

# Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission



January 17, 2008

8:30 - 9:15 Work Session

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Business Meeting  
Willamalane Community Rec Center

Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

## **Commissioners Present:**

Jim Parr, Acting Chair  
Brad Chalfant  
Sharon Rudi  
Jim Brown  
Jay Graves

## **Staff:**

Tim Wood, Director  
Dave Wright, Assistant Director, Operations  
Kyleen Stone, Assistant Director, Recreation Programs and Planning  
Roger Roper, Assistant Director, Heritage Programs  
Lisa VanLaanen, Assistant Director, Administration  
Wayne Rawlins, Grants Division Manager  
Kathy Schutt, Planning Manager  
Richard Walkoski, Recreation Programs Manager  
Cliff Houck, Property and Resource Manager  
John Potter, Region 2 Manager  
Dennis Wiley, Willamette Valley District Manager  
Karen Zimmer, Human Services Manager  
Michelle Scalise, Grants Program Coordinator  
Marina Cresswell, Design and Program Manager  
Marilyn Lippincot, Senior Grants Program Coordinator  
Joyce Merrit, Rules Coordinator  
Tanya Crane, Budget and Payroll Manager  
Steve Shipsey, Assistant Attorney General  
Vanessa DeMoe, Acting Commission Assistant;

## **Visitors Present:**

Bruce Ronning, Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council  
Gregg Smith, Citizen  
Mark Webb, Grant County Judge  
Robert Jarrett, Citizen  
Commissioner Boyd Britton, Grant County Court,  
Dennis Reynolds, former Grant County Judge and Head of Bates Museum and Parks Foundation

**Host:** Bob Keefer, Willamalane Parks & Recreation

## **Meeting**

On Thursday, January 17, 2008, at 8:35 a.m. Chair Commissioner Parr called the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) meeting to order.

## **Commission Work Session (Information)**

*This work session was open to the public. However, the Commission did not take public comment during the work session. An opportunity for comment was provided during the business meeting.*

Lisa VanLaanen, Assistant Director Administration  
Tanya Crane, Budget Manager

How the Budget Process Works – “OPRD Budget Process,” Power Point Presentation

### **OPRD Budget Process**

- Fund Types: General, Other, Lottery and Federal Funds
- Decision Units
  - Administration
  - Heritage Programs
  - Grants (Local Grants Program)
  - Property Acquisition
  - Operations
  - Facility Investments
  - Recreation Programs and Planning
  - State Fair Operations
  - State Fair Debt Services
- The Legislature
- Expenditure Categories: Acquisition, Local Grants and FIP
- Key Drivers of Budget Change
- Budget Planning Process
- Policy Option Packages
- 2009-11 Package Thoughts
- Timelines (Draft Timelines)
- 2007-09 Adjustments

### **Questions and Discussion**

The Commission discussed the definition and source of trust & sinking funds, the funds are dedicated revenue which is protected by policy for specific uses.

Commissioner Rudi asked what roll-up costs encompass. Tanya Crane, OPRD Budget Manager, explained that roll-up costs are routinely used with new programs. When a program starts mid biennium, only a part of a biennium’s funding is in the base budget. For the next biennium, the full biennium’s worth of costs get built in.

The Commission discussed the policy package options for 2009-2011.

Commissioner Chalfant asked about the addition of Operations and Natural Resources staff because of the increase in acquisitions. Director Wood replied that staff is developing a package for consideration that would include Natural Resource staffing.

The Commission discussed the State Fair debt service.  
This discussion will be resumed at the March 13, 2008 Commission meeting.

Director Wood stated that the agency will need to pursue a strategy to relieve us from the debt service. Possible options are:

- Pay off with Lottery funds
- Go back to Legislature with a package to retire the debt with non-dedicated lottery funds
- Pay off a portion with Lottery funds, present a package for the remainder

Chair Parr stated that the most reasonable option is to ask the legislature with a request for non dedicated funds to retire the debt. Another option is to use Measure 66. Chair Parr stated that it is important to show the voters that we use the Measure 66 funds as intended: to rehabilitate, repair and to restore. Using these funds to retire the state fair debt would slow down programs such as acquisitions.

The discussion then moved to the current budget period and a need to rebalance the departments budget due to a variety of factors affecting revenue.

#### **Course of Action**

- Notify DAS about adjustment to accommodate changes
- Request additional limitation for revenue in trust & sinking
- Implement cost reduction actions; holding vacant positions open
- Back to Emergency Board in June

#### **Action Items**

Lisa VanLaanen was asked to send the Lottery forecast to the Commissioners  
Have break down of budget decision units written out and sent out to Commissioners

**Business Meeting**  
**9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

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

**Commissioner Graves moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Rudi seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

2. **Public Comment:** *This time is provided for the public to address matters not on the agenda.*

**Bruce Ronning**

Chair, Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council (ORTAC) and Oregon Recreation Trails Grant Committee

Bruce Ronning reminded the Commission of his earlier visit to the Commission talking about the goals and strategies of the Council and their support of Oregon Parks and Recreation (OPRD) goals, including the 2014 plan.

Mr. Ronning told the commission that the Council would continue to make the Water Trail Plan is an important part of the Council's agenda. He noted the following concerns and issues:

- Designating trails of statewide significance
- Implementation, designation and completion of the Oregon Coast Trail plan
- Addition of five new committee members
- Training session for new members

The Commission discussed the Oregon Coast Trail plan (OCTP). Mr. Ronning explained that the plan was one of the primary forces behind the State Trails Act. Oregon Coast Trail gaps need to be addressed, to make the trail complete and to make it a trail of statewide significance. Mr. Ronning encourages OPRD to address these issues in its master planning.

Additional discussion items:

- Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Committee (OHTAC) interaction with recreation trails program
- Blue Mountains connective trail; Council representatives from that area of Oregon
- Trail priorities as criteria in acquisitions

3. **Approval of the November 29, 2007 Commission Meeting Minutes** (Action)

Commissioner Graves asked to have the Commission minutes emailed before the hard copy is issued in the Commission packet. The Commission agreed that this would be helpful.

**Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Graves seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

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

Tim Wood noted the following:

- The Secretary of State will be conducting a constitutionally-required audit of 2005-2007 Measure 66 expenditures
- Former State Fair employee Debbie Gorski pled guilty to embezzlement charges. Link to Statesman-Journal story: <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080111/NEWS/801110331>
- December 2007 Storm Update  
Cape Lookout State Park has continued to experience erosion. Emergency action will be taken to protect the drain field while working on a long term solution. The agency will issue an emergency ocean shores alteration permit for the project.
- FEMA has contacted OPRD about placing temporary trailers to house storm victims in the Vernonia area. OPRD will be analyzing the long term effects placement of the trailers may have on Stub Stewart State Park.
- Senator George provided copies of the "River Link" DVD. Contact Vanessa DeMoe for a copy. A follow up meeting will be held January 31, 2008 to focus on the Veterans Memorial project and a broader look at park development in the Champoeg, Newberg and Dundee area.
- Visitor Services Academy (VSA) is in session at Camp Rilea, January 13-18 and February 3-8. The VSA is a program to train rangers in customer service and how to administer park rules.
- There is a Tri-State Meeting of directors and commissioners from Idaho, Washington and Oregon state parks planned for April 8-10, 2008. Commissioner Brown encouraged attendance. Director Wood handed out information on the meeting.

#### 5. Consent Calendar

##### a. Approval of Delegated Authority Report (Action)

##### 1. Contracts

It is requested that the Commission accept the report of contractual instruments signed by the Director per authority delegated by the Commission.

##### Report Summary

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| • 10 new agreements                                     | \$861,823           |
| • 30 new contracts                                      | \$672,622           |
| • 2 change orders                                       | \$15,389            |
| • 15 new work orders under "agreements to agree"        | \$30,129            |
| • 11 amendments   | \$27,824            |
| • 1 memorandum of understanding                         | \$0                 |
| • 6 Commission approved projects that have been amended | \$612,079           |
| • 30 fairground event permits                           | \$189,875 (revenue) |
| • 1 revenue agreement                                   | \$300,000 (revenue) |

## 2. Natural Resources

### b. Director's 2007 Expense Report

Lisa VanLaanen – Assistant Director Administration, requested approval of Director Wood's specific financial transactions, per the Oregon Accounting Manual.

The Oregon Accounting Manual requires annual Commission review of specific financial transactions of the agency head. The review must be documented in the meeting minutes. Those transactions include travel, exceptional performance leave, and vacation payout. Director Tim Wood's travel expenses are attached. Travel reimbursement requests for all Department staff (including the director) are reviewed by Financial Services Division staff to ensure compliance with state employee travel rules.

Director Wood had no exceptional performance leave or vacation payout to report.

### c. County Opportunity Grant Approvals

Staff requested commission approval to provide funding assistance to counties as recommended by the County Opportunity Grant Program Advisory Committee.

The County Parks Assistance Advisory Committee met November 7, 2007 in Salem at the Oregon State Fair & Expo Center and after reviewing the grant requests and presentations, recommended the attached list of grants for Commission approval.

### d. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Enhancement Grant – Valley of the Rogue, Transportation Enhancement

Staff requested Commission approval to enter into a grant agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation in order to secure the grant award of \$800,000. Once the project has been designed and bid for construction, they will request commission approval to award the construction contract.

OPRD, in partnership with Jackson County, Josephine County, ODOT, Rogue Valley Council of Governments and the Rogue River Greenway Foundation is developing a 30-mile greenway trail from Central Point to Grants Pass along the Rogue River. OPRD was awarded a Transportation Enhancement Grant from ODOT to construct 3.2 miles of paved, multi-use trail through the Valley of the Rogue State Park. This project will connect the park to the City of Rogue River.

### e. ORTAC Board Member Appointment

Staff requests Commission approval of Chuck Solin to a second four-year term on the Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council.

### f. Heritage Grants Report

The purpose of this agenda item is to inform the Commission about the grants that the Heritage Programs Division has recently awarded for the 2007-2009 biennium. Further details about the specific grants are provided on the attached reports.

g. Secretary of State Audit Report – Statewide Financial Mgmt.

The Secretary of State Audits Division has recently issued the Department of Administrative Services: Statewide Financial Management Application - Data Integrity Follow Up audit report. The testing for this statewide audit included reviewing specific transactions for Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The results for of the audit are published at the following link:

<http://www.sos.state.or.us/audits/reports/year/2007.html>

There were no findings in the audit that were attributable to OPRD or its practices.

**Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Chalfant seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

**6. Criminal History Checks Rule Adoption (Action)**

[The Commission met in workshop previously on this issue and did not accept public testimony. The public comment period for this item was closed.]

Karen Zimmer, - Human Services Manager (assisted by Joyce Merritt, Rules Coordinator), requested that Commission approve the filing of Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 736, Division 002 – Administrative Activities for final adoption.

These rules become effective upon Commission approval and filing with the Secretary of State. A copy of Division 002 was provided. No public comments were received.

The purpose of revising OAR 736-002 was to incorporate expanded authority from HB 2157 as passed by the 2005 Legislature. Revision of these rules has continued in response to the Commission's concerns expressed at the March 8, 2007 meeting, and in response to review and advice from the Office of Attorney General. An attachment was provided to view all proposed changes.

**Questions and Discussion**

The Commission discussed charging applicants a fee to conduct criminal background checks and the budgetary impact of the fees. Karen Zimmer noted that we currently do not have the legislative authority to charge an applicant. Karen and Joyce noted that the processing costs vary: it is approximately \$40 in Oregon and \$80-\$150 for other states. The budgetary impact is approximately \$200,000 for this biennium.

Director Wood commented that the investment in our hosts is small compared to their services.

Commissioner Rudi expressed concern about making sure that all parties in a host situation are subject to having background checks. Richard Walkoski, Recreation Programs Manager, stated that it is OPRD policy that any individual who stays with a host for a stated length of time has a background check on file.

**Commissioner Rudi moved to approve the criminal history checks rule adoption with suggested edits by Assistant Attorney General Steve Shipsey. Commissioner Graves seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

7. Local Government Grant Rule Adoption (Action)  
[Commission met in workshop previously on this issue and did not accept public testimony.  
The public comment period for this item was closed.]

Wayne Rawlins - Grants Division Manager, requested Commission approval to adopt the rules as provided in an attachment. Adopted rules will go into effect March 1, 2008.

At the September 2007 meeting, commissioners approved a request to go to rulemaking for the Local Government Grant Program. As a result, actions were taken to solicit information and seek support for rule changes:

- The Director wrote to local government leaders, soliciting suggestions and recommendations.
- A rule making advisory committee met in Salem on October 25, 2007 where the proposed rules were reviewed and additional recommendations were offered.
- Draft rules were presented and minimal public comment was received at three public hearings on November 27 in Bend, November 28 in Salem, and December 5 in Roseburg.
- Written public comments were solicited and received between September 17, 2007 and December 7, 2007.

**A summary of public comments and recommendations were included as an attachment.**

**Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve the adoption of the rules as provided in an attachment. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

8. ATV Program

- a) SB 101 (ATV Safety Initiative) Implementation (Information)

Wayne Rawlins - Grants Division Manager

From the 74<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly in 2007, Senate Bill 101 was passed. This update described the department's activities and intentions for future actions. The law passed provided:

- Phased in mandatory training for riders of off-highway vehicles (OHV) beginning January 2009
- "Rider fit" language (to be able to determine whether a rider was of adequate size to operate an ATV)
- Fastened helmet strap required for children under age 18 (helmet was required prior to SB 101)
- Adult supervision for riders under the age of 18
- Flexibility in funding law enforcement
- Exemptions from requirements for some OHV riders involved with farming, agricultural, forestry, etc.

OPRD actions regarding SB 101:

- Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)
- Review Other State Programs

- Curriculum and computer platform
- Law Enforcement
- Staffing – Introduction of new staff John Lane, ATV Safety Coordinator
- Rulemaking

### **No Action Requested**

#### b) Contract Approval – ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) Safety Training (Action)

Wayne Rawlins-Grants Division Manager, requested Commission approval to execute a \$208,948 interagency agreement with Oregon State University to create the ATV safety education curriculum.

As a result of 2007's SB 101, off-highway vehicle (OHV) riders who want to ride on public property and who are under the age of 16 will be required to have an operator's permit in their possession by January 2009. In order to obtain the permit from OPRD, they will have to complete a test indicating ATV safety awareness. With a proper educational curriculum, we have a better chance to keep people safe.

Oregon State University will, as part of this contract:

- Identify Oregon-specific OHV safety issues
- Determine best practices in OHV safety education
- Develop web-based, age-appropriate OHV student study guides
- Develop certification test bank and answer keys
- Develop training and testing materials for OHV rental vendors
- Determine best practices in educational interactive web-based design;
- Develop website and database systems to integrate with the OHV safety program design, content, illustrations, links, administration, testing and certification
- Recommend administrative systems to manage certifications and documents

### **Questions and Discussion**

Commissioner Rudi asked if there has been any resistance from the public regarding the safety education program? Wayne responded that there has not been any resistance, but confusion that can be remedied with public outreach efforts.

Commissioner Graves asked if a key reason for entering into this contract was to keep costs down? Wayne responded, yes. Senate Bill 101 states the fee cannot exceed \$5, we would like to provide it at no cost. Wayne commented that the agency's preference would be to avoid any more fees to the public. Under Mr. Kalkomey's program an individual would have to pay \$15. Because the fee cannot exceed \$5 the agency would have to subsidize, charging \$5 to the public and the agency covering the remaining \$10.

Wayne stated that while Kalkomey does provide boater education training in other states including Oregon, he has only begun to develop training for OHV's and they are very generic in hopes of being used by different states. He would also own the material used. Wayne said that the preference is to develop through Oregon State our own curriculum focused directly at the safety issues that impact riders Wayne said that since we would own our own curriculum, we would be able to modify and improve the curriculum in the future without having to seek third party permission and at a lesser cost.

**Commissioner Graves moved to approve the interagency agreement with Oregon State University to create the ATV safety education curriculum. Commissioner Rudi seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

9. 2008-2012 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Approval (Action)

Kathy Schutt (Kate) – Planning Manager, requested Commission approval of the 2008-2012 SCORP for submittal to the National Park Service (NPS).

On September 20, 2007, staff updated the commission on the SCORP process including key findings from research projects. OPRD is on schedule to complete the plan in February 2008. Besides the inherent benefits of broadening our understanding of recreation trends in Oregon, the plan also allows Oregon to maintain eligibility to participate in the NPS administered Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) through December 31, 2012.

**Questions and Discussion**

Chair Parr commented that youth in Oregon are not getting the chance to be involved in the outdoors. He encourages anything that would get youth in the outdoors and that would then link them to other OPRD programs such as Heritage programs.

Commissioner Rudi asked about engaging the teachers association to help youth discover State Parks. Kate Schutt responded that the recommendations talk about working with schools, after school programs and the medical community. Commissioner Chalfant commented that his experience working with schools has been challenging because of teachers boundaries and restraints. Affirmative steps would have to be taken to get the information into the schools.

**Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve the 2008-2012 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for submittal to the National Park Service (NPS). Commissioner Rudi seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

**10. Executive Session (not open to the public)**

The Executive Session was not held.

11. Real Estate (Action)

a) Tryon Creek Donation

Cliff Houck – Property and Resource Management Section Manager, recommends that the Commission accept the donation of the .66 acre parcel adjacent to Tryon Creek State Park.

Cliff Houck stated that there is support and interest around Tryon Creek. He explained the reasons for donations surrounding Tryon Creek come from it being an urban area park. Work is being done to protect its buffers, resulting in donations. Cliff stated that the donations do originate a cost to the agency for map work and lot line adjustments.

**Questions and Discussion**

The Commission discussed requirements for appraisals on donated properties?

Cliff Houck explained that appraisals are not required. In some cases the owner has done the appraisal in preparation for the sale of the property. If we do not have an appraisal, we will conduct an internal estimate to establish the property's value for our records.

**Commissioner Brown moved to accept the donation of the .66 acre parcel adjacent to Tryon Creek State Park. Commissioner Rudi seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

b) Arizona Beach Acquisition

Cliff Houck – Property and Resource Management Section Manager, recommended and requested Commission approval to purchase the Arizona Beach Site at the appraised value of \$3,000,000.

Cliff Houck stated that the Property & Resource Management Section has been working on expanding the information that is provided to the Commission. They included a schematic that shows how the property may be utilized as a state park. Cliff Houck explained that it currently has campsites located along the beach. Cliff stated that the agencies goal would be to provide public access to Arizona Beach on a day-use basis. He added that this property would help fill in a gap on the coastal trail.

Commissioner Chalfant questioned if the Environmental Assessments (EA) had been completed. Cliff responded that because of current usage and lack of questionable evidence, a Phase 1 had not been completed. Commissioner Chalfant advised that EA's be done for each acquisition. Commissioner Rudi asked what the cost is for a Phase 1. Cliff replied that a Phase 1 would be approximately \$1200.

The Commission discussed if it is necessary to do an EA if questionable evidence does not exist. They discussed whether it was common practice to do EA's for each acquisition. Cliff Houck replied that EA's are done on an observation basis. If a site visit shows a need, then the Phase 1 will be completed. Commissioner Chalfant stated that the agency should not do an acquisition without a Phase 1 evaluation.

Chair Parr commented that if this acquisition is approved, a Phase 1 needs to be completed. Chair Parr asked that we continue to review the process and policy for appraisals. It was requested that the Property Management section prepare a draft policy regarding EA's for Commission review and comment.

**Commissioner Rudi moved to approve the purchase of the Arizona Beach Site with the agreement that a Phase 1 be completed. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

c) Bates Mill Acquisition

Cliff Houck – Property and Resource Management Section Manager, recommended and requested Commission approval to purchase the Bates Mill Site at the as is value of \$450,000 or with the dry kiln removed at a value of \$500,000, to be determined by negotiations with Grant County.

**Public Comment, Bates Mill Acquisition**

Mark Webb, Grant County Judge

Mark Webb spoke about the Bates Mill site attributes. He stated that it is rich in mining and logging history as well as having a multicultural background. The property is easily accessed from four different routes, each paved and scenic. Mr. Webb included that one access road is a "Journey Through Time" scenic route. He added that the site is excellent for fishing, rock

hounds and hiking and spans two national forests and wilderness areas. Grant County is well known for winter recreation, this site has potential for developing a winter recreation staging area. This part of the John Day, the Upper Middle Fork, has been identified by The Nature Conservancy as a high priority area. Mr. Webb urged the Commission approval, stating that the enhancement of the wildlife and the educational opportunities would be very rewarding.

Greg Smith, Citizen, former Bates resident

Greg presented two photos to the Commission, one of the town site in 1957 and the other of the mill in Bates in 1957. Greg Smith grew up in Bates. Born in Prairie City, he was the third generation of his family to live in Bates. Bates was originally named Batesville named after a man who was an officer of the Oregon Lumber Company. In 1917 the mill was built and operated until 1975. Bates population reached 300 and included a grade school, church, community hall and a grocery store. It was a tight knit community that continues to have a bi-annual reunion. Greg shared that the community has been thinking about this since 1983 and he urged the Commission to consider developing a park at the site.

Boyd Britton, Citizen

Boyd encouraged the Commission to approve the acquisition and development of the Bates Mill site. He shared his ideas about the railways and connectivity with trails. Boyd complimented the Commission and agency on the customer service that the interest group received throughout this process.

### **Questions and Discussion**

The Commission asked if the state park would be laid out on the old township site? Cliff Houck referred to the schematic map provided which showed the town site located across the highway from the property considered for acquisition. Cliff noted that the buildings are gone and the site is surrounded by national forest.

The commission and public supporters discussed the opportunities for trails.

Commissioner Chalfant asked what the opportunities are for direct trails linking off of the property? Cliff replied that the site is in the Malheur Forest, close to the Wallowa Whitman. There are over 500 miles of established snowmobile trails that connect to this property. Cliff noted that there is a multi-use trail within Forest Service property that would be accessible from the site.

**Commissioner Brown moved to approve the purchase of the Bates Mill Site. Commissioner Graves seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

d) Eight Dollar Mountain Acquisition

Cliff Houck – Property and Resource Management Section Manager, requested Commission approval to purchase the Eight Dollar Mountain site for the appraised value of \$849,000.

Cliff Houck stated that this property is on the Acquisition Priorities list. It is a Department of State Lands (DSL) property that they would like to sell. Cliff Houck commented that this would be a switch between stage agencies for them to carry out their mission and for us to protect the natural area. Cliff informed the Commission that as part of the agreement, DSL has the first rights at acquiring the property back, at the purchase price, if the property comes out of open space or natural resource classification.

### **Questions and Discussion**

Director Wood stated that Southern Oregon University has a field school adjoining this property; this could provide a cooperative opportunity. Public use would be limited to day-use with minimal development.

