

Parks Advisory Committee
May 9, 2005

Members Present: Janet Alexander, Damien Gilbert, Emily Schue, Catherine Koehn, and Merle Bottge

Members Absent: Johnny Medlin and Steve Davis

Staff Present: Todd Winter, Loralyn Osborne and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Ollie Snowden, Director, Public Works

Florence Residents here for Public Comment: Keith Ellingson, Chris Ellingson, Bill Fleenor, and Scott Bartlet

Janet Alexander, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

There were no announcements and a few agenda modifications – Winter wished to move the Glenada Property Update ahead of Public Comment, and the Run for the Mountain update to the first item under the Division Manager’s Report.

II. Approval of Minutes – April 11, 2005 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings

Alexander asked that the minutes from the April 11, 2005 meeting be approved. Bottge moved that the minutes be approved as amended (Schue pointed out that under item V. discussion of Mt. Pisgah Greenway Permit – area discussed is the North Bottomlands area, not the South Meadow). Schue seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

III. Welcome New PAC Member – Introductions

Alexander began by introducing herself, then the new PAC Member, Catherine Koehn introduced herself and gave a bit of her background and expressed her pleasure about serving on this Committee. Everyone else introduced himself or herself and Winter welcomed Koehn to this Committee.

IV. Glenada Property Update

Winter went over some of the history of the foreclosure process as well as how the Glenada property came to Parks. The most recent action by the Board was to designate the Glenada property as parkland. Unfortunately, since then the Siuslaw News ran a few articles regarding this property without actually interviewing Winter and getting their facts straight, so there are some misconceptions out there that Winter hopes to clear up. First of all, the Board has only approved the designation of Glenada as parkland – they have not approved the sale of the property. There is a process outlined in ORS that we are required to follow before this property can be sold. The Board has directed Parks to get an appraisal, and then come back to them with selling options. If the Board determines that it is in the best interests of the public to sell this property, the next step would then be to hold a public hearing.

Winter said that he currently has about seven interested parties – both public and private – who would like a chance at acquiring this property that is zoned residential, is outside the Dunes Recreation Area, and in the urban growth boundary. Winter distributed a copy of a letter from

Wilbur Ternyik, former Mayor of Florence suggesting as one possibility -- swapping this property with the U.S. Forest Service for a piece of property of equal value, adding that he spoke with the local Deputy Ranger who was receptive to the idea. Winter followed up with the Deputy Ranger who told Winter that they were not interested in the Glenada property or in a land swap.

Alexander asked Winter that when he spoke with Oregon State Parks about their interest in the property, did they state their long-term goals for it. Winter said that no he did not have this information but does know that OPRD has a certain amount of money set aside in their budget for land acquisition and that they are having trouble finding properties to purchase. Koehn asked who picks the properties to designate as parkland. Winter said that he and Jeff Turk, Lane County's Property Manager, review the foreclosed properties in the County's inventory for possible sites. They look at location of the property, whether there are any environmental issues, etc., and then the selections are taken to the Board where the final decision is made. The type of sale we have is left to the Parks Division to decide.

V. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)

Alexander briefly went over the procedures for Public Comment.

Keith Ellingson: Mr. Ellingson feels this property should not be sold for development because it is so picturesque. Also the cost of development would be very high as well as difficult.

Chris Ellingson: Ms. Ellingson feels that this property is not just a pretty view but also a historic view. She also agrees it would be a difficult site (geologically) to build on and there is also limited access to potable water.

Bill Fleenor: Mr. Fleenor feels the process has been rather quick. Feels we are selling Glenada to supplement the closure of Fern Ridge and the residents of Florence are being rail-roaded into selling this property to make up budget shortfalls due to the closure. Also said that limited access to this property should not be the reason for selling it.

Scott Bartlet: Mr. Bartlet is "appalled and shocked that the most significant landscape aspect of the City of Florence is apparently destined for the auction block." We should be looking at other properties to sell for Parks – just not this one. He feels that this whole process has been fast-tracked without any public notification or a public hearing.

Bottge stated her understanding of the process is that our hope is that the revenue we might get from this would be used for Capital purposes and is not to replace budget shortfalls due to the closure of Fern Ridge and Winter concurred. Winter added that if this property had not been designated parkland, Lane County's Property Manager could have, at any time, sent this property through the Sheriff's Sale process with no public hearing or public comment required. Gilbert wanted to add by way of clarifying a couple of things – the limited access comments were related to river access due to the steepness of the slopes, which would be a major issue Parks would look at when considering land for a future park. The Glenada property is an existing platted residential sub-division and not just a chunk of land that is sitting there as open space. There were land use decisions that created this residential sub-division.

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

- **Armitage Dog Park – Update:** Winter said that this one-acre dog park was designed using one of the City of Eugene's parks as a model, with water, garbage cans, dog waste bags, etc. The park is complete and once the signage is up we will do a news release, but park visitors are already using it every day.

- **Run for the Mountain – Update, Loralyn Osborne:** Osborne displayed the poster and t-shirt designed by a student at the U of O. The run is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th and asked Committee members to become Friends of Mountain for \$10 -- their names will also be added

to the back of the t-shirts. Committee members were also invited to volunteer at the event to help guide participants along the courses as well as registering and handing out refreshments. This year REI is sponsoring a new event – a half-mile family adventure hike. Osborne also distributed copies of the new updated park brochure.

- **New Self-Pay Admission Machines – Update:** The new machines are all installed and doing their job. We purchased five machines this year and will need to add three more next season when Orchard Point and Perkins opens back up. When the machines are emptied, they generate an audit tape that gives us all kinds of information for tracking statistics. We still encourage visitors to purchase season passes that are available at several locations and soon to be available on-line at the County's new eCommerce site.

- **Summer Season Staffing Levels/Hours:** Winter said that we closed the shop in the Fern Ridge Zone and all field staff now report to the McKenzie Zone at Armitage Park. They are working five 8-hour shifts and each day, one Ranger does park patrols from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays we added a swing shift Ranger to provide patrol coverage from 3:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. We were only able to hire four summer help employees this season. One to empty and restock the new fee machines, two to help out in the field in the McKenzie Zone, and then one to help out in the Coast Zone.

VII. Good of the Order

Winter said that we should know within the next couple of weeks what areas of Orchard Point the Corps will be using to stage the dam repairs. Clear Lake Road is scheduled to close on May 15, 2005.

The park tour will replace the regular June PAC meeting and is scheduled for Saturday, June 11th. Everyone should meet at Armitage Park and be ready to depart by 8:30 a.m. We should be back at Armitage between 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided at the concession stand at Orchard Point Park.

Johnson distributed an updated Committee member list.

Bottge asked for an update on the burglary we had at the Park offices in Armitage Park. Winter said that we replaced the doors of the shop office with steel doors and is taking bids for a new security system that will include motion sensors and auto alert. We also put a park host on site in the yard next to the office buildings. No leads yet on most of the stolen items, which totaled \$28,000.

Bottge also added that one of the considerations that we should look at when choosing the next foreclosed property is the potential for controversy.

VIII. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary