

**Parks Advisory Committee
October 13, 2003**

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

Staff Present: Rich Fay, Todd Winter and Christine Johnson

Guests Present: Howard Schussler, Asst. Public Works Director, and Chris Orsinger, Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah

Merle Bottge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

There were no announcements and one addition: If Chris Orsinger, from the Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah shows up, he would like to talk about their Fall Festival.

II. Approval of Minutes – September 8, 2003 Parks Advisory Committee Meetings

Bottge stated that the minutes from the September 8, 2003 meeting stand as approved, with one minor spelling correction.

III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)

There was no public comment at this time.

IV. Oceanwoods Property Sale

Fay referred to the draft Agenda Cover Memo mailed to each member regarding offering the 40- acre Oceanwoods property up for sale with the Parks Division retaining the proceeds. Fay displayed a site map that showed this piece of property surrounded on three sides by residential development. The Parks Division needs the additional revenue the sale of this property would provide, and we don't have plans to develop the property into a County Park, especially as its location is in the Urban Growth Boundary. Frank Simas, Real Property Officer for Lane County Public Works, has valued this piece of property at between \$800,000 and \$1,200,000. Fay listed four options outlined in the draft memo, for possible high priority projects that we could use these funds for, which included 1) Armitage Park Campground development, 2) Camp Lane renovations, 3) Six additional campsites at Harbor Vista, and 4) Establish and endowment fund for future park development. Fay briefly went over the cost benefit analysis for each of these projects. A lengthy discussion followed, which included: a general preference for developing an endowment fund dedicated to parks, drafting a policy for dealing with surplus park property, and not spending all the money from the sale of this property immediately on capital projects. It was also pointed out that not only does the other 160-acre County property near Oceanwoods fall more in line with our Mission Statement, but the Parks 2005 Plan, which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners, identified the Oceanwoods property as a revenue source for the Parks Division. Also it is much easier to obtain grant funds for capital projects than for operations.

Motion: Medlin moved that this Committee table any discussion of the sale of surplus property until such time as staff develop a policy of dealing with surplus property on the broader scope, which includes criteria that we would look at in which to uniformly decide how such surplus would happen. Gilbert seconded the motion. Discussion followed regarding the definition of

“criteria”. Schussler reminded everyone about any delays in putting a policy together and the possibility of losing valuable property. The motion was passed with one nay and one abstention.

Motion: Alexander moved that if the Board of County Commissioners wanted to move ahead with the sale of the Oceanwoods property, prior to being able to run it through some kind of policy criteria, that this Committee would recommend any revenue was used for park purposes. Schue seconded the motion, and the vote was approved by a vote of four to three.

It was decided that a sub-committee be formed to draft a policy regarding surplus park property. It was suggested to include criteria for acquiring property as well. Fay will work with Bottge and Schue on this issue.

V. Friends of Buford Park Fall Celebration – Chris Orsinger:

Chris Orsinger began by inviting everyone to their 12th Annual Fall Celebration that is set for Tuesday, November 11, 2003. Orsinger distributed an information flyer. He stated that the focus of these celebrations usually is on some aspect of natural history. Bruce Newhouse, well-known local expert in wild life and botany, will be the keynote speaker. The focus this year will be on Oak and prairie habitats – with Mt. Pisgah having the largest remnant of Oak habitat in the Willamette Valley. Also will be discussing invasive weeds and Douglas fir that are potential threats to the Oak habitat. Fay added that he would need to be careful about how he presented this information at a public meeting so as not be misconstrued as policy at HBRA especially in regard to the use of herbicides. Orsinger invited a staff member to be present to explain the process and the possible need for a vegetation management plan.

VI. Park Manager’s Report (A written Park Manager’s Report was mailed out to each Committee member.)

- **Fern Ridge Lake Repairs Update:** Fay referred to the written report and asked if anyone had any questions. A brief discussion followed regarding the interim repair measures and water levels. Basically we need to wait and see what happens, particularly with the weather.
- **Season Pass Revenue:** Fay distributed a copy of a revenue spreadsheet and short fee revenue comparison between last year and through September of this year that Christine prepared. We will be able to have a more complete report prepared for the December meeting.
- **Capital Improvement Projects:** Fay referred everyone to the written report.
- **Citation Report – Todd Winter:** Todd stated that he knew that everyone was aware of service reductions due to lack of funds and staff. The Rangers only issued about 75 citations this season, which is about half what they normally issue. Todd also explained about the time lag from the time the citation is issued and the funds are deposited in our account – which in most cases is several months. Todd is having the Rangers continue with training opportunities, but as far as maintenance this past season, it didn’t really occur. Mostly cleaned restrooms, emptied trash and put out the occasional fire and mowed only when time permitted. Not being able to keep up with maintenance for the last two years is starting to show and we will need to start addressing this soon.

VII. Good of the Order

Bottge stated that Alexander had drafted a couple of changes to the By Laws regarding the language around changing the place, time and date of our meetings and also what time of the year to elect new officer, whether it should be in December or leave it where it currently is in January. It was decided to leave this discussion for a future meeting. Christine will mail out copies of the draft changes with the minutes and agenda for the next meeting.

Fay distributed a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help Loralyn Osborne man the Lane County Parks booth at this year's mushroom festival held at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum on Sunday, October 26, 2003. Loralyn's preference would be coverage around the lunch hour to give her a break.

VIII. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, Secretary