

# **DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD**

**Minutes of Meeting on September 17, 2009**

10:00 a.m.

Douglas County Park Department Office

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

**ABSENT:** Bill Swift (excused)

**GUESTS:** Jill & Bill Talburt, Celia Scott

Ferber called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES:** Larson moved for approval of the June 18, 2009 minutes and Acton seconded. Motion carried.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

1. Park Updates – Dowd reported that due to budget constraints, the following parks have been decommissioned: Smith Springs, Cable Crossing, Lone Rock Wayside and Hill Creek. Emile has been given back to the Bureau of Land Management to maintain. The vault toilet at Emile was sold to the BLM and the money will be used to offset other park improvement capital projects.

Due to budget cuts, the caretaker position at Mildred Kanipe Park will change from a paid position to a volunteer position beginning October 1, 2009. The current caretaker will remain as a volunteer at this time. The board questioned if we had heard from the Kanipe Trust's attorney, Mr. Moutainspring. Dowd will contact the Trust's representative to see what the status is.

The 10 yard Dump Truck that was consumed by an electrical fire earlier this year was sold for \$7,685. The money will be used to purchase much needed equipment.

The aging mobile home at the Coastal Visitor Center in Winchester Bay was sold and removed. Improvements were made in the location where the mobile home was to include an additional RV site for Lighthouse volunteers. The Park Division had provided volunteers a camp site in Windy Cove A campground before this improvement.

The disc golf course proposal from OregonDiscGolf was sent to County Legal Counsel where it was recommended that the County not enter into the agreement until the group becomes a registered business. We have not heard back from OregonDiscGolf at this time as to their progress.

Lois Eagleton notified the Park Division that she has resigned from the Friends of Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park. Celia Scott will represent the Friends and keep the division up on

current projects. Scott reported that work is being done to paint and clean the outside of the school house as well as progress is being made on the native plant trail project.

Dowd reported that the organizers and participants of Dune Fest 2009 were satisfied overall with the event. The Park Division had some complaints that the vault toilets at Half Moon Bay Campground were not cleaned well. The definition of "service" will be better defined for next year's event. Also discussed was the Dune Fest's clean up crew arrived too late and our staff had to clean the campground before they arrived. Another issue was that presenters and participants showed up early and camped at places outside the campground. This will need to be defined better in the contract for next year.

Dowd attended the Oregon Parks Association annual meeting in Baker City this week. He reported that he was able to hear from other counties in the state as to how they are marketing their park systems and that we could possibly learn from some of the examples to help our division in the future with more budget cuts looming. Dowd visited Rich's Portable Cabins in North Powder to get more information regarding the possibility of purchasing more cabins for Chief Miwaleta Campground. Some possible funding sources are being worked on at the present.

2. Oregon Marine Board Meeting – Dowd reported that staff met with two representatives from the OMB while they were in the area inspecting our boat launch facilities. They were pleased with the level of maintenance the Park Division has provided and indicated that the OMB could assist with some small grant funding for projects under \$20,000. Project ideas include replacing the deck on the floats at Ben Irving or Cooper Creek, and striping the parking lot at Galesville.

3. Department Head Meeting with the Board of Commissioners – The BOC informed the County Department Heads that with the reduction and eventual loss of the Safety Net funding, the 2010-11 budget will include a 10% reduction and the 2011-12 budget will have a 35% reduction. Dowd encouraged the Park Board to come up with alternative avenues for revenue enhancement and ways to operate independently.

It was suggested by Hill and agreed upon by the board to have a separate meeting to gather ideas from interested parties in order to establish priorities for a positive approach to the changes ahead. It was suggested that we look at what other counties are doing and also look at different financial practices and revenue sources.

**OFF AGENDA:**

Park Advisory Board Chairperson Appointment - According to the Park Rules 12.12.070, an election for the chair position of the Park Advisory Board needs to be held the first meeting after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**MOTION:** Swartzlender moved to nominate Lonnie Ferber for the chair position of the Douglas County Park Advisory Board for the FY 09-10. Peterson seconded. No other nominations were made. Acton moved and Hill seconded to close the nominations. The vote was unanimous to appoint Lonnie Ferber as the chairperson.

Long term stays – Dowd asked the board for permission to take a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to allow long term camping during the off season at campgrounds at the director’s discretion. The Park Board was in favor of long term stays at discounted rates.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** Jill and Bill Talburt reported that they met with Commissioner Laurance regarding the plans to build an Equine Campground at the coast. Laurance was in favor of the project and called in Robb Paul from Public Works who said his department could help in the construction. The funding for the project has not been determined. Oregon Equestrian Trails is willing to provide tables, fire rings and do maintenance at the park. Dowd will contact Paul for further information.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Park Board meeting will be on October 15, 2009 10:00 a.m. at Park Headquarters.

A motion to adjourn was made by Acton and seconded by Larson. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wilson, Office Manager  
Douglas County Park Department