

DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting on December 17, 2009

9:30 a.m.

Douglas County Park Department Office

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

GUESTS: Celia Scott, Leslye Wing, John Ulicny and Midge McGinnis

Ferber called the meeting to order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board met for executive session regarding Real Property Transaction ORS 192.660(2)(e).

MINUTES: Swartzlender moved for approval of the October 15, 2009 and October 28, 2009 minutes. Larson seconded. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Equine Park Update – Dowd reported that the Surfwood RV Park and campground in Winchester Bay has developed an equine camping area in a portion of their park. They also have secured trail access to the private wooded hillsides near their campground for equine users. The Board of Commissioners believe that the demand for an equine campground at the coast will be met by this private business and therefore think that the County should not expend funds to develop the Park Division's equine campground at this time.

2. Cooper Creek Trail Proposal – The City of Sutherlin is seeking support to place a walking/hiking trail around Cooper Creek Reservoir. The City wishes to connect it to a trail that would lead to the City of Sutherlin. Park staff believes that this is a great project and supports the concept, however; the County will not be able to provide any funds to the project due to budget constraints.

MOTION: Swartzlender moved that the Douglas County Park Advisory Board supports the City of Sutherlin's efforts to make access available to Cooper Creek for trails. Swift seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Oregon Marine Board Grant Program Projects – Park staff developed a small grant request to the Oregon State Marine Board for the float repair at Ben Irving Reservoir. The project consists of replacing the wooden decking and bull rails, installing new canvas strips, adding bark mulch to the parking lot planter islands, and re-striping the boat trailer parking areas. The total estimated cost for the project is \$10,799.44. The cost of the materials is approximately \$5,767.44, which is funded by OMB. The balance is Park Division labor and equipment. OMB approved the request and staff is working on the project with a completion date of early spring.

Staff will be seeking an additional small grant from the Marine Board to repair the floats and dock at Cooper Creek Reservoir.

OMB has reviewed a preliminary plan to install a restroom at Cleveland Rapids Boat Launch. Staff will be applying for a grant for a new CXT vault toilet which will cost approximately \$20,000. The Park Division will provide the 20% match with labor, equipment and vehicle costs.

MOTION: Acton moved that the Park Advisory Board approve the Oregon Marine Board grant programs as outlined and support the Park Division's participation. Swift seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Park Division Budget** - Staff has begun the preliminary budget process for the 2010 – 2011 budget year. The Board of Commissioners has directed each department to cut 10% of the general fund allocation which amounts to \$57,794 for the Park Division. Dowd believes that the department will be able to make the reductions without sacrificing services due to current camping revenues being up 8.32% and the additional RV sites at Miwaleta will bring in a 5.16% increase in RV Licensing fees. This forecast will leave expenditures about the same as last year.

This preliminary budget does not include any capital equipment or projects. Additionally, we have applied for an Oregon Parks and Recreation grant for operations and maintenance of the ATV recreation areas in the amount of \$54,000. The division will not know if we will be awarded the grant until May 2010, therefore it will not be in the initial budget.

OFF AGENDA: Dowd showed the board a plaque from the Sand Wizzards Racing group thanking Douglas County Parks for their support of the 2009 dune clean up event. The Park Division allows the Sand Wizzards to camp for free in the Winchester Bay dune area in exchange for their efforts in cleaning the area.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Celia Scott from the Friends of Mildred Kanipe Park reported that work is being done on the native plant trail at Kanipe. Midge McGinnis, also from the Friends said the kiosk which was built by the Job Corp is at the Park but not installed yet.

NEXT MEETING: The next Park Board meeting will be January 21, 2010 at the Park Department Headquarters Office.

A motion to adjourn was made by Hill and seconded by Swift. The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wilson, Administrative Assistant
Douglas County Park Department