

**Parks Advisory Committee
December 8, 2003**

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

Members Absent: Steve Davis and Johnny Medlin

Staff Present: Todd Winter, Jake Risley and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Howard Schussler, Asst. Public Works Director; Chris Orsinger, Friends of Buford Park

Merle Bottge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

There were no announcements and two agenda modifications: Bottge would like to talk about the By-Laws, the County Commissioners and a possible election of officers. Winter added that Chris Orsinger, from the Friends of Buford Park, wished to bring his updated draft of their Goals and Strategies for 2004-2008 at about 6:15 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes – November 10, 2003 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings

Bottge asked that the minutes from the November 10, 2003 meeting be approved. Schue so moved, Gilbert seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved, with one minor correction – removing the word “not” in the first sentence under item IV., Oceanwoods. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion with the correction.

III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)

There was no public comment at this time.

IV. Park Manager’s Report – Todd Winter, Interim

• **Baker Bay Park RFP – Update:** Bob Henderson, the current Caretaker/Concessionaire at Baker Bay Park, has opted not to re-apply for the position. The new RFP will be similar to the one used for the Richardson Park Campground and Marina. This RFP will also include trash removal at Wildwood Falls and cleaning the restroom at the Dorena covered bridge, which is a roadside rest area. We are purchasing the equipment in the concession stand from Mr. Henderson. We will be handling the reservations of the two picnic sites through the Park’s office. The new RFP will go out after the first of the year and we will hopefully have someone in place by the April 1st opening date.

• **Oceanwoods Board Order -- Update:** Winter said that we recently came into possession of a land exchange proposal that was received by Jeff Turk from Elden and Marijo Nordahl. They propose to give us the Camp Big Bear property in exchange for Oceanwoods. Camp Big Bear is 135 logged acres with absolutely no development on it and which also has some wetland and permit issues attached to it. After some initial research into the property, Park’s staff has no interest in pursuing it. By the next PAC meeting we should have a final draft of the Oceanwoods Board Order, which will include the newly established criteria, which will go before the Commissioners on January 21, 2004.

• **Fern Ridge Dam Repairs – Board Decision:** Winter said that the cost of dam repairs at Fern Ridge have fluctuated between \$3 Million and \$11 Million. They currently estimate that the water levels will be at approximately 371’ (full pool is 373.5’) for 2004 and 2005. Then in

2006 they will do the full draw down to initiate the repairs. Some of the deep keel boats that use Richardson or Orchard Point marinas will have problems with the 371' water levels and some boat owners are going to a swing keel. The Junction City Water Board and Branch Engineering, Inc. are working with Steve Cornachia, with Hershner, Hunter, Andrews, Neill and Smith, LLP, to conduct an independent study to establish a repair methodology. The total cost of this study is \$7,000 and the Parks Division has been invited to participate. Using data collected by the Corps, they hope to find that the repairs can be done without a complete draw down and that repairs can be done with at least 371' water levels. The Board voted unanimously for Parks to participate in the study. Winter stated there might be some options for help with providing our portion of the financial support for the study.

• **Armitage Park and McKenzie Hatchery Caretaker Updates:** Winter said that the caretaker at the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery had some personal issues that came up recently that made it necessary for us to have him evicted from the residence. He has now moved to Montana and we are getting ready to paint the interior and do some small repairs to get it ready for a new caretaker. The caretaker at Armitage, who had been with the park for quite some time, was also asked to leave. There were some health issues that deteriorated the relationship with Parks to the point where we had to ask him to leave. We need to get both houses painted in the interior and cleaned up inside and out. We will then put out requests for new caretakers for both these sites.

• **North Riverbank Trail Project – Jake Risley:** Jake stated that two different grant proposals came to him recently. 1) The Lane Metro Youth Corps wants to work on the North Riverbank Trail, which is in an area just north of the new bridge that takes you up to the north trailhead. They want to make a loop out of it and make it fully accessible. A letter of intent has been sent to the State that was due December 5th. The grant proposal, which is a standard State Recreational Trails Program grant, if approved by this Committee as well as the Board, will then go in in February, 2004. 2) Pete Helzer, the artist who did the sculpture at the summit of Mt. Pisgah, approached Jake about an Arts & Trails Grant Program from the National Parks Service. There is \$10,000 available – ½ going to the artist/artwork and ½ going to the trail. Mr. Helzer would like to place a piece of granite at each end of the North Riverbank Trail, with some of the surface ground and etched with the trail name, for example. He would also like to possibly put a stone bench along the trail near a viewpoint. A letter of intent was sent December 1st and we should be hearing back in about another month or so. Jake stated that there is a great opportunity to combine these two grants for a great project. Rosselli voiced his concern regarding vandalism.

V. **Good of the Order**

Bottge sent a note to both Commissioner's Sorenson and Dwyer regarding our proposed By-Law changes and asking them if she should be present at the Board meeting. Commissioner Sorenson said yes, he would like her to be there, and Dwyer told her he had a problem with the proposed change regarding when we held the election of officers. Bottge said that she would attend the Board meeting and it was also decided to wait and hold the elections until the January, 2004 meeting.

Howard announced that the Oceanwoods Board Order would be going before the Commissioners on January 21, 2004, and that he encouraged this Committees support by attending the meeting if possible. The more people we have there showing their support would be a great help. Schue felt that a representative from the League of Women Voters would attend. Rosselli asked for a copy of the Board Order before the meeting in January, 2004.

VI. **Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah – Draft Goals & Strategies – Chris Orsinger**

As the Committee waited for Mr. Orsinger to arrive, they all had a chance to review the rough draft. Rosselli asked Mr. Orsinger what the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah's mission statement was. Mr. Orsinger stated that it was "To protect and enhance native ecosystems and compatible recreation in the Mt. Pisgah area." Mr. Orsinger continued by briefly going over the draft. Under item I. A., he stated that their number one strategy is to develop and implement a vegetation management plan. It was the consensus of the Committee to change the word "vegetation" to "habitat". Although their main focus is inside the park, they also do projects outside the park. Item II. basically advocates for land acquisition. III. focuses on public understanding of what FPB does at Mt. Pisgah and how the park provides recreational and ecological values. IV. focuses on working with Lane Count Parks to facilitate compatible recreation and trail planning – providing access but also protecting resources. Items V. and VI. deal with capacity building goals – raising grant monies for FPB and other funding sources. Mr. Orsinger encouraged County staff and PAC members to sit on the FPB Board or to encourage someone they know serve. Rosselli stated some concerns that once we remove the invasive vegetation, what are we doing to replace that vegetation. Risley said that what is valuable is having a good base inventory of what's out there so when we remove the invasive vegetation, we can put back some native plants such as grasses, which will provide a habitat value that is maybe more compatible for the area. A good inventory will make it easier to make future decisions on what needs to be removed and what we can leave. Mr. Orsinger will do a more detailed report and get a copy to this Committee. Schue asked Mr. Orsinger if he would support Parks at the Board meeting on January 21, 2004, regarding the sale of Oceanwoods.

VII. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary