

**Parks Advisory Committee
March 12, 2007**

Members Present: Damien Gilbert, Emily Schue, Merle Bottge, Marie Kennedy, Catherine Koehn and Johnny Medlin

Staff Present: Todd Winter and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Ollie Snowden, Director, Lane County Public Works; Howard Schuessler, Asst. Director, Lane County Public Works; Dave Helfrich, Ken Engleman, Steve Schaffers, and Steve Mealey with the Friends of the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery

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 – February 12, 2007 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings

Gilbert asked that the minutes from the February 12, 2007 meeting be approved. Bottge moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Schue 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. Museum on the McKenzie: The Water, the Fish, the Boats Prospectus – Dave Helfrich, Ken Engleman, Steve Mealey and Steve Schaffers with Friends of the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery

Winter began by providing a little background history of the Hatchery site. The Friends of the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery (Friends) is a non-profit Oregon corporation. They have a lease agreement with the County and there is a dedicated fund for the Hatchery with any money earned from the Hatchery staying with the Hatchery to take care of utilities and minor maintenance and such. Friends was formed for the purpose of managing the Hatchery facilities and "... to establish, perpetuate and maintain the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery to achieve the highest quality for the public benefit; to enhance the historic features of the property, to encourage economic development in the McKenzie River Valley through increased tourism and visitation, to associate the Hatchery Information Center operation with other public agencies in the McKenzie River Valley, to encourage use of the site for educational purposes, and to provide facilities for the public enjoyment and use of its natural and historic features." The "County recognizes that it is in the general public interest to encourage these efforts by the Friends to develop the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery, and..." "...shall take a lead role in the development and historic preservation of the site including solicitation of grant and donations; management of grant funds; oversight of capital improvement projects;" in collaboration with Lane County. As part of the Master Plan created for the site was the development of a small museum/interpretive center "highlighting the area's history, native cultures and local industry is anticipated. The museum would enhance the value of the site as an information center and increase it's attraction as a visitor destination in itself. The center could also host special events and become a center for community activities."

The Friends approached Park's staff with a prospectus for a Museum of the McKenzie River: The Water, The Fish, The Boats and is asking this Committee for a recommendation for approval to conduct a feasibility study on the museum being placed and developed at the Hatchery. Winter introduced Steve Mealey who wanted to just cover some of the highlights in the prospectus everyone received. These included the vision, background, some Hatchery history, goals and objectives, and some of the contacts they have made so far. Part of the vision they see includes having a renowned drift-boat collection and environmental education center which would be self-supporting and a monument to conservation partnerships. Goals and objectives include working to fulfill the vision and meet with the County to seek approval for pursuing a feasibility study. Dave Helfrich was up next to give a brief history of drift-boats on the McKenzie using some old family photos. Ken Engleman, President of the Friends of the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery, distributed some brochures that are available on site that gives a little history of the infrastructure of the site and from what they can determine is the best collection of still existent hatchery facilities – pretty much the way it was when it was constructed about 1907. Steve Shaffers, President of the Guides Association was present to add their support to this project.

Schue was concerned about funding for this project, especially long term. Winter stated that funding would most likely be outlined in the feasibility study. Also the prospectus has a list of potential funding sources as well as partners. Discussion followed regarding the types of events and displays that could be provided as well as a way to create a nice destination point that would compliment the High Desert Museum.

Motion: Bottge moved that this Committee endorse this prospectus on creating a destination point at the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery on the McKenzie. Kennedy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

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

• **Possible Reallocation of the Car Rental Tax -- Update:** Winter said that as discussed at the last meeting regarding the fee increases – this went to Finance and Audit, who gave their unanimous support to forward this on to the Board for approval. Winter has put together a PowerPoint presentation that shows pictures of the parks that will be impacted by the removal of the CRT, along with the Board packet, which is scheduled for the March 21st Board meeting. Winter went over the sites that will be impacted by the loss of the CRT. However, if the Board supports contracting out, we should be able to keep Richardson and Baker Bay day use open. A board order to support contracting out will also go before the Board on the 21st. Winter said he also hopes to contract out the McKenzie River Cooperative Maintenance Partnership agreement along the sites on the McKenzie. Winter will keep this Committee updated as information becomes available.

Bottge asked if there was a last resort possibility of selling some of the closed park properties – especially the ones more susceptible to vandalism. Maybe developing criteria for selling park properties to be included in the Master Plan. Winter gave Oceanwoods as an example of how hard that would be to do. Discussion followed and instead of trying to create a list of criteria for selling park property, especially since each property would need its own set of criteria, that instead we put in the Master Plan that prior to divesting of property, the public development criteria for divestment of such be developed.

Koehn wanted to bring up the idea of a “Guest Ranger” program where volunteers would take on the job of watching over a park. Winter said that we do have an Adopt-A-Park program as well as volunteer park hosts in some places that pretty much fills this need.

- **Armitage Campground – Update:** Winter said that we are through with the initial design segment of Phase 1 that includes 32 full hook-ups, two group sites and two tent sites (for bikers and the like). Engineering for sanitation and utilities has been completed. And next we will be working on the specifications so that we will have a better idea what it will cost to complete the campground. We will be applying for an Opportunity Grant in November 2007, and going before the Board to request the use of \$200,000 in SDC funds to go towards this project. If we get the grant, we are looking at being open in time for the Olympics in 2008.

- **Other:** Winter just wanted to remind everyone to be sure and confirm whether or not you'll be attending the meetings and want dinner – this way we can have a more accurate count for budget purposes. If you don't confirm, you won't get dinner. Winter also said that since we will be putting in a new campground, for our annual park tour we should think about visiting Riverbend Campground, Linn County's new facility. We will talk more about it next month.

VI. Good of the Order/Concerns of the Committee

Nothing was presented for the Good of the Order.

VII. Adjournment:

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

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary