

*JACKSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2013*

The regular meeting of the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee was called to order by David Gray in the Jackson County Roads Auditorium, 7520 Table Rock Road, Central Point, at 12:10 PM.

Present were:

David Gray	Member
Tom Hilton	Member
Teresa Morris	Member
Dave Wieczorek	Member

Not Present were:

Sue King	Chair
Steve Gies	Member
Debi Johnson	Member
Rick Thomas	Member

Also Present were:

Don Skundrick	Commissioner, Jackson County
Harvey Bragg	Senior Deputy County Administrator, Jackson County
J Domis	Deputy Director, Jackson County Roads and Parks
Steve Lambert	Parks Program Manager, Jackson County Parks
Debbie Hanker	Administrative Assistant, Jackson County Parks
Jill Hammond	Office Assistant III, Jackson County Parks

Guests / Visitors:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Quorum was not met at start of meeting. The minutes of the February 27, 2013 meeting remain open for corrections, additions and approval.

INTRODUCTIONS

We welcome Dave Wieczorek and Tom Hilton as our new Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee members.

Tom Hilton – Has lived in Medford area since 1977. Before his retirement in 2004, Tom worked for City of Medford Parks Department as the Recreation Superintendent, in charge of recreation programs, such as tennis, swimming, adult leagues, etc. Frequently utilizes County park boat ramps in upper Rogue area and occasionally Howard Prairie.

Dave Wieczorek – Worked for the Ashland Parks Department; mostly with sports turf. Retired about 1½ years ago. Frequents Howard Prairie often and lives near Emigrant Lake.

PRAC MEETING SCHEDULE

A few committee members brought up having an alternative meeting schedule. Some options include:

- Quarterly meetings
- Monthly meetings
- Every-other-month
- No summer meetings
- More in-park tours (meet at location or transportation via park vehicle)
- Meeting in the park/park shelter (instead of Auditorium)
- Keep members updated through emails on non-meeting months
- Have every third meeting at a different park (start meeting earlier in day)

Members were asked to send an email or telephone office with additional ideas, thoughts or concerns.

EMIGRANT LAKE UPDATE

Entrance booth is manned during busiest times of day 11 am to 7:30 pm daily, off Tuesday & Wednesday.

Liquid Blue Stand Up Paddle Board operates from Memorial Day to Labor Day at the park. They have been great to work with and offer another great amenity for Emigrant Lake guests.

Waterslide continues to operate well. The recent wildfires and area smoke have had direct impact on our camping and waterslide numbers; resulting in thousands of dollars of refunds/cancellations already. Complete budget update will be given at next meeting.

Emigrant Lake Point RV Park will remain open year-round for the first time.

HOWARD PRAIRIE UPDATE

Park operations have been going well this season at the Resort; campgrounds, marina, moorage slips and buoys, rentals etc. Working with Mt Ashland for restaurant and store operations has been a very productive, professional and collaborative relationship.

A few PRAC members shared they've heard some great comments about how the County Parks is operating the Resort, running smoothly, very positive.

Lots of work by Park employees to get things ready to go for the opening of park this year.

Jackson County Parks has partnered with Sheriff's department to patrol campgrounds during busy times.

RV rental deliveries from Mike's RV have work well for our guests as an alternative with schooners gone.

Water levels are currently low due to multiple reasons including not a lot of precipitation in January or February, BOR and TID didn't start filling lake until around March. Another impact is the judication process with minimal flow requirements. We will need to pay very close attention to this over the next few years. Steve Lambert will present more information at September meeting.

Docks were not moved out this year. Docks are not in condition to be left out in middle of lake during winter months. Additional buoys were added this year to deeper water in order to accommodate current boat guests in shallow water. Steve Lambert sent emails to moorage slip & buoy guests to keep them updated and informed of water levels and current conditions.

Parks has received 100% funded grant from Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) to install boat/vessel waste disposal station near top of ramp by fish cleaning station. This is a small unit designed specifically for boaters. Helps keep our waterways clean.

North campground – Restroom/Shower replacement project. Existing bathroom will be closed after Labor Day for removal. Replacement Restroom/Shower CXT building will be installed.

ROGUE RIVER RECREATION PLAN

This project was started about 1½ years ago after removal of Gold Ray Dam. Jackson County Parks wanted to take a proactive approach to use and use changes through a Public process. Majority of public does not want this section of river to change. By next month should have a draft proposal for PRAC presentation.

Steve Lambert and John Vial will be traveling to Portland in September for a national conference of statewide boaters access to make presentation on removal of Gold Ray Dam project, how it affected recreation, what we've done since then and working with Park Service.

SENATE BILL 331 UPDATE

This was legislature that would have altered the current RV licensing distribution of 35/65 to 50/50 then down to 45/55. It had great support from Senate and House but then got to Ways and Means Subcommittee and bill sat for two months. Ultimately SB-331 did not pass. State Parks budget was one of the last ones to get passed. At last minute a Budget Note was put in their budget which directs state Parks to work with Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) to find a solution to County Parks deferred maintenance needs.

MONTHLY REPORTS – PARK and PROJECT UPDATES

- On September 4 we're hosting an Appreciation BBQ at Howard Prairie Resort for all employees, seasonal staff, volunteers and PRAC members.
- Seasonal Campground Closures
 - September 16
 - Cantrall Buckley
 - September 30
 - Apserkaha
 - Grizzly
 - Klum Landing
 - Willow Point
 - Rogue Elk (Tent sites – upriver/east side)
 - October 14
 - Emigrant Lake Oak Slope
 - October 28
 - Lily Glen
 - Rogue Elk (main sites)
 - Willow Lake
 - October 31
 - Howard Prairie Resort
- Emigrant Lake RV Park is staying open year round for the first time this year.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / TOPICS

- Bureau of Reclamation – Direct briefing/update from BOR on lakes and projects.
- Inter-governmental Discussion on Policies – How JCP fits in.
- Add to future agenda – Park sponsors.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:41 PM.