



Josephine County, Oregon

Board of Commissioners: Cherryl Walker, K.O. Heck, Simon G. Hare

JOSEPHINE COUNTY PARKS

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JOSEPHINE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (PAB) WORKSHOP

Workshop Minutes

August 9, 2016 – 3:00 PM

Josephine County Courthouse, Rm 157

Members Present: Doug Richardson, Larry Ford, Diana Orlor, Richard Fowler, Bob Chard, Doyle Nelson and Sue Fahey

Staff Present: Sarah Wright

Absent: Rycke Brown and RJ Jackson

Guests: None

Quorum: Established

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM by PAB Chair, Doug Richardson

This reason for this workshop is due to the complaint letter that was received at the last PAB Meeting in regards to the disc golf course at Indian Mary Park. The letter specifically addressed safety concerns for sites 90-92. Parks has also received a previous safety concerns about sites 54-58.

The members discussed option for the disc golf course, specifically about the option for moving the course to day use areas. Sarah stated that the Picnic Areas A and B are often heavily used on the weekend, often they are reserved with paying customers. The big field that current has baskets 5 & 6 is also often used for overflow parking, and sometime picnic tables are moved to the location to accommodate the amount of people in the park. Bob also mentioned that the volleyball net, in the large field next to 54-58, prevents the disc golf basket from being moved any farther away from the camping spots. Sarah proposed that hedges may be a good solution to act as a natural barrier along the sites at 54-58.

Dick stated that when he plans his camping trips, he will only stay at locations that have disc golf courses. The question was then asked how many of the courses typically intertwine with campground sites, it was decided that no others have been seen, typically the course is around the perimeter or set up in day use only areas.

Dick suggested moving the tee for 5 towards basket 6, Bob stated that they are already very close. Additionally, the locations are only about 50 feet from the drop off to the river and shouldn't be moved any closer both for safety and for the prevention of lost discs.

Doyle reminded the group that the BCC is looking to minimize liability and that the PAB needs to look at standards for the design of the course to ensure they are abided by. The PAB needs to look at the system as a whole, not just Indian Mary, and analyze the parks with courses and the design of courses to determine if any changes need to be made. Once standards are established, problem areas can be analyzed and then set a plan in place to make fixes as funds allow.

Larry asked if there is a way to move the disc course at Indian Mary away from the camping and picnic areas, perhaps on the property next to the park currently? Sarah confirmed that the campsites go up to our property boundaries and there is no additional room to expand at this time. The property across the road was brought up, but was then stated it is too steep and wooded to be usable property.

The group then asked about standards for disc golf course design. Bob stated that there are no official national standards for design, but are some guidelines – there are regulations for the type of equipment. When Bob designs courses, he first looks for land, a parking lot and bathrooms – courses need about 1 acre of land per hole, but can be more wooded than a standard golf course. Doyle asked about conflicts with other types of activity users, Bob stated that he typically uses a minimum of 50 feet buffer from other activities, although he prefers no other activities. He always tries to design a safe course.

Sue brought up the idea of barriers and stated that why not look at other type of barriers apart from hedges. Perhaps the RCC metal shop would be interested in designing an art piece that could be installed, hedges can take some time to grow. It may be a good immediate fix if baskets can't be moved. Doyle stated we should stay away from any structures that require maintenance and Sue mentioned that it might also create a safety issues with people climbing on something such as this. Sarah would like to stay with natural or artsy type

additions to parks, if this was a direction the PAB wanted to go in, they would need to help reach out to groups to make this happen as the Parks Department doesn't have the resources.

Doug asked if the disc course at Indian Mary was conducive to business, he had spoken to the hosts at Indian Mary who weren't able to tell if it helped or hurt revenue. Sarah stated that had the course not currently been at the park, the decision would be not to add it now. However, it is used heavily by locals and doesn't recommend removing it altogether at this time. The course was added in 1991, Bob was not involved with its design.

The field below sites 90-92, where the course has baskets 5 and 6, will be getting a leach field within 2 years. This will allow the dump station to be opened back up – which is currently closed down. This may be a good time to move tees and baskets, although the leach field won't affect disc golf play. Larry suggested moving 5 and 6 downhill further, it was again suggested there isn't much room to move them. The launch pads could be moved further down, but then the angle of the basket might cause more discs to go up hill and into campsites. Hedges were brought up for this location as well, Sarah is unsure if the hedges will be a good solution sites 90-92 have a large hill and are often booked for the openness of the sites.

Design of courses and standards were again brought up. Bob did state that he is one of three people in Oregon who are trained to design disc golf courses. The group discussed if anything should be suggested to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). PAB asked the Parks Manager what she is looking for as a solution from PAB. Sarah stated that she feels comfortable with the Parks Department working on a solution from here. Several questions were answered that were tasked to the PAB for the purpose of this meeting.

1. Do we want to keep Disc Golf at Indian Mary? Answer: Yes
2. Does something need to be done about the current disc golf layout? Answer: Yes, fix safety concerns for baskets 4,5 and 6.
3. What should be done? Answer: The Parks Manager will discuss options with the Parks Ranger and work with the Bob Chard if design changes are needed.

The discussion was then moved to the weeds out in Lake Selmac. Dick stated that the lake weed is a huge issues, Parks has received complaint letters and the weeds make it very hard to boat, fish and swim. Doyle recommended hiring a consultant and to work with the state weed board. Larry offered to reach out to someone he knows that can make recommendations on the care. Sarah stated that the Park Rangers have been researching options, but there are pros and cons to all treatments. Snails and fish that eat the weeds are an option, as well as chemical treatments, but Parks is concerned about unforeseen issues with adding new species to the lake, and also dangers of chemical treatments as Parks makes drinking water from the lake.

The Parks Department believes that the best solution will be to drag the bottom of the lake with volunteers who have previously offered. Additionally, the when the lake freezes over in the winter, the weeds naturally die off, however we have not had a cold winter in some time. The PAB agreed to help with organizing a volunteer effort to drag the lake. Dick will assist with reaching out to the fishing and boating groups when the time comes. It was agreed that early spring will be a good target to set up the volunteer efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Next Parks Projects Workshop: None scheduled at this time.

Next PAB Meeting: August 23, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Wright, Parks Manager

Reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners this _____ day of _____,
2016.

Board of County Commissioners

Cherryl Walker, Chair

K. O. Heck, Vice Chair

Simon G. Hare, Commissioner