

Parks Advisory Committee
April 14, 2003

Members Present: Damien Gilbert, Merle Bottge, John Rosselli, and Emily Schue

Members Absent: Steve Davis, Johnny Medlin, and Janet Alexander

Staff Present: Rich Fay, Jake Risley, Todd Winter, Loralyn Osborne, and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Charles and Elaine Hurst, Park Hosts at Richardson and Harbor Vista; Gary & Sharon Gooch, Richardson Park Caretakers

Merle Bottge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

Fay and Bottge presented Jake Risley with his 15-year service and safety award pins.

Loralyn Osborne presented the Volunteer of the Year award to Charles and Elaine Hurst, our Park Hosts at both Richardson and Harbor Vista Campgrounds. They have been hosts for us the last three years and have consistently went above and beyond their normal duties. A plaque was presented and refreshments served. (Tape turned off.)

Fay added two items to the agenda for discussion: a Parks Bond for 2004 and the dam repairs at Fern Ridge Reservoir.

II. Approval of Minutes – March 10, 2003 Parks Advisory Committee Meeting

Bottge ruled that the minutes from the March 10, 2003 be approved as written with no objections.

III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)

There was not public comment at this time.

IV. Mt. Pisgah OWEB Grant Update – Chris Orsinger:

Fay began the discussion by reading the Board item title: In the matter of authorizing the County Administrator to sign as landowner the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) watershed improvement grant project #203-164 between the Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah and the OWEB for the purpose of habitation enhancement in the South Meadow area of HBRA. This item will be going before the Board on Wednesday. Chris Orsinger stated that this is the final refinements to the original grant presented to this Committee several months ago. Orsinger distributed a list describing some of the work that this grant will support. They originally asked for \$387,000 and received only \$287,000. However, a commitment from the US Fish & Wildlife to supply operators and equipment to do the actual excavation for this project will allow Orsinger to proceed with the project.

Orsinger displayed a color map indicating some of the changes to the original plan. These included increasing the number of connections to the river distributing the erosive forces more evenly over a larger area, where the excavated soil will be located, and moving the outlets down past the revetment where they can be protected by an existing gravel bar. Orsinger then referred to the handout, which included a brief outline of reforestation, noxious species control, seasonal

monitoring, floodplain enhancement design and implementation, education and project outreach, and recreation and site access. Orsinger asked for this Committee's support for the updates to take back to the Board. Fay distributed a copy of the income and expense statement for the FBP. Bottge asked if Parks would have any financial obligation for this grant. Fay said there would be no cash match but there is an in-kind match for about \$2,000. Orsinger said that the map would be updated in time for Ollie Snowden to review before it went back to the Board.

Motion: Gilbert moved that this Committee support the plan with the refinements as presented. Schue seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Orsinger added that on May 1st he would be conducting a tour of the planting area and if anyone wished to attend, they would be meeting in the Arboretum parking lot at 5:30 p.m.

V. Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery Master Planning

Fay referred to the information packet that was mailed to each Committee member. Basically it outlines three different scenarios for developing the site. These included an environment education scenario, which would include interpretative trails, classrooms, restoring the ponds and putting in a café. Also, discussed was a fishing focus, to include restoring and restocking the ponds, fly-fishing lessons, and classrooms, and then the other component was a hospitality/conference facility with meeting spaces, picnic pavilions, and a café/restaurant. The preference of the Hatchery Committee was the fishing focus. The next step however, would be to open it up for public comment by holding several public meetings. The consensus of this Committee was that they were not ready to make a decision but felt it was going in the right direction. Fay said that we have money in the Hatchery fund to contribute to the planning process, but the money from the Regional Investment Board would go to the main Hatchery building. General discussion followed.

VI. In the Matter of Amending the Lane Manual Chapter 18 to Revise Fees, Reservation Policies, and Special Use Permits to Increase Revenue

Fay distributed the legislative draft of the fee increases and described some of the changes, which included changing the hours of operation from dawn to dusk, park closures and emergency rules, admission fees at HBRA, camping and picnic reservations and site fees, and charging admissions from May 1 through September 30. Also discussed was implementing a discount program, earn-a-pass program and late fees.

VII. Parks and Open Space Renaming

Fay stated that Commissioner Sorensen proposed changing our name from Lane County Parks to Lane County Parks and Open Space. Will explore further.

VIII. Parks Bond Measure

Fay said that Roxie Cuellar, with the Home Builder's Association, would support another Park's Bond as early as next May. And she would also lobby the Commissioners on it. Schue stated that she spoke with Rich Lundquist, who makes a living doing political campaigns and polling, and he said that you really need to work on a bond measure for two years, continually educating the public, not just a few months. Timing is critical as well. Discussion followed regarding what the focus of the bond measure should be, less acquisition and more infrastructure, and letting the public know where the money coming into Parks actually goes.

Motion: Schue moved that this Committee authorize the staff to do some exploring of a possibility of a bond measure in May of 2004. Gilbert seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

VIII. Park Manager's Report

●**Blue Mountain Forest Practices Update:** Fay stated the Commissioners directed us to use mechanical and/or manual means to remove the brush at Blue Mt. for the next year, until the results come back from the herbicide committee. Staff is currently getting quotes. Will also check into the possibility of using goats as an alternative.

●**Ocean Woods:** Fay said that he wrote to Dave Wright with Oregon State Parks regarding removing the deed restriction on this property. Mr. Wright indicated that they would not object to removal of the restriction and thought the request would go through. The City of Florence would like to do some test wells on the other 160 acres that the County owns near this property.

●**Run for the Mountain Update:** Fay said that KVAL is the media sponsor, and REI is the event sponsor again. We currently have five corporate sponsors, seven small business sponsors and three food and drink sponsors to date and Loralyn is currently soliciting prizes for the random drawings. Fay asked the Committee members if they would like to contribute \$10 each to become "Friends of the Mountain" and have their names put on the event T-shirts.

●**Fern Ridge Dam Repair:** Fay recently attended a US Army Corps of Engineers meeting and found out there was a possibility that the Corps would have to drain the reservoir to do some dam repairs as early as 2004. Fay is checking with them to see if there is any way for them to cover the losses we will incur out there. Will also check into the possibility of having them repair the revetments at the same time.

IX. Good of the Order

There was further discussion regarding a possible Parks Bond Measure with suggestions of lowering the bond amount, focusing on one area of the Park's system and including the Corps repairs in the marketing of the measure.

X. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary