

**Parks Advisory Committee**  
**November 13, 2006**

Members Present: Damien Gilbert, Emily Schue, Merle Bottge, Steve Davis, 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, Commissioner Faye Stewart, and John Winqvist, Eugene Parks Foundation

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

**I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications**

There were no announcements and or agenda modifications.

**II. Approval of Minutes – September 18, 2006 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings**

Gilbert asked that the minutes from the September 18, 2006 meeting be approved. Bottge moved that the minutes be approved. Davis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

**III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)**

John Winqvist, with the Parks Foundation, came this evening to mainly listen and was particularly interested in any discussions regarding the Wildish property acquisition. Medlin asked Mr. Winqvist to explain the role of the Parks Foundation. Mr. Winqvist stated that the Foundation's mission was to support park and recreation activities for Eugene area residents. He also stated that the Foundation was very interested in how the Wildish property acquisition unfolds and that the Foundation will certainly lend their support. Mr. Winqvist's personal interest lies in Ridgeline Trail properties. Bottge asked that because the County doesn't have a foundation for its parks, might they possibly become a vehicle for people wanting to donate property, money, etc., to County Parks? Mr. Winqvist said he would be surprised if they wouldn't do that. Medlin added that he was involved since the inception of the Foundation and there was specific discussion in the development of the by-laws that it was open for more than the City of Eugene. So anything in the greater metropolitan area would be an appropriate use. A group would just have to approach the Foundation with a proposal and then the Foundation Board would decide whether or not they could facilitate their request. Mr. Winqvist added that the Foundation was also a cultural trust-matching organization.

**IV. The Parks Division's Five-Year CIP List**

Winter distributed a copy of the five-year CIP list and explained that, each year, he goes before the Board and presents them with a five-year Capital Improvement Project list, which includes the priority projects for the current fiscal year. Winter stated that he was asking this Committee to approve the list tonight so that he can then take it to the Board. Winter proceeded to discuss the list by first mentioning that the items with an asterisk (\*) indicated those items were eligible for SDC funds. The projects scheduled for FY 06/07 included the completion of the Parks Master Plan, construction of the new campground at Armitage Park, and planning for the acquisition of the Wildish Property. Schue asked whether he felt the asking price for the

Wildish property was reasonable or is the County going to negotiate the price. Winter said that a small task force was being formed to review the current appraisal as well as conduct an independent appraisal.

Koehn asked how many campsites are planned for Armitage Park and will it preclude any of the other activities in the park. Winter said that the plan calls for 39 water and electric sites and 10 tent sites – the location planned for the campground would allow for current activities to continue. Winter continued to discuss the CIP list including grants we would apply for, total County funds needed, which included SDC funds. Winter also discussed those projects listed for the next five years, including a picnic shelter at Perkins Peninsula, the Richardson marina replacement, adding six campsites and a restroom at Harbor Vista, a play structure at Armitage, a campground at Perkins, a picnic area at the Kienzle Barn, replacement of the tree-houses and winterizing at Camp Lane, and renovating the Eagle Rock site.

The discussion went back to acquisition of the Wildish property. Winter said that if the property is acquired that we would go through a public process to determine what we want to do with it. Commissioner Stewart added that we will want to go through the process of verifying the appraisal to confirm the value as well as other assumptions made, the Board can then give direction to potentially enter into negotiations with Wildish. Koehn asked when the public hearing would be. Winter said that it would be very hard to forecast because there is a lot that has to occur before we get to that point in the process.

Koehn felt this would also be a good time to create a support group for Parks. Bottge said that the Friends of Buford Park were hosting a meeting for those interested in supporting acquisition of the Wildish property later this week. Snowden stated that he and Bill VanVactor met with Chris Orsinger, Director of FBP, this afternoon and one of the messages that they delivered to Mr. Orsinger was that Lane County intends to be the lead in the negotiation process for the Wildish property, but welcomes FBP's input. The group that comes together for this will also determine the time line for bringing the public into the process. The likely steps in the process will be to let Wildish know our interest, look at an independent appraisal, and then look at funding sources and schedule a public hearing.

**Motion:** Bottge moved that the Parks Advisory Committee definitely supports the acquisition of the Wildish property and encourages the Board to pursue all avenues to acquire said property. Schue seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Winter directed the Committee back to the CIP list and ask that they recommend it for approval.

**Motion:** Bottge moved that this Committee recommend approval of the Parks CIP Priorities List for FY 2006-2011 as presented, especially those projects slated for FY 06-07. Koehn seconded the motion. Bottge asked if the Wildish property acquisition would be included in the new Parks Master Plan. Winter stated that since the Master Plan was still in draft form that it can easily be added. It was also pointed out that acquisition of the Wildish property was outlined as a goal in the HBRA Master Plan. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

- **Measure 66 Lottery Funds:** Winter stated that Measure 66 constitutionally directs 7% of the lottery funds go to Oregon Parks and Rec. Dept., which has been very beneficial for them. A few years ago they began experiencing an overage – approximately \$8 Million – over their projected budget amount. The county park systems in Oregon find themselves in the same situation as OPRD was before Measure 66 – aging infrastructures, inability to provide matching funds for grants, loss of funds from Public Law 106 and O & C Timber receipts, etc. County park systems are finding it more and more difficult to operate. Members of the Oregon Parks

Association's Legislative Committee sat down with Tim Wood, Director of the Oregon Parks and Rec. Dept. and talked about Measure 66 and the re-authorization in 2014 and our vision of how we could broaden the impact of that money as well as support reauthorization of Measure 66. Mr. Wood directed the OPA Legislative Committee to come back with some recommendations. And what the Legislative Committee came up with is to increase the county's portion of the RV registration fees from 30% to 40%, designate a certain percentage of the budget overage to be distributed among the counties, and develop a grant program that required little or no matching funds. Winter will be presenting our recommendations to AOC's Community Develop Committee soon and feel that they will be supportive.

- **Research Project – Oregon County Park Systems:** Winter said that as part of the process to get more funds to Oregon Counties, it was recommended that we do a needs-assessment of all County park systems in Oregon to include needed infrastructure repairs, number of acres provided, number of campsites, financial situation or challenges, for example, that would be compiled into a report that can be used when we approach legislatures in Salem. Marie Kennedy, who is looking for a thesis project, has agreed to take on this task. Kennedy said she was still in the information gathering stage and would be meeting with her advisor for final approval, but is very excited about taking this on.

- **Oregon Parks Association Election:** Winter reminded everyone that he is currently a City Councilor for Cottage Grove, but added that he will not be running again. He was recently elected President Elect for the Oregon Parks Association for 2007, which he will then serve as President in 2008 – so he will be devoting more of his time and energies to that. Christine Johnson was also elected to another two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer.

- **PAC Member Recruitment:** Winter said that Steve Davis would not be running for a third term on the PAC. So his vacancy has been posted and that posting will close on November 30<sup>th</sup>. However, Emily Schue and Damien Gilbert whose terms also expire on December 30, have expressed a desire to serve another term. At the next meeting we will need to put together an interview committee.

- **Glenada Property:** Winter said that the sale has started to move more quickly now and we should have the first half of the payment within the next few months, and the second half after the end of the fiscal year in June, 2007. We also have a few more foreclosed properties coming up worth a total of approximately \$300,000. He will keep everyone apprised, as he knows more.

## **VI. Good of the Order/Concerns of the Committee**

There was nothing presented for the good of the order.

## **VII. Adjournment:**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary