

Parks Advisory Committee
October 13, 2008

Members Present: Merle Bottge, Damien Gilbert, Marie Kennedy, Catherine Kohen, and Johnny Medlin

Staff Present: Todd Winter and Loralyn Spiro

Guests Present: Marsha Miller and Howard Schussler

Damien Gilbert, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

I. Announcements/Agenda Modifications

Winter requested to move Whitely Landing Concerns from Division Manager's Report to after Public Comment.

II. Review and Approve April Minutes

Due to a mechanical failure with recorder, there were no minutes from the April meeting.

III. Public Comment (Maximum of 20 Minutes)

Joan Ruhlman and Joe Ruhlman, both of 1440 River Loop One, Eugene. Spoke about the incidents that have occurred at Whitely Landing and on their property located next to the park. Ms. Ruhlman passed out three handouts to PAC – a letter with an overview of the situation, a log of incidents that have occurred, and examples of citizens trying to resolve issues on their own.

Winter handed out pictures of Whitely Landing. Winter stated that he was aware of the situation. He and Todd Bowen have been working with the Ruhlman's on a solution. Winter also stated that patrols have been increased at Whitely Landing.

Ideas generated by the PAC were:

- Use of Alcohol by Special Use Permit only
- Partial Closure of Park – Open half the year, closed other half
- Neighborhood watch
- Contact other surrounding landowners for a meeting – i.e. Delta Sand & Gravel
- Security Cameras
- Fence

Winter, with staff involvement, will continue to work with the Ruhlman's to find a solution.

IV. Feasibility Study – Commercial User Permit for McKenzie River

Winter did an overview of what fees are charged on other rivers throughout Oregon for the same type of use of federal, state, and county facilities. Winter stated he has had discussions with the other stakeholders on the McKenzie River – McKenzie River Guides Assoc., EWEB, BLM, Forest Service, and ODFW. All are aware of the possible program implementation. Winter reviewed Lane Manual language that would allow such a program to be implemented by the Parks Division. The guides would assume liability since they are conducting business on County property. PAC suggested a public education campaign so there is better understanding

of how funding occurs for the Parks Division and how many facilities are owned and/or maintained by the County on the McKenzie River. Winter stated a feasibility study would take place prior to implementation and report back the results to the PAC at a future meeting.

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

- **Armitage Campground Update & Grand Opening**

Winter handed out pictures of the construction of the campground. Stated that tentative opening would be November 15. A grand opening would be planned and PAC would be invited to attend. Details to come. Winter handed out a campground fee comparison. Per night charge had not be set to date and asked for PAC input. Consensus was to charge more than currently charged at Harbor Vista and Richardson due to there being more amenities available compared to those two parks owned and operated by Lane County. Winter to report back on final rate to be charged. Winter also discussed the sponsorship by Comcast that was taking place for cable and Wi-Fi installation. Spiro reviewed the marketing recognition that Comcast will receive for the sponsorship.

- **Whitely Landing Concerns**

Item moved to after Public Comment.

- **Roadside Rest Areas – Report Back on Parking Time Limit**

Winter informed the PAC that the 30 minutes for use of certain parks, that are part of the Roadside Rest Area program, without paying the parking fee is going well. There have been no complaints and no citations given for abuse.

- **Future Meeting Times**

Winter asked PAC members if the meeting start time of 6:00 pm. was still a good time. Kennedy stated that it is the earliest she can arrive from work. PAC agreed to leave the start time at 6:00 pm.

- **Vacant PAC Position**

Winter stated the PAC could interview applicants for filling the vacant PAC position. Staff to find out if any past applicants are still eligible to be interviewed and let the PAC know. If a request of applications needs to be advertised staff will post.

- **White Oak Project**

Winter handed out an educational brochure for the Oregon White Oak Pilot Project that was conducted by the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah. The public education took place to hold down miss understandings of what was taking place at Mount Pisgah with the tree removal. Only Firs were removed as part of the project.

- **Other**

Bottge asked for an update on the Parks Master Plan. Winter stated that the process is moving forward and anticipated completion within 2009. Staff changes within the Transportation & Traffic Division, who are working on the plan, have delayed the completion. However, Celia Barry, Transportation & Traffic Division Manager, has assigned a staff person to complete the plan.

VII. Good of the Order/Concerns of the Committee

Next meeting scheduled for November 10, 2008.

VIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by Loralyn Spiro