

Clatsop County Recreation Lands Planning Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Thursday, December 11, 2008

Members Present: Carolyn Eady, Marc Auerbach, Kim Kines, Gail Galen

Members Absent: Michael Hinton (excused)

Others Present: Nicole Williams, Linda Dygert, Steve Meshke, Corey Johnson, Larry Sprouse (Oregon Department of Forestry), and Macy Yates (Oregon Department of Forestry)

Chair Galen called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Steve Meshke introduced Corey Johnson who was recently hired as the Park Ranger/Maintenance person in the Parks Department. Johnson said that he moved to the Pacific Northwest five years ago. He graduated from OSU and worked at Nehalem Bay State Park. His job is to take care of maintenance concerns in the parks and he can be reached at Meshke's former number in the Parks office. Everyone welcomed him to the county.

Steve Meshke said he has been working with Johnson for the past month and has been developing projects for the budget season. He noted that the Star of the Sea School would like to make a presentation about a science project at a future meeting. He said that logging is complete in all sites and a contract is in place for planting trees at Klootchey in February. He said that 600 trees - a mixture of spruce, cedar, and western hemlock - will be planted. He noted that the cedar will need to be protected from deer and elk. He said that RK Reforesting will be doing the planting at Klootchey as well as other county sites including Williamsport. He said a total of 20,000 trees will be planted where the alders were removed.

Meshke distributed a 2009-2010 Parks Department funding request that he and Johnson have been discussing. Projects include:

Replacement of docks at Cullaby Lake.

John Day Boat Ramp Fish Cleaning Station/Septic System Renovation – having trouble with septic system there but working ok after pumping. He said that ODFW would like to have a fish cleaning station there which they would build but it would have to be maintained. He said that all wastes would have to be pumped at a cost of \$750 each time and he estimated that would need to be done 2-3 times during the season. He said that a plastic dumpster for fish carcasses would cost about \$300/month. ODFW also proposes a station at the east mooring basin in Astoria. Meshke isn't sure the project is cost effective.

Reconstruction of Cullaby Lake BBQ Shelter – He said Tongue Point students may be able to do the brick work. He said the addition of two roofs would cost about \$25,000.

Cullaby Lake Utility Vehicle – He said a new one is needed and the proposal will be to purchase an electric vehicle with funding to be allocated from the Parks, Land Acquisition and Maintenance fund.

Riding Lawnmower and Truck Replacement – He is going to try to fund this from the special projects budget but the purchase may need to come from the Parks, Land Acquisition and Maintenance Fund.

Kiosks – He would like to establish a standard entry point informational center at Cullaby Lake, Carnahan, Klootch Creek, John Day and Lee Wooden using a standard design that State Parks uses.

Cullaby Lake Entrance Gate – He said the present gates are deteriorating and need replacement.

Park Signage Projects – He said this would include road signs along the highway.

Lee Wooden – He said this would include the parking lot relocation.

Park Signage and Environmental Assessment – He said that these request for proposals are on hold.

Unallocated Projects – He would like to allocate \$50,000 from the Parks, Land Acquisition and Maintenance fund for grant projects.

Meshke noted that projected costs are included on the last page of the document.

Carolyn Eady asked what it would cost to restore the current parking lot at Lee Wooden and Meshke said they may leave the parking lot intact and put in some plantings. He noted some of the rock may be able to be used on the new lot. Eady said that the restoration should be clarified.

Eady asked about the enterprise loan money at Westport and Nicole Williams said the issue is still on the table. Meshke said that he can budget \$200,000 for Westport if the money does come in.

Galen asked about insurance money for Cullaby and Meshke said he hasn't heard anything. Galen asked if the shelter roofs will be designed to match others and Meshke said he is leaning toward metal roofs.

Auerbach asked about the request for proposals for park signage. He noted that the report is done and should be ready for approval. Meshke said the RFP has been discussed and is on hold for now. Auerbach said a cohesive look is needed for parks, i.e. entryway signage, gates, kiosks, shelters, etc. He said it is important to go ahead and would be in favor of spending the money. Meshke and Williams will get together to discuss the project further. Auerbach noted that the entrance at Lee Wooden may be

able to be restored and could be a joint project with the elk refuge so that people who visit the refuge will visit the park as well. Eady asked about the property across the street from Lee Wooden. Larry Sprouse said the property is on Hamilton Creek and has a covered shelter and group camping area. He said signage could include all three areas. Macy Yates said a 42-acre piece of property past the Jewell cutoff has been acquired that needs forest management.

Auerbach said that the John Day dumpster proposal could be a huge problem and that everybody will use it. He said there is a concern about septic if the ground is saturated and that an engineering solution would probably be needed but agreed something needs to be done at some point. Yates said that a camp host would be an option. Auerbach asked Williams if the park fund is budgeted and Williams said that supplemental budget requests could be done throughout the year or a transfer from the contingency budget. Auerbach said if we know we are going to do a project, it should be put in the budget. He said that Big Creek should be added to the list because adequate background work has been done to create a pro-forma plan. Meshke said he knows the project could be a drain based on other facilities he has seen. Eady commented that the county is here to provide services for visitors and somebody should analyze the project to see what it would cost. She said it could be managed tightly in the peak season but a study is needed to determine that. Auerbach said he would like to see a line item for a camp ground feasibility study. Galen said these items can be put on a future agenda.

Parkland Stewardship & Signage Updates:

Nicole Williams said that the Board of Commissioners are fine with the proposals but want to include some other county-owned property as part of a study, i.e. Battle Creek tidelands (13 acres in Warrenton), Carnahan County Park (Boy Scout camp), Twilight Eagle Sanctuary (15 acres), Astoria Column, Williamsport Road, Warrenton Cedar Street wetlands, and Camp Kiwonilong. She said there is a possibility of transferring some of these properties to the county park system. She said the selection process has been changed to include county staff as part of the evaluation. She asked if the entire Rec Lands Committee should be included or a representative and Auerbach suggested the Chair and Vice Chair. Williams asked if a vote is needed and Auerbach said he doesn't think so.

Regional Recreation Providers Coordination Issues: Larry Sprouse from the Oregon Department of Forestry said there is a need for a forum for recreation providers and proposes establishing a group to meet a couple times a year including the county, state, Fort Clatsop, Warrenton, etc. He said that the agencies could learn much from each other and would be able to 'get more bang for the buck'. Eady said that the formation of such a committee would be a good thing providing., opportunities for coordination and standards. She gave the example of trail development which crosses borders. Sprouse said that one item for discussion would be the trail that comes down from the Astoria column. Yates said that the National Park Service is producing a brochure showing trails in Clatsop County and across the river, i.e. Fort Canby. She said that outdoor recreational opportunities in general could be included. All members agreed that a group should be started and Sprouse said he would bring information back to the committee.

2007-2008 Events and Accomplishments:

Auerbach said he had no comment. Galen noted that there is no comment about Westport and Meshke said that Georgia Pacific is awaiting word from DEQ regarding test wells but it is still on the radar scope. Eady asked if it should be noted that the monies from the sale of Delaura Beach are to go to the parks acquisition fund. Galen said she would add that in. Eady noted that the signage RFP is expected to be issued in early 2009. Eady asked if the Board of Commissioners would consider assigning a Commissioner to attend meetings if only on a quarterly basis. Galen said she would try to get that item on a future Commissioners' agenda. She said she would make changes noted and send to the Board of Commissioners with a letter. Auerbach said that an oral presentation may be needed.

Evaluate Meeting Schedule: After discussion, the consensus of the group was that the current schedule is fine, i.e. meetings every other month with committee meetings in between. Galen noted that a flip chart is helpful. Eady said that the committee is down to five members and that she and Auerbach's terms are up in February. Galen said she will ask Meshke to talk to the Commissioners' office about the vacancies. Eady suggested a newspaper article about the hiring of Corey Johnson and include the fact that members are needed. Johnson said the website needs to be updated. Galen said that the next meeting will be in February and Meshke will contact the Star of the Sea School to be on the agenda.

Election of 2009 Officers:

Eady made a motion to nominate Gail Galen as chair for 2009. Auerbach made a motion to nominate Michael Hinton as chair. The nominations were closed and Galen called for a vote. Eady, Kines, and Auberbach voted that Gail Galen be 2009 Chair. The vote was closed by acclamation with Galen Galen being elected Chair and Michael Hinton being elected Vice Chair for 2009.

Minutes of October 30 Meeting:

Eady said that on page I, Minutes of August 14, 2008 Meeting, first sentence, the comment was made by Gail Galen instead of Carolyn Eady. *Auerbach made and Eady seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2008 meeting as amended. Motion passed unanimously.*

Member Reports:

Eady shared an article written ten years ago about a proposed RV park at Cullaby Lake. She noted there was an article about Youngs River Falls in the Coast Weekend.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

_____ Date Minutes accepted by Committee _____
Chair Signature