



Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

July 16, 2009

8:00 a.m. – 9:45 p.m. Commission Executive Session

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Business Meeting

Inn at Cross Keys Station, Madras

7/16/2009 Meeting Minutes

Those attending all or part of the meeting included:

Commissioners Present:

Jim Parr, Chair

Jay Graves, Vice-chair

Robin Risley

Sharon Rudi

Brad Chalfant

Staff:

Tim Wood, Director

Chris Havel, Communications Coordinator

Roger Roper, Assistant Director, Heritage Programs

Lisa Van Laanen, Assistant Director, Administration

John Potter, Assistant Director, Operations

Kathy Schutt, Planning Division Manager

Kyleen Stone, Assistant Director Rec Programs and Planning

Steve Shipsey, Assistant Attorney General

Vanessa DeMoe, Commission Assistant

Wayne Rawlins, Grants Division Manager

Cliff Houck, Property and Resource Manager

Mark Davison, Master Planner

Connie Bradley, Acting Manager, Oregon State Fair

Terry Bergerson, Planning Coordinator

Marilyn Borgelt, Reservations Program Manager

Larry Miller, Region Manager

Richard Walkoski, Recreation Programs Manager

Bill Crawford,

Visitors Present:

Lara Parr, Guest

Tygh Parr, Guest

Mike Morgan, Madras City Administrator

Melanie Widmer, Mayor of Madras

Holli Van Wert, Executive Director, Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce

Gus Burril, Madras Public Works Director

Sara Puddy, Madras Public Works Admin Assistant

Nicholas Snead, Director of Madras Community Development

Jonathan Burchell, Madras Parks Supervisor

Kristin Cotugno, ODF Assistant District Forester

Jim Myron, Representing Native Fish Society

Kreg Lindberg, DogPac

Gregg Smith, Friends of Bates

Bruce Ronning, ORTAC

Kevin Blakely, ODFW

Josh Kling, Western Rivers Conservancy

Executive Session

8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

The Commission met in Executive Session to discuss acquisition priorities and opportunities. The executive session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e).

Business Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Honorable Melanie Widmer, Mayor of Madras and Mike Morgan, City Administrator welcomed the Commission, staff and guests to Madras. Mr. Morgan gave an introduction to the presentation provided by Gus Burril, Madras Public Works Director and Sara Puddy, Public Works Administrative Assistant.

Virtual Tour of Madras Parks Projects:

- A Growing Community:
- Integration of Plans & Decisions
- Madras Trails Plan and Projects
- C Street Pedestrian Bridge Project
- Buff Street Pedestrian Project
- North Y Trail Connection
- Willow Creek Trail Improvements
- Park Locations
- Sahalee Park
- Bike and Skate Park
- Other Development: City view, COCC Campus, Aquatic Center
- What's in the future?

Discussion

Commissioner Rudi asked how fast Madras is growing. Mr. Burril replied that Madras has doubled in the last 20 years. In 1990 the population was 2900 and today Madras has reached 6600.

Commissioner Graves complimented the city on the forward thinking recreation opportunity that the skate park provides. He also commented on "Safe Routes to Schools," and asked when it became part of the cities planning efforts. Mr. Burril shared that Ms. Puddy led the effort with the school district to reinstate the action plan. Ms. Puddy added that an application was submitted in June for a grant as a part of the Safe Routes to Schools program. She provided additional information on the networking, support, outreach and a Safe Routes to Schools analysis done of the city.

Commissioner Chalfant asked about the Willow Creek Rail to Trail trail; is the trail managed by the city? Mr. Burril replied that the city actively manages the first mile of the 7 miles. Priority is to complete the loop in town and then continue down to Lake Simtustus.

1. **Commission Business**
 - a) Approval of Agenda (Action)

Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve the July Commission agenda. Commissioner Risley seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

2. **Public Comment:** *This time was for the public to address matters **not** included in the agenda.*

Kreg Lindberg, DogPac

Non Profit organization in Bend, 1200 members.

- Educate dog owners out on trails on public lands
- Work with agencies that manage recreation in parks to sustain opportunities for dog owners
- Work to develop new opportunities for dog owners
- Acquiring a dog is a health benefit and gets people more active
- Provide opportunities for non-dog owners as well

Mr. Lindberg shared that DogPac will be applying for an RTP Grant to help expand a trail.

Commissioner Chalfant commented that he has witnessed the work done by DogPac; what they have done to bridge conflict between dog owners and others may be a model for other communities dealing with these issues.

Bruce Ronning, Chair of ORTAC

Mr. Ronning distributed an agenda for the Saturday ORTAC meeting; the Commission was invited to attend. Mr. Ronning stated that ORTAC has been working on a revision to the OAR that designates statewide scenic and regional trails. He said that they are also developing a manual for those applying for state trail designation. Mr. Ronning discussed the concept of the Deschutes Crooked River Greenway. He explained that the plan is similar in concept to the Oregon Coast Trail and the Rogue River Greenway plans.

3. **Approval of the May 21, 2009 Commission Meeting Minutes (Action)**

Commissioner Rudi moved to approve the May Commission minutes. Commissioner Risley seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

4. **Director's Update (Information)**

- a) Legislative Session

Director Wood recognized Ryan Sparks for his service as the agency's legislative coordinator during the 2009 Legislative Session. He gave a brief summary of key bills that had an affect of the agency; highlighting:

- SB192 - Historic Properties Special Assessment Program
- HB2020 – Invasive Species
- SB578 – changes structure of the ATV Allocation committee
- SB5522 – Budget bill for ODF
- Mainstreet Program
- Special Session in February

- b) Stimulus Projects

- \$860,000 from the Oregon Way Program, funds were provided by the state, to state agencies. With the exception of Wallowa Lake docks all projects are completed.
 - 1.6 million from ODOT for 11 for projects providing rest area service; all projects are moving forward
- c) Budget Update
Lisa Van Laanen, Assistant Director of Administration

- Budget bill was signed by the Governor on July 7, 2009
- Adjustments for agency assessments
- Salary and furlough reductions
- Labor negotiations are still underway. The Governor has extended negotiations 30 days; meeting every Monday & Tuesday.

Commissioner Graves asked who the lead person is at negotiations. Ms. Van Laanen replied that the Human Resources Manager, Sherri Frank, is at the central table.

Director Wood stated that an additional item for discussion is the 2010 Commission dates. He will be sending out an email with dates and locations for the Commissions review and comment. Director Wood said that the 2010 Commission schedule will be approved at the September meeting.

5. Consent Calendar

- a) Approval of Delegated Authority Report (Action)
1. Contracts
 2. Natural Resources

Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Risley seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

6. Real Estate (Action)

Cliff Houck, Property and Resource Manager

- a) Land Acquisition Work Plan for the 09-11 Biennium

Mr. Houck stated that with a reduced budget of \$4.2 million expected for land acquisition in the 09-11 biennium, executive session discussions have focused on refining high-level initiatives. This decision item is intended to give staff direction for its immediate and biennium-long land acquisition work, based on Commission priorities.

The target projects include:

- Beaver Creek State Natural Area
- Murtha Ranch
- Rogue River Greenway
- Banks-Vernonia State Trail
- Kam Wah Chung

Mr. Houck requested approval of this agenda item to provide direction for the 09-11 land acquisition work and to move forward with property acquisitions within these targeted initiative areas.

Commission Chair Parr stated that this also includes a commitment to the Park-a-Year program. Mr. Houck discussed the plan with the Commission:

2009 Iwetemykin

2010 Beaver Creek, trail head and trail connections

2011 Bates

2012 Rogue Valley, opening of the trail

2013 Murtha Ranch

Mr. Houck stated that even with these initiatives, when there is a property purchase to be made they would come before the Commission for approval. He said that this action is an endorsement of the work plan and the focus of where we would attempt to make the acquisitions.

Commissioner Graves moved to approve the Land Acquisition Work Plan for the 09-11 Biennium. Commissioner Risley seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b) Acquisition of Murtha Ranch

Mr. Houck said that in order to make progress on the Murtha Ranch initiative, staff has developed a phased approach to acquire the 8,114 acre ranch property owned by the Western Rivers Conservancy. This agenda item described the proposed structure of the transaction and presented a specific request to proceed with the first phase.

Discussion points:

Park Opportunity

Structure of the Transaction

Phase One Acquisition

Preliminary Management Goals

- nature conservation goals
- recreational use goals
- working lands goals
- cultural conservation goals
- scenic landscape conservation goals
- interpretive goals
- administrative goals

Commissioner Chalfant asked if during the interim public access will be given to the portion of land that is being held by Western Rivers. Mr. Houck stated that public access has been granted by Western Rivers for walk in use. He said that Western Rivers was present at the meeting and could talk directly to this issue.

Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC)
Phil Wallin, President

Mr. Wallin stated that the goal as WRC is protection, recreation and restoration. He said that owning as an interim owner has given WRC a chance to do some good things on the property including a restoration plan and projects on Hay Creek. Mr. Wallin stated that WRC is purely in a cooperative posture with state parks. He said that WRC has confidence in OPRD and will encourage public access and use that is compatible with the habitat.

Commissioner Chalfant asked if it is possible to maintain public access to portions of the property under WRC ownership; being mindful of the management challenges. Mr. Wallin replied that WRC is committed to public access and leaving the property open to non-vehicular access. WRC will take the lead from OPRD and participate in the master planning process. He said that the property is available on a management agreement basis to OPRD. Mr. Wallin stated that if OPRD needs the use and control of land to implement program and philosophy, then that is what WRC wants.

Public Comment

Kevin Blakely, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
Watershed Manager, Pendleton

Mr. Blakely said that ODFW encourages the Commission to follow through on the acquisition. He stated that ODFW intends on being a key partner in this project.

Mr. Blakely discussed the following key issues:

- Assuring public access
- Conservation goals
- Habitat
- Upland species
- Aquatic species
- Unique remoteness
- Resource rich area

Jim Myron, Representing the Native Fish Society

Mr. Myron shared that the Native Fish Society supports the phased approach acquisition of Murtha Ranch. Mr. Myron stated that the Native Fish Society has a concern with grazing on the property. He encouraged the Commission to look into the grazing agreement. Mr. Myron discussed the BLM land exchanges with the Commission and encouraged further discussion with BLM.

Commissioner Graves referred to the Working Lands Goals in the agenda item; what does the comment, “first foods approach to natural resource management on the property” refer to. John Potter replied that it is a natural resource management approach similar to that being developed on the Umatilla reservation. He explained that it encompasses everything from fish management to hunting and gathering of plants.

Commissioner Chalfant commented that there is a movement to help tribes in the Northwest to reconnect with their cultural traditions of hunting and gathering.

Commissioner Graves asked what the total price of the Murtha Ranch acquisition. Mr. Houck replied that the appraised value is, \$7,875,000.

**Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve the acquisition of Murtha Ranch.
Commissioner Graves seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

c) Banks Trailhead and Sellers Road Realignment/Exchange of Easements

Mr. Houck said that OPRD and Washington County have entered into a grant and development agreement to realign a county road (Sellers Road) and to construct the Banks trailhead for the Banks-Vernonia State Trail. The project involves the use of a \$950,000 federal transportation grant for the realignment and trailhead project and includes connection of the existing paved section of the trail, which stops short of the City of Banks, east through to the trailhead site.

Mr. Houck explained that the project requires the transfer of a dedicated right-of-way (23,395 sq. ft), a drainage easement, ingress and egress easement, and a temporary construction easement from OPRD to Washington County in order to proceed. Washington County plans to abandon the old Sellers Road right-of-way upon completion of the project. Transfer of this right-of-way to OPRD would be a requirement of the current transaction so that the area can become part of the parking lot at OPRD's trailhead.

Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve the Banks Trailhead and Sellers Road Realignment/Exchange of Easements. Commissioner Graves seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

d) Donation of Permanent Easement - Amanda's trail portion of the Oregon Coast Trail

Mr. Houck said that Norman and Joanne Kittel granted a trail permit to OPRD along the Oregon Coast Trail near Yachats in 1990. He explained that this section of the Oregon Coast Trail is referred to as "Amanda's Trail." Mr. Houck said that on December 17, 1997, the Commission accepted a donation of a 0.63 acre permanent easement from the Kittels and that the Kittels now wish to make an additional donation of approximately 0.04 acres of a revised permanent easement to be recorded against their property in favor of OPRD.

The Commission stated that with the approval of this request a letter be sent to Norman and Joanne Kittel in recognition of the donation.

Commissioner Rudi moved to approve the Donation of Permanent Easement - Amanda's trail portion of the Oregon Coast Trail. Commissioner Risley seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

e) OPRD and ODF Co-location Agreement /Sisters Property

Mr. Houck said that OPRD owns 22.79 acres on the East side of the City of Sisters fronting on Hwy 20 and 126. He explained that the property is divided by two highways into three parcels; all of this property came to OPRD when it separated from ODOT and has not yet been used for park purposes other than a portion that was conveyed to the City several years ago.

Mr. Houck explained that Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has received Oregon stimulus money in the amount of \$4.75 million for replacement of their Sisters and John Day offices. ODF staff approached OPRD with the idea of co-locating office space at these two locations. OPRD in discussion with ODF has discussed the possibilities of co-location and found the resolution of operational needs for Region 4

to be significant by participating. The Commission discussed the operational needs and the proposed agreement.

Commissioner Chalfant asked if this would lock us into any management commitment in regards to Squaw Creek and the remaining property? Mr. Houck replied that there was none as part of the proposed agreement.

Commissioner Chalfant asked about the congestion and intersection issues. Mr. Houck said that, to his knowledge, there is not an ODOT design or funding for redesign for the intersection at this time. He said that OPRD made a decision and sold off a dedicated city street on the south side to a developer and has the dedication deed to make the transfer.

Cliff Litke, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Eastern Oregon Director
Mr. Litke discussed the partnership and explained the office and staff logistics. He said that the value to ODF is that they can put the money into the facility for parks instead of buying property on their own.

Commissioner Parr asked if there has been discussion on how to disengage the co-location agreement? Mr. Houck said that language will be added to the agreement to address that issue.

Commissioner Graves moved to approve the OPRD and ODF Co-location Agreement /Sisters Property. Commissioner Chalfant seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

7. Approval of Local Government Grants (Action)
Wayne Rawlins, Grants Division Manager

a) Large Grant Requests

Mr. Rawlins shared that the Local Government Advisory Committee met June 9-11, 2009 for their annual review of large grant requests for rehabilitation and development. OPRD received 59 large grant requests seeking a total of \$19,125,935. With \$3,932,000 available for the first year of the biennium for large grants, the Advisory Committee members are able to recommend 15 grants totaling \$3,718,435. The Advisory Committee has included in their recommendation that, should any of the projects be unable to proceed, the 16th project, City of Tigard, be awarded available funds. Any remaining funds are otherwise to be brought forward into the next year's allocation. The uncommitted \$213,565 balance will be added to the allocation for the second year of the biennium so that \$1,941,565 will be available next year.

Commissioner Graves moved to approve the Large Grant Requests. Commissioner Chalfant seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b) Small Grant Requests

Mr. Rawlins said that eighteen small grants requests, totaling \$736,941, were submitted to OPRD. He said that after scoring the projects against established criteria, eleven projects are recommended for funding totaling \$432,552. The uncommitted \$15,448 balance is to be added to the allocation for the second year of the biennium and funds available for grants in the second year will total \$207,448.

Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve the Small Grant Requests. Commissioner Rudi seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

c) Planning Grant Requests

Mr. Rawlins said that for 2009, \$100,000 of the funding available was designated for “planning” grants. He shared that a number of counties and cities lack master plans or system-wide plans that describe where parks and recreational facilities should be located within their jurisdiction. Mr. Rawlins explained that these grant funds are meant to encourage counties and cities to go through a planning process to produce either system-wide master plans or park-specific plans by working with local citizens and stakeholder groups so that, when they ultimately appear before the grant advisory committee, they can clearly describe what the citizens have requested and how it fits into their priorities.

Mr. Rawlins stated that eleven projects were submitted requesting \$164,840 in funding assistance. Six are being recommended for a total of \$96,840 with the \$3,160 remaining balance of uncommitted funds to be used in next year’s planning grant awards.

Commissioner Rudi asked what constitutes a small community. Mr. Rawlins stated that it is based on population and is a reflection of the resources they have available to them for project planning.

