

# DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

**Minutes of Meeting on May 21, 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:** Jill & Bill Talburt, Derek Brown, Nathan Baker

Ferber called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES:** Swartzlender moved for approval of the March 19, 2009 minutes and Hill seconded. Motion carried.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

1. Request to Construct a Disc Golf Course in Pass Creek Park – Derek Brown who is a member of the Umpqua Disc Association and a Team DGO member, gave a presentation for putting in a disc golf course at Pass Creek Park. He believes that the benefit to the Park Department would be possible additional revenue and more park users at the park which has been underutilized for the last few years. Brown also suggested that it would benefit local businesses by bringing in more visitors to the area.

The board expressed support in the project as long as the course does not impede the original purpose for the park which is to provide day use facilities and overnight camping to the public. Dowd said if the board approves moving ahead with the proposal, we would need a detailed plan of the course including funding options and time lines. The plan would need to comply with the Park Department Policy Manual and would ultimately need to be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

**MOTION:** Larson moved and Swift seconded to move ahead with a more detailed proposal of a disc golf course at Pass Creek Park from Derek Brown including course design and funding options. Motion passed unanimously with Hill being absent.

2. 2009 – 2010 Budget Hearings – Staff presented the 2009-2010 budget to the Douglas County Budget Committee on May 11, 2009. The Park Division's reduction accounted for a total reduction of \$223,874 in the overall budget. This amount includes a nearly 14% reduction in projected revenues, 92% reduction in capital outlay, 6% in personnel services, and an 8% reduction in materials and services.

In order to reach the goals set forth by the Board of Commissioners, two caretaker positions were eliminated. Volunteers have stepped in and provided the division with an onsite presence at

Whistler's Bend. They are assuming most of the duties that were being done by a paid caretaker. Additionally, reductions in materials and services will mean that service levels in some parks may have to be reduced.

Dowd said he is looking to work with outside groups to help keep some of the outlying parks open this summer but may have to close Smith Springs, Cable Crossing, Hill Creek, Emile, Cavitt Creek and Bunch Bar.

3. Camping Site Reservation Increase – Historically, the Park Division has only offered camping reservations for individual sites at the Windy Cove B campground. The policy was implemented in order to minimize the amount of reserved spaces insuring that Douglas County residents would be able to find open campsites at their favorite park.

After reviewing camping records, it is apparent that the vast majority of our campers are not county residents. In fact, 80% of all our campers do not live in Douglas County and 90% of reservations made at Windy Cove B are by out of County residents. For every tourist dollar spent in a campground seven more are spent in the local economy. By making more sites available for reservations, Dowd believes the local economy will benefit as well as camping revenue will increase.

The BOC has authorized staff to reserve a maximum of 40% or 105 of our total 265 campsites. Initially, we will be offering 13 individual sites for reservations at Half Moon Bay campground. In time we will offer other sites in other campgrounds as the demand presents itself.

4. Concessionaires – Staff has developed a draft copy of a Concessionaire Permit allowing private vendors the opportunity to utilize Douglas County Park property to sell their wares or services. The original intent of developing the permit was to allow vendors to use park property for an extended period of time whether associated with a special event or not.

Dowd expressed the need to develop an additional permit for vendors that would use park property in the same manner except for a short term use such as when they are associated with a special event.

**MOTION:** Acton moved to recommend a permit process for any vendor selling wares or services in any park for any period of time whether associated with a special event or not. Larson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**OFF AGENDA:** Dowd reported that he will be watching Senate Bill 926 that deals with changes to firearm restrictions in public places as it could affect the Park Division.

Dowd also shared the status of the Equine Campground with the board. At this time, Commissioner Robertson is in favor of the project, Commissioner Morgan would like to have a cost analysis of the project including how long it would take to payoff financially, and Commissioner Laurance supports the project but suggests that volunteer groups provide much of the funding and labor to complete it.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Park Board meeting will be on June 18, 2009 10:00 a.m. at Park Headquarters.

A motion to adjourn was made by Larson and seconded by Hill. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wilson, Office Manager  
Douglas County Park Department