Commissioner Rudi asked about the cell tower lease that exists on the property. Cliff Houck replied that the cell tower is located in another tax lot, they will own the tower and will access the tower through this site.

**Commissioner Chalfant stated that he would move for approval with the agreement that DSL receive the first right to acquire in the event that we sell or the use changes, at fair market value; with the agreement that upon acquisition of the property by OPRD we own it completely.**

**Commissioner Chalfant moved to approve purchase of the Eight Dollar Mountain site for the appraised value of \$849,000, subject to the conditions in the previous paragraph. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.**

## 12. Heritage Update

Roger Roper – Assistant Director, Heritage Programs; Dep. SHPO

### a) SB 416 (Task Force on Special Assessment) (Information)

Roger Roper informed the Commission that the program has been in existence for over 30 years. It was the first program of its kind in the country. The program receives about 70 applicants per year. February 13, 2008 will be first meeting for the task force. Roger Roper is among the 12 people on the task force. In addition to reviewing the program and making recommendations to the Legislature about continuing it beyond the 2010 sunset date, the task force will examine other incentives for historic preservation, including a state tax credit for historic buildings.

### **Question and Discussion**

Commissioner Rudi questioned if a building is on the National Historic Register, can they register for this program as well? Roger replied that being on the National Register does not automatically trigger participation in the Special Assessment program; building owners have to apply for it as a separate process.

### b) Oregon Trail Preservation/Documentation (Information)

Roger Roper explained that this study stemmed from a bill that did not move forward from the 2007 session. The bill was to protect the Oregon Trail. Although funding was not provided for the Oregon Trail study, OPRD has moved forward to answer the core question of, "where is the Oregon Trail?" Roger stated that the primary emphasis of the study and recommendations will be to preserve the sites and segments of the trail that have been identified by the National Park Service and others as "significant."

OPRD prepared a 13-step Work Plan (provided as Attachment B) to accomplish the request of the Legislative committee. These steps focus on three main strategies:

- Consolidation of data

- Use of computer technology such as GIS
- Coordination with partners - National Park Service, Oregon and California Trails Association, and the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council

### 13. Snowy Plover Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Update (Information)

Kathy Schutt – Planning Manager

Kathy Schutt said the EIS was out for public review for 30 days, the deadline has been extended until early February. The deadline was extended by request from the public. Kathy stated that the Planning Division will return for the May Commission meeting to meet in workshop and provide information regarding the proposed plans. They will return in July to request approval.

### 14. Centennial Plan Update (Information)

Kathy Schutt – Planning Manager

Kathy provided an update of progress, activities, and planned outreach regarding the Centennial Horizon Initiative.

#### **Process Update:**

Step 1: In setting out the case for the Centennial Horizon Initiative the following trends have been identified:

- Changing demographics: baby boomers, youth, diversity and health
- Regional resource protection
- Nature deficit disorder: for adults and children alike
- A networked and wired state
- Oregon's changing climate & adopting a sustainable approach
- Parks without borders, connecting across providers
- Creating memorable experiences
- State parks as models, hubs and home-bases

Step 2: Five vital questions have emerged as contenders to take us forward as the agency consider our mission. These questions will be discussed through a White Paper review and work session with commissioners in March, 2008:

- How will the public benefit from our wise stewardship of the land and the opportunities it affords?
- How can these benefits be realized across the political, geographical, organizational, and cultural borders and boundaries of our state?
- How can we improve the health, lives, and communities of Oregonians through conservation, preservation, recreation and parks?
- How do we inspire and connect with the Oregon public's sense of obligation and duty, such that provision and protection of park programs, values, and resources is a civic expectation to which leaders and providers are held accountable?
- How can parks become models of responsible development and wise resource use?

### Step 3: Listening to Oregonians

#### *Future Steps...*

Step 4: What we discussed, what we heard and what we shared

Step 5: Roll out the Centennial Horizon Vision Plan

Step 6: Centennial Horizon Initiative

- Come to March Commission meeting to go over draft goals and strategies and discussion of questions
- Come to July Commission for final consideration for the plan

#### **No Action Requested**

### 15. 2009 Legislative Concepts Preliminary Report (Information)

Director Tim Wood *for* Jim Myron – Legislative Coordinator

The Oregon Legislature will convene in regular session on January 12, 2009. With the Commission's concurrence, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) will be submitting a number of legislative concepts to the governor's office in anticipation that those concepts would be introduced as bills on our behalf prior to the start of the session. In order for any legislation to be considered by the governor, we must submit the concepts to the Department of Administrative Services by April 12, 2008.

LC #63400/XXX Historic Property Special Assessment Program

LC #63400/XXX Oregon Natural Heritage Program

LC #63400/XXX Criminal Records Check

LC #63400/XXX Oregon Recreational Trails

LC #63400/XXX Volunteers Working in Abandoned Historic Cemeteries

LC #63400/XXX Historic Cemetery Definition

Commissioner Brown recommended not moving forward on the Oregon recreation trails concept. Controversy concerning navigable waterway use and access could jeopardize the ongoing water trail efforts.

#### **No Action Requested**

### 16. Six Year Plan Update (Information)

Dave Wright – Assistant Director Operations

Dave Wright presented the Commission with the update of the Facility Investment Program (FIP). This is a complete list of OPRD backlog, there is significant amount of work ahead of us. Dave noted that this list is based on a list prior to Measure 66 funds.

The Commission asked if the State Fair backlog was included in the list? Dave answered that there are a few State Fair projects included, but the complete fair backlog is not.

### 17. Park Visitor Study (Information)

Chris Havel – Communications Coordinator

Park staff, in cooperation with statisticians from Oregon State University, conducted a survey of park visitors in 2006 and 2007. The survey measures satisfaction with recreation services, demographics and highlights customer demand for new services.

Chris Havel gave a presentation and provided a report summarizing the combined preliminary findings across both years, covering nearly 50 parks and representing comments from more than 10,000 park visitors.

Chris stated that the hard data supports the latest SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) findings and the assumptions of park managers concerning the need for more trails, playgrounds and programs for youth. Meeting those needs already figure in their work plans. "Overall experience" received the highest rating from 92 percent of the respondents, who were asked to gauge their levels of satisfaction with a mix of selected experiences and facilities. Chris commented, "that means nine out of 10 people left a park satisfied with the park's facilities and the experiences they had there."

The other top-rated customer satisfaction selections involve the time parks allowed respondents to spend with family and friends (92 percent), general park maintenance (89 percent), natural areas (88 percent) and RV camping (88 percent).

- The web was identified as a source of camping information by 42 percent, as compared to 10 percent in 1998;
- Gas prices appeared to discourage camping trips more than weather. "This is the first time we've seen fuel concerns rank higher than the weather in influencing campers," says Chris. "However, we had some very nice, mild summer weather the past two years."
- Park patrons, as a whole, want OPRD to do more in providing nature areas (cited by 68 percent); hiking trails (62 percent); wildlife viewpoints (61 percent); park stores (60 percent); restrooms and showers (60 percent); sightseeing viewpoints (57 percent), and opportunities to learn about history and nature (57 percent).

### **No Action Requested**

## **18. Commission Planning Calendar (Information)**

### **March Commission Meeting**

#### **March 13, 2008 - Portland**

Region 2 Office/ RNW – Commission Room

#### **Items for March 13, 2008 Commission Mtg.**

Workshop discussion for the Centennial Plan.

Workshop discussion on the fee structure.

Metro presentation in the afternoon following the meeting

Commissioner Brown requested the presence of the City of Salem at the next Commission meeting to have a more comprehensive discussion regarding Minto Brown.

Adjourned 12:55

[A tour of the Willamalane Community Center lead by Bob Keefer of Willamalane Parks and Recreation followed the Commission meeting.]