

DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting on October 15, 2009

10:00 a.m.

Douglas County Park Department Office

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

ABSENT: Dennis Acton (excused), Jon Hill (excused) and Jim Peterson (excused)

GUESTS: Jill & Bill Talburt, John Robertson and Debra Gray

Ferber called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Larson moved for approval of the September 17, 2009 minutes and Swartzlender seconded. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Disc Golf Course Approval – The Board of Commissioners approved the agreement between the OregonDiscGolf Association and Douglas County to develop a disc golf course in Pass Creek Park. Terms of the agreement require OregonDiscGolf to purchase and install all of the improvements and infrastructure at their own cost and to provide their own labor. The Park Division does not anticipate any negative issues and believes that the course will have a positive impact on the park and surrounding area.

2. Kanipe Memorial Park Update – Due to budget constraints, the Park Division was forced to eliminate the paid caretaker position at the park. Although the caretaker is staying on as a volunteer, there will be a difference in job duties and park staff may have to provide additional support by mowing the grounds on a regular basis.

The Friends of Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park have spent many volunteer hours on painting the old school house. The group pressure washed the outside of the building, removed and replaced the plywood window coverings, and painted the building. The trim work will be completed later.

Jim Lee of Douglas Soil and Water has received another grant for riparian restoration work on Bachelor Creek. The work will consist of removing evasive species, and placing barriers in the creek to slow down the water flow. The work will begin in July of 2010. Dowd also reported that DS&W have dug test holes for the possibility of putting in a fire pond at Kanipe for the DFPA. The pond would provide water for helicopters during fire season. The project would be at no cost to the division. It was a consensus of the board to allow the project to move forward.

Dowd reported that the Kanipe Trust's attorney and the Trust's relationship manager will be meeting next week to discuss the interpretation of Mildred's will.

3. Festival of Lights – The Roseburg Rotary Club is beginning to put up displays for the 2009 Festival of Lights at River Forks Park. The focus will be more on children and the holiday season by having Santa at Helleck Hall. They will have horse drawn wagon rides through the display areas. The Job Corp will be assisting with the displays and Park staff will help as they have in the past by installing lights in the trees and performing other various tasks as needed. Dowd reported that the Wolf Creek Job Corp volunteered time and paint costs to re-paint Helleck Hall recently. The contract with the Rotary Club will be the same as last year.

4. Set a date to meet with Park Foundation - Dowd reported that the Park Foundation is interested in working together with the Park Advisory Board to help brainstorm for ways to be proactive with the direction of the Park Division in the upcoming years. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the board to have a goal setting meeting with the PAB to first come up with projects and goals for the division. Those goals will then be brought to the Foundation for help in attaining them in light of the impending budget cuts. A PAB meeting will be planned for the end of October.

OFF AGENDA: Dowd reported that the division purchased a used bucket truck to replace the older truck currently being used. This was budgeted in the capital outlay fund.

Dowd also shared that he is looking into putting cabins at Ork Rock in Winchester Bay. The Division could partner with outside businesses to help in this project which would bring in much needed revenue.

Dowd asked for board approval to change the current camping reservation policy to be more in line with the Oregon State Parks policy. Kristi Wilson explained that with the current policy, the biggest issue has been people reserving early for holidays and major events in order to secure a site early and then canceling days preceding the reservation leaving the sites empty. Wilson will bring a written request for the board to review.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Jill Talburt requested that the trails at Mildred Kanipe Park stay open during the winter months. Bill Talburt was not in favor of this and Dowd was concerned about the maintenance of the trails. Bill Talburt questioned why the Douglas Soil and Water District graveled so much of the road as horses do not like gravel. He also suggested that the logs that are down from the last riparian project be used for the upcoming project. Dowd will look into these issues.

NEXT MEETING: The next Park Board meeting will be announced and publicized as soon as a date is decided upon. There will not be a regularly scheduled meeting in November.

A motion to adjourn was made by Larson and seconded by Swift. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wilson, Administrative Assistant
Douglas County Park Department