Commissioner Risley moved to approve the Planning Grant Requests. Commissioner Rudi seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

8. Rulemaking (Action)

a) Request to begin rulemaking, OAR Chapter 736 division 015, Rates (Fee Increase)

Richard Walkoski and Marilyn Borgelt requested Commission approval to initiate rulemaking under OAR 736, Division 15 to increase overnight and day use fees; to clean up cancellation policies and rates; to make annual day use permits transferrable; and to provide a fee waiver for adopted Foster children, under 18 years of age.

Ms. Borgelt explained the rule for cancellations. She said the request is to modify the language to read, “any change resulting in a reduction in length of stay for reservation bookings greater than 5 nights will be assessed a fee equal to the nightly rental fees for all nights cancelled.”

Mr. Walkoski stated that there are two exceptions:

- The reservation is booked more than 6 weeks in advance
- An email request can be submitted for an exception to the rule

Commissioner Chalfant asked when the transferable permit would be available. Mr. Walkoski replied, January 2010.

Commissioner Graves asked about the pricing of the deluxe yurts and cabins; asking why there is not a larger gap between the basic model yurts/cabins and the deluxe for the additional benefits. Mr. Walkoski replied that there is not a huge revenue impact with the limited number of deluxe yurts and cabins.

Commissioner Graves asked if the price of the deluxe cabins and yurts can be increased? The Commission discussed increasing the fees of the deluxe yurts and cabins.

Commissioner Graves asked if the deluxe cabins and yurts rent out more quickly than the others? Ms. Borgelt said they are about the same.

Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve the Request to begin rulemaking for OAR Chapter 736 division 015, Rates; with a request by the Commission for staff to look at an increase to rates for the deluxe cabins and yurts in the \$10.00 to \$20.00 range. Commissioner Rudi seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

- b) Request to begin rulemaking, OAR Chapter 736 division 004 (ATV Program)
Wayne Rawlins requested permission to go to rulemaking to amend Oregon Administrative Rules in Chapter 736, Division 4.

Mr. Rawlins stated that administrative rules are needed to codify procedures to implement SB 578. He explained that a rulemaking advisory committee is to be appointed who will assist in making suggested changes or additions to the rules and it is anticipated that at least three public hearings will be held around the state in order to receive additional public input. Mr. Rawlins said that the rules, as drafted through this process, will be submitted for Commission approval at the spring 2010 meeting.

Commissioner Rudi moved to approve the request to begin rulemaking for OAR Chapter 736 division 004. Commissioner Risley seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

9. FIP Contract Approvals (Action)

John Potter, Assistant Director of Operations

- a) Cape Lookout Drain Field Relocation Project

Discussion

Commissioner Graves asked about its long term viability; is it worth investing in? Mr. Potter stated that it gives us the opportunity to eventually relocate the camping further back on the property. He explained that this project is necessary in short term but could also accommodate long term change.

Commissioner Chalfant asked if there is an assessment of vulnerable sites in relation to global warming; are we using that to guide investments? Ms. Schutt replied that we have been looking at that in more of an overview. She said that what we have done is a cursory look at parks elevation and water levels.

Commissioner Chalfant stated that there may be partnerships and opportunities that may give us a better sense of what our risk is.

Commissioner Graves moved to approve the Cape Lookout Drain Field Relocation Project. Commissioner rudi seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

- b) Cazadero Trail Improvements

Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve the Cazadero Trail Improvements. Commissioner Risley seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

10. Heritage Programs Update (Information)

Roger Roper, Assistant Director of Heritage Programs

Legislative Update:

- **Special Assessment of Historic Properties (SB-192):** Reauthorized and made changes to the program. Key elements include the following:
 - Reduction of term from 15 years to 10.
 - Up-front spending requirement of 10% or real market value in first 5 years.
 - Elimination of annual open house requirement.
 - Substantial reduction in application fee (75% lower).Roger stated that one of their goals is to strengthen the County and City
- **Enforcement of State Archaeological Laws (SB-217):** Allows expenditures from an existing revolving fund to be used for enforcement of state archaeological laws. Requested by Department of Justice. No funds allocated at this time.
- **Historic Cemeteries:**
 - Waiver of annual \$50 filing fee for small historic cemeteries (HB-2087).
 - Permits property tax exemption for small cemeteries (SB-594).
- **Main Street:** Though we anticipated that the program and one FTE would be moved from Economic and Community Development to Parks, that is not how the final legislation played out. Instead, OPRD was charged with funding the program through a transfer of \$500,000 from the Oregon Property Management Account (special assessment application fees), but the program itself would remain a part of OECDD (recently renamed Oregon Business Development Department [OBDD]). The Governor's Office, however, has requested that both agencies work up an agreement whereby OPRD/SHPO would administer and the program, though it would still technically be under OBDD.

Artifact Discovery and Analysis

A bone artifact discovered on the beach south of Yachats was turned over to SHPO archaeologists this past winter (see accompanying photo). It consists of a large vertebrate segment fashioned to look like a head and face by the placement of garnets as eyes (one garnet is missing). SHPO has enlisted the expertise of OSU in analyzing the artifact to determine its components (type of glue, cut marks, type of animal, etc.), its potential cultural origin, and its authenticity. Initial indications are that it is the vertebrate of a large mammal (possibly a mammoth) and may be from Alaska or British Columbia.

National Register Nomination of Memorial Coliseum

A group trying to save the 1959 Memorial Coliseum in Portland from possible demolition has nominated the building for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If listed, any changes to the building would be subject to review and approval by the Portland Landmarks Commission. The nomination was reviewed by the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (a Heritage Programs committee) at its June 26th meeting and conditionally approved for submission to the National Register Office in Washington, D.C., where the final determination will be made.

Heceta Head Lighthouse

The ODOT-funded enhancement project for rehabilitating the lighthouse (approximately \$1.2 million) appears to be moving forward. Enhancement projects were set aside for a while by ODOT as they dealt with the flood of federal stimulus money.

ODOT Partnership

In the process of renewing agreements

11. Pilot Program: Physical Activity Prescription (Information)

Terry Bergerson, Planning Coordinator

Mr. Bergerson stated that the Portland PLAY in Parks pilot project will establish and test the effectiveness of an innovative childhood obesity prevention and treatment model that combines clinician-based physical activity counseling and prescription and referral to community-based physical activity programs offered by local park and recreation departments. He explained that the study will be conducted in four primary health care settings in Portland including Kaiser Permanente Interstate, Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital, Clarendon-Portsmouth School Health Center, and Doernbecher Children's Hospital (Division of OHSU). He said that th overweight and obese 6-12 year old children attending these four primary health facilities will be included in the pilot study which prescribes participation in physical activity programs administered by Portland Parks and Recreation at the University Park Community Center. Data collection will begin in October 2009.

Mr. Bergerson explained that OPRD's role in this project will be to create the physical activity prescription pilot project, identify key partners, provide overall project management, and fund the pilot project research component. Mr. Bergersno said that key project objectives include developing the first "evidence-based" park and recreation physician referral program in the nation and to set the stage for a larger federally funded effectiveness trial.

According to Mr. Bergerson, the project working group has decided on a new name for the project—Rx PLAY.

Discussion

Commissioner Graves asked how State Parks is supporting Portland Parks and Recreation in this program. Mr. Bergerson replied that OPRD provides project leadership and funding for the research project. . He added that long term, we step up and make sure the programs and activities are directed more towards State Park facilities and long term State Park users.

Commissioner Graves asked if the kids will be picked based on how involved their parents are? Mr. Bergerson stated no; if they are in the target area and fit the study selection parameters they will be asked to participate. However, both parents and youth must agree to participate in the study.

Commissioner Chalfant asked if the powerpoint is available to let other communities aware that this is coming. Mr. Bergerson replied, yes.

Commissioner Graves asked if Portland Parks will have the staff time to support this program. Mr. Bergerson said that Portland has staff ready and is prepared to support the program.

Commissioner Risley asked if the pediatrician will be referring the kids to the program? Mr. Bergerson replied yes.

12. Natural Play Area Pilot Project (Information)

Mark Davison, Master Planner

Mr. Davison explained that a survey of Oregon parents and youth was completed during the 2008-2012 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP.) He shared that the

survey results indicate that Oregon’s children are spending considerably less time than their parents did in outdoor play; and that the increase in the use of electronic media by youth has been implicated in negative psychological and physical effects including obesity, loneliness, depression, and attention problems. Mr. Davison shared that research shows there is strong evidence that parental support can counter these trends and almost all of Oregon parents feel that it is a priority for their child to spend more time in outdoor activities.

