

DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting on March 19, 2009

10:00 a.m.

Douglas County Park Department Office

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

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Lois Eagleton, Francis Eatherington

Ferber called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Larson moved for approval of the February 19, 2009 minutes and Acton seconded. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Budget Reductions for 2009 - 2010 – Dowd reported that the Park and Building Facilities Department submitted its 2009-2010 budget to the Board of Commissioners. The department reduced its safety net dependence on the general fund by 10.03% as directed by the BOC. The department was also directed to exclude the Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park from any general fund contributions. In order to do that, the paid caretaker position will be eliminated beginning October 1, 2009. Additional reductions in the budget will be made in materials and services and capital outlay. The BOC accepted the proposed budget and staff will present this draft budget to the Douglas County Budget Committee on May 11, 2009.

The Park Board shared some ideas to generate more income. Ideas included: using a broader reservation system, allowing camping at Mildred Kanipe Park, encouraging interest groups to help manage and pay for parks, and promoting special package deals to draw local residents.

2. Park Updates – *Chief Miwaleta Cabin*: The reservations for the cabin have been encouraging. Every weekend in the month of July has been booked and every weekend in August is close to being sold out. If this trend continues we may consider the possibility of developing additional cabins in the future.

Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park: Jim Lee from Douglas Soil and Water District has been awarded a grant to complete another Title II stream bank restoration project. The project is to enhance fish habitat restoration, watershed restoration and to reestablish native plant species. Additionally, there will be noxious weed removal in the southern portion of the park. Work will begin later this summer. It was suggested that precautionary measures are taken to prevent the group from going beyond the scope of work. Lee is also putting together a project to build an educational walking trail along the small creek that runs near the Kanipe homestead.

Lois Eagleton and the Friends of Kanipe Park are developing a plan to paint the old school house and to replace the fence. A group of volunteers will provide labor and materials for the project.

The Living History Day event is on track for May 16 and has many exciting events and participants scheduled. It was discussed as to whether the park should allow an antique firearms demonstrator to fire his rifle at the event. The board agreed that as long as he was licensed regarding the safety aspects of black powder storage and there was no projectile firing, it was acceptable to include him as a presenter. Dowd will confer with County Counsel on the matter.

Whistler's Bend: The campground was opened for the season on March 12, 2009. With assistance from the volunteer caretakers and attention by staff, we are looking forward to a successful year.

Amacher Park: ODOT and their contractor have begun the scheduled I-5 bridge repairs. They are using a portion of the space under the bridge to stage for the project. There is concern regarding the limited parking due to the contractor using more space than anticipated. Park staff will be in communication with ODOT to make sure that the public will have the ability to use the boat ramp and access to the park.

There has been an increasing problem with dog owners allowing their dogs to run off leash when other people are in the park. Some users have responded to the volunteer caretaker in a negative and harsh manner when asked to abide by the rules. Staff has contacted the sheriff and asked that animal control make routine visits to the park to remind dog walkers of park rules.

Coastal Museum: The Museum Department has made a personnel change at the Coastal Museum. The new position does not allow for onsite residence, therefore the mobile home that was used by the exiting staff member will be sold and moved off site. That space may be used by additional Coastal Museum volunteers for RV space as needed. Funds generated from the sale of the mobile home will be placed in the general fund.

OFF AGENDA:

OPA meeting – Dowd invited the Park Board to attend the Oregon Parks Association meeting that will be held March 20, 2009 at Pitchford Community Center.

Equine Campground – The Planning Department has signed off on all the conditions of the plan but they have concerns regarding storm drainage.

UT&T Program – Umpqua Training & Employment is providing a 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program funded by Federal Stimulus money. The program will allow about 300 youth to engage in work experience and educational programs through Douglas County. The Park Division has requested two landscaping positions to help through the summer months.

Transient Tax Update – There was not enough information gathered to get this item on the May ballot. A better understanding of anticipated revenue will be looked at so that it can get on the November ballot.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

NEXT MEETING: The next Park Board meeting will be on April 16, 2009 10:00 a.m. at Park Headquarters.

A motion to adjourn was made by Larson and seconded by Swift. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wilson, Office Manager
Douglas County Park Department