

**Parks Advisory Committee
February 13, 2006**

Members Present: Emily Schue, Catherine Koehn, Merle Bottge, Damien Gilbert and Steve Davis

Members Absent: Johnny Medlin

Staff Present: Todd Winter and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Jill Benson and Wendy Powell, Junction City Jeepers

Damien Gilbert, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

There were no announcements or agenda modifications.

II. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2006 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings

Gilbert asked that the minutes from the January 9, 2006 meeting be approved. Schue moved that the minutes be approved. Davis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)

There was no public comment at this time.

IV. OHV Presentation - Junction City Jeepers

Winter began by introducing Jill Benson and Wendy Powell from the Junction City Jeepers OHV Club. About six weeks ago the OHV community approached the Board of County Commissioners regarding the lack of OHV areas in Lane County. Commissioner Stewart asked Winter to research the possibility of using Blue Mt. for an OHV activity area. Winter went to one of the Junction City Jeepers meetings to talk to them about Blue Mt. and to get a sense of what they do and what they are looking for. Winter stated that at a future date he would schedule an on-site visit to Blue Mt. as well as look further into OPRD's ATV Grant Program, which he understands covers not only land acquisition and development but also maintenance as well.

Jill Benson gave a brief overview of their club. It is a family oriented club that meets monthly and tries to do monthly "runs" and an annual event. The club currently has two trails they have adopted – one up in the Bohemia area and another in the Tillamook Forest – the Hogsback Trail – which they have done a substantial amount of work on. The need is huge in Lane County for Class 2 (jeeps, trucks, and four-wheel drives) OHV use. Only about 1.3 miles are available locally and there are quite a few clubs looking for an area they can use. Wendy Powell emphasized the need for a place to hold events using the example of a club in Sweet Home advertising a "mud" event selling out 3,000 tickets in a matter of hours. Ms. Benson said that they are not looking for just dirt roads, but something with a little challenge – boulders, holes, logs, etc. Winter asked how they handle clean up, particularly dumped trash. Ms. Benson said that they try to organize two clean-up work parties a year and then ongoing, they try to educate other users about keeping the site clean and protecting the environment. Bottge stated her biggest concern would be non-club people coming into the area and vandalizing facilities, etc.

Ms. Benson said that other club members have volunteered to do patrols. Winter said that this facility would be a dawn to dusk with the gates closed at dark. Koehn said that she has some trepidation about creating an OHV area as she feels by opening this area up will create an increase in poaching in the area.

Winter stated that there is still a lot of research to be done in the areas of design, funding available, maintenance, user fees, etc. Davis asked those club members present if they would pay a user fee and they stated most definitely they would. Bottge asked if this type of facility was in the new Parks Master Plan and if it wasn't it should be. Winter said that he would try to come back by the April meeting with more information and a time scheduled for a site visit to Blue Mt. Gilbert asked if he knew if there was a problem at existing rural or undeveloped parks of people leaving the trails. Winter said not so much that problem but with people going in and dumping home trash, but will talk to other agencies with OHV areas to see what issues they might have.

V. Recommend Marie Kennedy to Fill Vacant PAC Position and Forward Recommendation to the Board

Gilbert stated that the sub-committee formed to interview applicants for the vacant PAC position met and interviewed two applicants and unanimously selected Marie Kennedy to recommend to the Board. She's a student at the U of O in the Community Planning Masters program and a resident of Springfield.

Motion: Davis moved that this Committee approve the recommendation for the appointment of Marie Kennedy the Parks Advisory Committee. The vote was unanimous in favor.

VI. Division Manager's Report – Todd Winter, Division Manager

• **Review of Glenada Property Public Hearing:** Winter said that the public hearing in the Florence Event Center was standing room only – about 300 people attended the event. Winter gave a 10-minute staff report that included how Parks is funded, particularly that we receive no property tax money. He also explained that of the 550 acres of parks and open space we maintain in the Florence area, only one of them generates revenue. So unless the citizens of Florence stay at Harbor Vista or rent a car, they are not contributing to the support of Lane County Parks. Winter also reported that Tim Wood, OPRD Director, indicated that they would pay the full-appraised value for the property, which was confirmed by Commissioner Stewart. The Board directed staff to make a deal with OPRD for the full \$817,000. OPRD will purchase ½ of the property this biennium (by 6/31/06) and the other half by 6/31/07. They will give a life estate to Mr. Warwick, keep the land for recreational use only, not allow ATV's to use the property and will not clear-cut the trees.

• **Budget Process Review:** Winter stated that we are just about ready to lock in the budget. Total revenues are projected at \$2,276,000, personnel expenses at \$1,186,000 and other expenses at \$831,000. We will also have a prudent person account, for the first time in five years, in the amount of approximately \$190,000. Winter will bring the final budget back to this Committee before it is adopted.

VII. Good of the Order/Concerns of the Committee

Davis asked about the changes to E dock at the Richardson Marina. Winter said that we are re-configuring E dock by removing some of the more damaged unusable fingers – shouldn't lose any slips and it will also make it easier to access slips on the next dock over.

Bottge asked about the rumors that Parks is moving its offices. Winter said that since Public Works purchased the Qwest building next door to their buildings, they haven't had any interest in anyone from there wanting to move into this space. So PW is willing to remodel it for our use and hopefully only charge us rent in the amount we can afford. We will be able to have all of our vehicles and equipment housed inside the building. It will be another year or so before this can take place.

VIII. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary