

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Zoom Meeting
Tuesday March 9, 2021
3:00pm – 4:30pm

1. Call to Order.

2. Roll Call

A. Voting Board Members –

{Vacant Position} (Dist. 1)
Mary Rollins (Dist. 2)
John Dewhirst (Dist. 3)
Steve Yandl (Dist. 4) (Notes)
Bob McCarty (Dist. 5) (Chair)

x
x
x
x

David Divoky (At Large)
Mike Farrell (At Large)
Darrell Olson (At Large)
John Tam (At Large)
Shawn Tobin (At Large)
John Ewald (Filling Vacancy)

x
x
x
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x
x

B. Staff (Parks and other County Departments or agencies) – Sharon Swan (meeting host), Tom Teigen, Carol Ohlfs, Tammy Dunn (ex officio), Rose Intveld.

C. Guests – Jacob Vail (future board member), Jamie Holland, Shannon Crawford.

D. Note that John Tam, voting board member, had challenges signing in through Zoom so was present for a fair amount of time but unable to participate in the meeting.

3. Review Minutes of February 2021. No changes needed and the minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Public Hearings/Meetings

A. None to announce.

5. Oral Requests from the Audience/Correspondence

A. Jamie Holland inquired if there was a timeline regarding a timeline for any RFP to establish bmx facilities at McCollum Park. She indicated volunteer groups were ready to assist in track preparation.

(1) Sharon Swan did not have a definitive answer but indicated the RFP would likely be out within several weeks and the process to make an award and get things going was probably a two month or longer process.

6. General Business

A. Park board vacancy – Rob Putnam submitted his resignation from the board so there is now a vacancy for a member to represent Council District 1. John Ewald continues to serve until his position is filled with the anticipated addition of Jacob Vail.

B. Spring Field Trip.

(1) The April 13 meeting will commence at 2pm. We will meet at Willis Tucker Park at 2pm although members option to take their own vehicles will get schedules and directions from Sharon and meet the bus or busses at the first stop, likely the Kayak Point Gold Course location. We will also likely visit Whitehorse trail campground.

- (2) The busses can only accommodate 3 passengers plus driver due to Covid. Based on the number of members expressing interest in riding the bus, it is likely we will need two busses.

C. Fee schedule update provided by Kye Iris.

- (1) Kye explained the difference between granting of easements and permissive use and the history of county issued permits that began with county acquisition of a permit from Burlington Northern railroad where situations require that commercial or residential owners need to regularly cross sections of public land for full access to their private property (such as a driveway crossing a trail corridor).
- (2) The residential permit has been a flat \$25 fee for a five-year permit which does not even cover administration costs. The proposed change would have the initial permit fee be \$125 and then \$75 per year for each remaining year for a 5-year permit. The change would not affect current permits, only new applications, or renewals of expiring permits. The new fee would at least cover the cost of administering the permits.
 - (a) The board, after discussion, unanimously endorses this fee increase.

7. Project Status Reports.

A. Construction Projects

- (1) Whitehorse Park – Electrical work to complete as well as punch card items.
- (2) Flowing Lake – Ranger station is nearly completed.
- (3) Wenberg – Ongoing work on ADA restroom.

B. Design Projects

- (1) Meadowdale – getting close.
- (2) Thomas Eddy.
 - (a) Working in tandem with partners at Surface Water Management to restore habitat.
- (3) Corcoron.
- (4) Kayak Point day use area.
- (5) Oso slide memorial.
 - (a) Permits expected within several months.
- (6) Carousel Ranch.
 - (a) Prep for permits.
- (7) Heybrook Ridge.
- (8) Cavalero.
 - (a) More progress anticipated as rainy season comes to an end.

C. Preferred Plan Projects

- (1) Shooting park.
 - (a) Coordination with State DNR.
- (2) Lord Hill park.
 - (a) Holding meetings with users.

D. Long Range Planning.

- (1) Presentation by Carol Ohlfs on the Parks and Recreation Visioning Plan.
 - (a) Described public outreach.

- (b) Priorities
 - (i) Short term actions.
 - (ii) Long term vision.
- (c) Comprehensive plan.
- (d) Detailed the reasons for the plan.
- (e) RCO requirements.
- (f) Not a GMA requirement; this is county driven.

E. Questions and comments from board members to parks staff.

- (1) John Ewald commented on how great the improved campground at Flowing Lake was looking.
- (2) John also asked about the status of a shuttered campground adjacent to Lake Roesiger.
 - (a) Sharon Swan responded that consideration was being given to reopening the park for group camping only to alleviate some of the pressure for additional camping locations but there were challenges to be met.
- (3) The question was asked if anyone from the Audubon society had been consulted on the impacts of spent lead shot and bullets at the new shooting park.
 - (a) They had not been consulted but a great deal of planning was going into containment and recapture of lead at the facility.
- (4) The question was asked if there would be the possibility of a covered bmx facility at Cavallero.
 - (a) Being discussed/considered.
- (5) Mary Rollings asked if local tribes were being consulted regarding potential impact on sacred property in the vicinity of the Oso slide memorial?
 - (a) Sharon Swan indicated that discussions had been held with multiple tribes and planners were being assisted by a state archaeologist.

8. Park Director's Time.

- A. Thanked the capital planning team for hard work and dedication during a challenging time.
- B. Mentioned the dedication of the many staff members who opted to spend weekend time working with families involved in the Oso memorial.
- C. Commented that though it was a rugged year, records have been set for outdoor facilities use such as campgrounds as the public seeks normalcy.
- D. Pride in the high-cost recovery of the parks and recreation department.
- E. Encouraged board members to remain engaged.
- F. Jacob Vail inquired if parks had every considered running surveys through schools, getting students to deliver surveys to their families is an efficient way to reach people likely to have an interest in parks, recreation, conservation, etc.
 - (1) Tom said it was something that had been looked at but historically school districts have been cautious about doing that sort of thing fearing their mere participation might appear to be an endorsement.
- G. Bob McCarty asked about the probability that the fair would be held this year.
 - (1) Tom said the fair as it has traditionally been pretty unlikely but staff has been looking at modified fairs being held for ideas on what can work. The fair would likely be some form of cashless setup for rides, exhibits and possibly food.

H. In response to an inquiry, Tom described logging in the vicinity of Wallace Falls, suggesting it was not a clear cut and though there were strong legitimate opinions against any logging this was good forest management and a responsible use of public property.

(1) Mary Rollins expressed strong opposition to the aggressive logging and contended it was a clear-cut operation regardless of spin. Tom acknowledged the viewpoint she shared.

9. Messages from the Board. Around the Table

A. John Dewhirst

B. David Divoky

C. Tammy Dunn

(1) Working with the disc golf people on upcoming tournament.

(2) Finally, the sports commission is getting clarification on moderate risk sports as to what can and cannot be done. There cannot yet be any round-robin type tournaments which is disappointing, but Tammy is still pleased to now have the needed guidance on what can happen.

(3) Participation in the Sultan gun range ad-hoc committee.

D. John Ewald

E. Mike Farrell

(1) Mike thanked Tom Teigen for the update on the fair which is a big deal to all of us but particularly someone from Monroe.

(2) Monroe parks is breaking ground on new ballfields.

(3) Tom Teigen thanked Mike for his ongoing efforts lobbying the state legislature for a small sales tax to be used in support of parks. Will not likely pass in this session but progress is being made.

F. Bob McCarty

(1) Talking with Sharon on comprehensive plan.

G. Darrell Olson

(1) Recently checked out Wenberg park and was extremely impressed.

H. Mary Rollins

I. John Tam

J. Shawn Tobin

K. Jacob Vail

L. Steve Yandl

10. Adjournment

A. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 4:45pm after several items were tabled.

(1) Future agenda items.

(a) John Ewald recognition

(b) Planning process overview.

(c) Property management fee schedule updates