower areas of the dunes. A complaint was also received regarding public access to the beach. A Douglas County resident was charged admission to the area even though he claimed he only wanted to access the beach area for a family outing. Staff did note that there was limited parking available for the public in parking lot number one.

The concessionaire, who leases property near Triangle Road for dune tours, had to move his business location closer to Winchester Bay. He complained that the organizers had not treated him with courtesy and in his opinion, had basically thrown him out of the area.

The Sheriff’s Department had concerns regarding the abuse of alcohol by the attendees and the problems that drinking brings to the event. There will be a debriefing meeting August 22 with the organizers of the event. The Park Department received around \$6,400 from the event.

**OFF AGENDA:**

The Grazing contract at Mildred Kanipe Park is up for renewal in November 2008. There was discussion regarding longer grazing time on the land, moving the cattle around more, having a sheep and cattle mix, having greater distribution of water, allowing late grazing, including haying of the property and extending the length of the contract.

The Forest Service has come to an agreement with the contractors working on the improvements to Baker Park and foresees it opening sometime in October, 2008.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Park Board meeting will be on September 18, 2008, 10:00 a.m. at Park Headquarters.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wilson, Office Manager  
Douglas County Park Department