Mr. Davison said that in response to this, we are proposing a demonstration project where the agency will design and build a Natural Play Area at Silver Falls State Park. The project is called “Stepping Stones.” He explained that this project will aid in the state (and national) effort to better connect youth with nature. In addition to building a play area, the design process and model designs will be “packaged” for use by other park providers applying for OPRD’s Land and Water Conservation Fund grants and Local Government Grants.

The Commission discussed the proposed project timeline and milestones.

13. State Fair and Expo Direction: Blue Ribbon Panel Outcomes (Information)

Chris Havel, Communications Coordinator

In spring 2009, the Department convened a special panel of Oregon leaders to consider the future of the Oregon State Exposition Center, site of the annual Oregon State Fair and other events. This panel, with representatives from state and local government, venue management, business and financial development, and education met three times between April and June. Their task was to consider any solution necessary to produce the highest public good at the least cost. Rather than merely suggest investing more money or building more venues, the panel clearly explained the Expo Center sits at the crossroads between “business as usual” and a series of steps down a potentially-lifesaving path:

1. Improve current business practices by executing a cost accounting system, facility health assessment program, and marketing reorganization.
2. Using cost accounting results, identify a set of business functions—such as daily venue management and sales—and issue a wide-ranging *Request for Information* to solicit responses from contract vendors detailing how they would run these services.
3. As guided by the *Request for Information* responses and negotiations, create a *Request for Proposals* to recruit an able private partner capable of meeting the Department’s goals.
4. As guided by the *Request for Information*, and subsequent study, explore a more far-reaching power- and profit-sharing relationship with a private partner, or pursue partial independence from state statutes for the Exposition Center.

The Commission discussed the four steps and the draft report detailing the panel’s conclusions. As the panel concludes, the strategic framework will return to the commission for adoption.

14. Bates Master Plan (Information)

Mark Davison, Master Planner and Kathy Schutt, Planning Manager

Short Term Goals:

- Protect important cultural sites
- Improve water quality
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Preserve woodlands and meadows
- Enhance natural areas

- Reduce channelization
- Improve fish habitat
- Collect data

Long Term Strategy:

Work with Jim Morgan in Natural Resources on detailed studies.

TMDL's - Total max daily load, should not get above a certain temperature for the prime fish habitat.

Public Comment

Jim Myron, Native Fish Society

Mr. Myron gave comment on the temperature issues of the pond. Mr. Myron expressed that his hope is that one of the alternatives is dam removal. He stated that when the mill was built and pond constructed it was done illegally; it restricted fish passage completely. He said that if it is clear through the analysis that the fish would be better off without the dam he would hope that the agency would consider the removal.

Gregg Smith, Friends of Bates

Mr. Smith presented photos to the Commission of the pond. He said that the pond was built in 1946 for log storage. Mr. Smith stated that the Bates pond is the major recreation asset for Bates and that all of the public comment supported preservation of the pond. He added that the Friends of Bates support the preservation of the pond as well. Mr. Smith shared that there was a census of the creek identifying 9 redband trout, confirming that the fish are getting up creek. Mr. Smith stated that the water flow in the creek is very low and is even lower in the fall. He said that Friends of Bates are urging that no radical plan be implemented on the pond until data has been collected. He feels if the pond was dredged on the south end it would help the temperature. He stated that this is a multi-faceted wildlife asset, not just fish focused.

15. Centennial Horizon Work Plan Progress Report (Information)

Chris Havel, Communications Coordinator

Mr. Havel explained that at the end of each year, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department managers gather to build work plans for the following 12 months. These work plans directly relate to the Centennial Horizon's concrete actions.

He said that the report provided is the first of a twice-yearly update on the status of the Department's highest-priority work plans, and how they relate to the actions and strategies described in the Centennial Horizon, and an overall assessment of progress toward each of the eight principles.

16. Commission Planning Calendar (Information)

Sept 15, 16 & 17

Best Western Rama Inn

1200 Highland Avenue, Enterprise, Oregon

Ideas for September Meeting:

Minam train excursion – Wednesday

Minam State Park
Wallowa State Park
Iwetemlykin visit

Action Items:

Dates for 2010 Meetings

List of activities for fair to Commission for participation (Vanessa and Connie)

Adjourned 2:40