

**Parks Advisory Committee
November 15, 2004**

Members Present: Janet Alexander, Damien Gilbert, Emily Schue, Johnny Medlin, John Rosselli, and Steve Davis

Members Absent: Merle Bottge

Staff Present: Todd Winter and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Howard Schussler, Assist. Director, Lane County Public Works; Celia Barry, Public Works Engineering Dept.; and, Steve Hopkins, Land Management Div.

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

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

There were no announcements and Winter wished to add a couple of items to the Division Managers Report.

II. Approval of Minutes – October 11, 2004 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings

Alexander asked that the minutes from the October 11, 2004 meeting be approved. Schue moved that the minutes be approved as mailed. 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. Parks Master Plan – Public Involvement Plan – Celia Barry, Associate Planner

Everyone introduced themselves to Celia Barry. Ms. Barry said that she works for Lane County in Transportation Planning and worked five or six years in the land use department where she worked on the County's Transportation System Plan and feels very fortunate now to be able to work on the Parks Division's new Master Plan. She introduced Steve Hopkins, who is a Planner for Lane County Land Management, and who has a lot of experience with long range planning. Both Celia and Steve will be coordinating the Master Plan effort with the Parks Division. Ms. Barry asked if everyone had a chance to read the Public Involvement Plan that was mailed to each Committee member. Ms. Barry briefly went over the Plan. The overall plan concept is fairly simple: Take existing conditions, see where we want to go, starting with the vision statement, and craft that into goals, policies, and recommendations and then come up with a future of where Parks is going in the next 20 years or so.

An important part of this effort will be giving the public and anyone that wants to, an opportunity to participate and get involved. We are currently putting together an extensive mailing list to help accomplish this. Ms. Barry distributed a flow chart from the Comprehensive Plan for Lane County, which basically shows how all the County's land use documents (all adopted by the Board) work together. We have four County Parks inside the Metro Plan boundary -- Armitage, HBRA, Hileman, and Whitely. Most new uses in these parks must be in an adopted comprehensive plan under state land use law. A new campground at Armitage, for instance, will require a Metro Plan amendment because state law says such uses must be in an adopted Comprehensive plan (which is a land use document).

The Lane County Parks Master Plan update effort applies County-wide and is not anticipated to include any Metro Plan amendments. The overall County Parks Master Plan only requires adoption by the Board of Commissioners. However, the overall County Parks Master Plan update can "open the door" to changes in these metro area parks. After that, another process to amend the Metro Plan will then be required for new uses like campgrounds in these parks. In contrast to the overall County Parks Master Plan update, Metro Plan amendments must be adopted by all Metro area jurisdictions -- Eugene, Springfield -- and Lane County.

Ms. Barry said that the public process is made up of three components – players, pieces, and process. Players consist of staff, a technical advisory committee, focus groups, the general public, the Parks Advisory Committee (PAC), the Lane County Planning Commission (LCPC) and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The Pieces portion of the process includes an extensive mailing list, the web site and focus groups (such as river guides, bicyclists, the Sheriff's Posse, etc.). The Process begins with input from the general public, focus groups and a Technical Advisory Committee, which will be incorporated into the draft Master Plan that would then be taken to the PAC for a recommendation before proceeding onto the LCPC and then finally going before the BCC for final approval. Schue asked how information will get out to the rural areas. Barry stated that she would be using the Watershed Councils, Chambers of Commerce, river guides and neighborhood groups, etc.

Steve Hopkins took over the discussion to talk about the maps. Several of the maps were of the different watersheds in the County as well as one big map that has all the parks in Lane County. The labeled sites being the ones managed by Lane County Parks. These maps are part of the information gathering Mr. Hopkins is doing so he can create a database on all the properties in the Lane County Parks system. The database will include the name of the property, tax lot information, what watershed it is located in, what fire district, flood plain, zoning information, what maintenance classification it has been assigned, etc. Right now we don't have one place where all this information is located – this information database will solve this problem. All the maps displayed here will be included in the final Master Plan

Motion: Schue moved that this Committee endorse the Lane County Parks and Open Space Master Plan Update Public Involvement Plan as presented. Medlin seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

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

- **Munsel Lake -- Update:** Winter distributed a copy of the current site map for the Munsel Lake site, which indicates where we wanted to put in the new vault CXT toilet. Now the current neighboring property owner wants to remove the 25' easement we have on his property so that he can develop his site. Since this changes our plans, Winter distributed a new option for the layout of this site, which means losing two boat trailer parking spots and relocating the vault toilet to the cul-de-sac area. Winter will keep this Committee updated as he has more information.
- **PM2 Position – Update:** We have finished with the application process and now have five candidates to be interviewed tomorrow. Rosselli asked if there were any internal candidates being interviewed, and Winter said no. Rosselli was curious where our funding is coming from now for this position. Winter stated that we've had one Leadworker position open for awhile, the Division Manager position was open for over 10 months, and the Park Planner position is currently open. This all frees up money to fund the vacant PM2 spot. Rosselli asked how the new Parks Master Plan is being funded. Winter stated that 1/3 of the approximately \$70,000 cost is coming from SDC's and the balance will come from the final entry into Blue Mt. timber this coming Spring.

- **End of Season Stats -- Winter:** Winter distributed stats for the campgrounds and picnic reservations for this past season and briefly discussed. We are still putting together admission fee stats but we do know that from May 1st through September 30th we collected \$160,000 in admission fees. GI Joe's alone sold \$20,000 worth of Season Passes.
- **Oceanwoods – Update:** After going through the process of trying to sell this property, and ending up not being able to, we've decided to put in a small parking area, portable toilet and trash cans. This now has the neighbors concerned that we will be increasing the traffic through their neighborhood and disturbing the wildlife in this area. There is a meeting of the Florence City Advisory Committee meeting on November 19th to discuss parks and open spaces. This Committee encouraged Winter to attend.
- **Measure 32 Outcome:** Since this measure did not come out in our favor, we will no longer be getting any RV fees from mobile home registration fees. Winter is not sure at this time how much this will affect us in the future. The Oregon Parks Association is still looking at the possibility of getting the split changed on how much the Counties receive of this money. Currently, 70% of RV fees goes to State Parks and 30% comes to the Counties. However, the Counties feel that the split should be 60% to the State and 40% to Counties since Counties now operate about 40% of the campsites in the state, which is how the formula was established in the first place.
- **Linn County Property:** Linn County has 20 acres on the Willamette River that they would like to give to Lane County Parks. Sometime in the past, the river changed course and now this 20 acres is in Lane County. Winter will take a look at it and then get back to Linn County.
- **Curin and Stewart Covered Bridges:** Both of these bridges are currently closed to vehicular traffic and can no longer receive Road Funds to maintain them. The Roads Dept. would like Parks to take them over. Maintenance is about \$10,000 a year and Winter feels we can go for Tourism Grant dollars to cover the maintenance of these sites. Christine suggested that we could also turn these into reservable sites and rent them out for weddings and picnics, etc.

VI. Good of the Order

There was nothing presented for the Good of the Order.

VII. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary