

Yamhill County Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 21, 2008
Community Corrections Annex

Board Members Present: Al Cronk, Bob Gang, Susan Mundy, Galen McBee, Roger Hall, Casey Rich, Ron Nyman, Mike Hale

Board Members Absent: Tim McDaniel (unexcused)

Staff: Commissioner Kathy George, Ken Huffer

NEXT MEETING
Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Community Corrections Annex

Roger Hall brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 2008 meeting; motion carried.

Stuart Grenfell Park Proposal

- Roger Hall, Galen McBee, Ron Nyman and Ken will visit Stuart Grenfell Park on Thursday, April 24th at 1:00 p.m. to assess possibilities for the site.
- Susan Mundy recommended Park Board members develop a plan, i.e. visions, regarding what they would like to do with Stuart Grenfell prior to involving ODOT.
- Roger would like to ask the current property owner if she is willing to rent, sell, loan, lease or donate the property to the County prior to beginning any planning regarding the site.
- Galen suggested talking to adjacent property owners, including the owner wanting to possibly do a land swap, regarding whether or not they are interested in seeing any changes at the site prior to development of a plan.
- Commissioner George advised Park Board members to get their small, medium and long term visions for the property in place prior to presenting them to the property owner and then ODOT.

State Marine Board Grant

- Ken announced the Park Department was awarded a State Marine Board grant in the amount of \$64,000.

- The next step involves State Marine Board engineers helping design the lighting, conduit and installation locations. Ken hopes to begin breaking ground on the project in August or September 2008.
- The project will enhance the lighting and expand the security system at Rogers Landing.

Equestrian Trail Proposal

- Ken attended a very informative meeting held with members of the Oregon Equestrian Trail, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Parks - Trail Program, Weyerhaeuser, Oregon Department of Forestry and Yamhill County Parks regarding equestrian trails or trailhead.
- Weyerhaeuser has liability concerns regarding people on their property and therefore do not want the project advertised, put it in brochures, or put it on a map as a trailhead.
- BLM (Bureau of Land Management) has concerns as they have most of the sites identified as OHV (Off Highway Vehicles) and equestrian use was not part of their planning process. Any new trails on BLM managed lands would trigger a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) review process, which is costly and requires a significant amount of time and resources to conduct.
- ODF (Oregon Department of Forestry), who managed the property for DSL (Division of State Lands), is looking at the trailhead site regarding whether or not it is something they need to reactivate for future timber operations, getting gravel from an old quarry, etc.
- Everyone at the meeting stated if the ODF engineers say there is no value to putting the old quarry back into operation, they would support developing the trailhead.
- The big question is determining whose site it is and who will maintain the trailhead: County, State Parks or BLM?

Charles Metsker Park

Clear cut at Metsker

- Ken shared pictures of the garbage left behind at the unofficial shooting range a short distance from Metsker. The buildings at Metsker can be seen from the shooting site.
- Ken spoke with Scott Marlaga of Weyerhaeuser about the situation. His first reaction was for Weyerhaeuser and BLM to install a gate closing Baker Creek Road. Ken suggested trying other means to alleviate the situation before cutting off access to other public grounds above the site.
- Ron Wellborn has already been in communication with Weyerhaeuser's ranger regarding the situation.
- Ken is putting together a proposal to get feedback from Weyerhaeuser regarding partnering a cleanup project. The proposal would ask if Weyerhaeuser would help pay the disposal costs; the County would provide the labor and organize a

volunteer event to clean the site. Ken would also like to get the News Register to run a story about the situation to inform the public before this and other sites become gated.

- Susan suggested trying to get funding for the project from SOLV.
- It was suggested if the site is kept cleaned it may discourage people from using the site as a shooting range/dumping ground.
- Ken also suggested installing carsonite signs at the site.

Metsker Park – issues

- Ken advised there is a very serious rodent problem in the old lab at the site. He has been working with an exterminator for the past year.
- Considering the large number of groups utilizing the park the following projects need to be accomplished:
 - New vehicle bridge
 - Repair shelter
 - Vandalism issues
 - Break-in issues with the shelter
 - Potable water
 - Single vault restroom cannot be accessed for service because of the closed bridge.
 - A single restroom is not sufficient for the number of kids using the site.
 - There is currently no ADA access to the park because of the damaged bridge.
- Funding sources could include:
 - An OYCC grant will be utilized to cut trails through portions of the park and tying it in with the Rainbow Lodge property.
 - Bill Healey Foundation – Metsker meets the criteria for outdoor education and youth.
 - Oregon Parks and Recreation grants.
 - Other Federal and State funds.
 - Donations.
- Dredging the lake
 - Discussion revolved around whether or not to dredge the lake, which costs a considerable amount of money.
 - Letting the lake return to a meadow/wetland area with a creek running through it.
 - Leave a partial lake and meadow, which would in turn encourage the return of flora and fauna and thus create a greater learning experience for youth.

Tangleboxing 2008

- The same eight parks will be part of Tangleboxing as last year.
- Ken would like the clues turned into him by May 5th. GPS coordinates would be appreciated.

- Kick off will be prior to the end of school in June.
- Ken will send out an email as he needs help taking flyers to different elementary schools, locations, etc.
- Rose Hollingsworth, last year's intern, may be available to help with Tangleboxing and other projects again this summer.

Partners for Parks

- Ken provided Park Board members with the history of Partners for Parks serving as an umbrella for other 'friends' support groups in gaining grants and other funding for various parks around the county. It was recently decided to disband the group due to the lack of participation in several years.
- Galen advised Park Board members in his 30 years with the City of McMinnville none of the major projects were accomplished by government, per se. It was always a citizen group; the Aquatic Center by the Swim Team; the Fire Department by the volunteers; Friends of the Library, etc. who drove the project to finality.
- Commissioner George stated the people whom we apply to for grants want to know there is community behind a project.
- Ken advised Jeb Bladine, who is with Friends of Metsker Park, the Parks Department is trying to improve conditions at Metsker Park.
- Friends of Metsker Park has previously fundraised monies that were set aside for Metsker Park.
- Casey stated he is interested in sitting down with Lynette Studebaker regarding Partners for Parks. He'll also see if David Primozich would be interested in this endeavor.
- Park Board members suggested developing a consensus that there is a vital need for Partners for Parks and to pursue whatever it takes to ensure its continuance.

Staff Report

- Park Board vacancies are posted on the website; weekly government calendar notices, etc; no responses as yet.
- Waiting for weather to improve before starting on work on the Lafayette Park shelter.
- Rogers Landing fee station will be reinstalled soon.
- Ed Grenfell Park will be opening within the next week and the other parks will follow shortly.

Items for next meeting

- Update on Stuart Grenfell Park
- Update on Equestrian Trailhead project
- Update on Metsker Park to include shooting range and improvements at the park

G:bonfielk/parks/ 080421_prkmin