



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Calapooia Room, City Hall, 333 Broadalbin Street SW
Wednesday October 1, 2008
6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVE MINUTES OF September 3, 2008
3. BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC
4. ACTION ITEMS
 - a. None
5. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - a. Discussion of Community Park/Sports Complex Plans
 - b. Discussion of East Thornton Lake Natural Area Proposal
6. REPORTS AND UPDATES
 - a. Capital Projects report
 - b. Report on Summer Statistics
7. ANNOUNCEMENTS
8. NEXT MEETING DATE
The next regularly scheduled meeting date is Wednesday, November 5, 2008.
9. ADJOURNMENT

City's Web Site: www.cityofalbany.net

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2008\AGD 10_08.doc

The location of the meeting/hearing is accessible to the disabled. If special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting/hearing are needed, advance notice is requested by calling 917-7506.



**CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Calapooia Room, City Hall
Wednesday, September 3, 2008
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Commission members present: Mike Graham, Sharon Edwards, Russ Allen

Commission members absent: Gordy Gamet, John Vandepas

Staff present: Ed Hodney, Parks & Recreation Director; Katie Nooshazar, Parks and Recreation Program Manager, Dick Connolly, Parks and Recreation Facilities Maintenance Manager, Tari Hayes, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant

Guests present:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Graham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the August 6, 2008 meeting were approved.

3. BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC – None

4. ACTION ITEMS - None

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Discussion of changes to AMC related to Parks and Recreation – Hodney

- The Commission received copies of the proposed AMC changes related specifically to Parks at the August meeting. The commission had been asked to review the code from a layperson's perspective and bring their comments back to this meeting.

General comments included:

- The intent of the code is fine.
- The code seems to duplicate itself throughout.
- The average person has to work hard to determine what part is applicable to their questions.
- Some of the sentences were too long.

The Commission would also like to add wording giving the City the ability to rescind an alcohol permit if the renter misbehaves and the ability to refuse future permits in these cases.

- Staff will work on a draft rewrite of the code and forward it to the Commission prior to the October meeting. Staff will forward this draft to the appropriate city staff (APD, City Attorney, etc) for their input as well. Staff will arrange a new release inviting the public to comment on the proposed changes at the October meeting.

6. REPORTS AND UPDATES

a) Capital Projects Report – Hodney (handout)

- Community Park Acquisition – The Commission discussed the pending purchase of Community Park property. Parks and Recreation staff goes before the City Council on September 8 to request their approval to appropriate the funds and to purchase the property.
- Eades Park replacement – The Planning Commission and the City Council approved the vacation right-of-way and conditional use permit for Eades Park. The contract documents are being drawn up.
- Veteran’s Memorial – Progress continues on the walkways. The City and Veteran’s associations are discussing irrigation and landscape plans as well as long-term maintenance plans.
- Kinder Park (formerly Oak St Project) – The City Council accepted a grant award for this project in the amount of \$480,000 in August. Two neighborhood meetings are scheduled to discuss design with the local community. The Parks department plans to take design ideas to the Council in September. Grading and sub-rock work should be completed by November 2008. The Parks Department hopes to have ball fields complete by the end of June 2009.
- There was a discussion regarding the slowdown in Parks SDC revenues. This slowdown affects the schedule of planned SDC-funded capital projects. The Parks department continues to evaluate projects and project timelines for feasibility, based on the economic outlook for the City.

b) Miscellaneous Reports

- LBCC has approached the City to see if it’s interested in the development of soccer fields on the LBCC campus. This may be an alternative for soccer players while awaiting the construction of the Community Park.
- A group of citizen’s has approached the City with a potential project to establish a natural area in the East Thornton Lake Area. Hodney and north Albany resident Mark Azevedo will brief the City Council on the project at the work session of Monday, September 8, 2008.
- Katie Nooshazar gave the Commission a brief report on the Northwest Art and Air Festival. She will bring additional figures and findings to the October Commission meeting.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is October 1, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Calapooia Room in City Hall.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

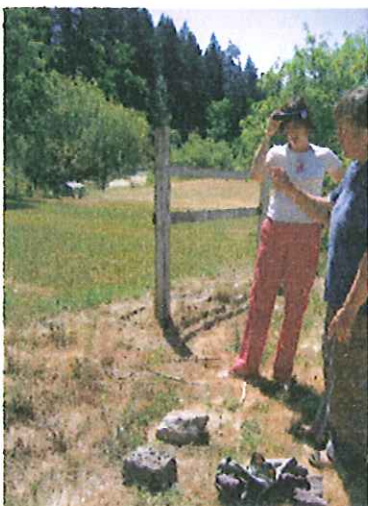
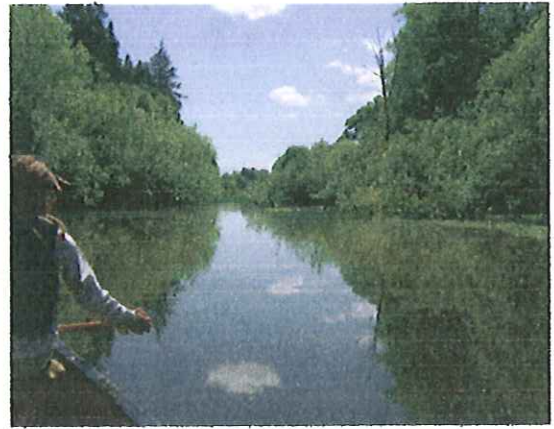
Respectfully submitted,

Tari Hayes, Administrative Assistant
Albany Parks and Recreation



EAST THORNTON LAKE NATURAL AREA

INFORMATIONAL PACKET





September 30, 2008

LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR EAST THORNTON LAKE NATURAL AREA PROJECT

Dear Friend:

For some of you, this letter is a follow-up to previous conversations regarding a proposed East Thornton Lake Natural Area acquisition grant through the Oregon Water Enhancement Board (OWEB). Others may be receiving your first notice on this project. In either case, we want to share the most recent news on this exciting proposal, which is described in the enclosed overview.

We're happy to report significant progress toward the long-term preservation of this unique and diverse lakeside habitat through land acquisition and restoration. The Albany City Council has directed its staff to prepare the OWEB grant application and to seek other support for the project. The OWEB submittal deadline is October 20, 2008.

The City of Albany has hosted a successful series of meetings and field trips over the summer with interested individuals and potential partners including: local Watershed Councils, Land Trusts, turtle and fishery biologists, educators and the Cultural Specialist from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The grant application to OWEB is being prepared with guidance from natural resource specialists, Grande Ronde tribal cultural specialists and educators from local schools and universities. It includes plans for both habitat protection and environmental education.

Your letter of support for this project is very important. If you are willing to support our efforts, it is imperative that your letter mention the key components of the project which are outlined in the enclosed overview. The East Thornton Lake Natural Area proposal fulfills many of OWEB's conservation directives by containing multiple priority species and priority habitats and by providing wildlife/watershed connectivity to the Willamette River system. It is a habitat preservation and restoration jewel for the Mid-Willamette Valley.

PLEASE NOTE: Letters should be addressed to the Oregon Water Enhancement Board; however, please send your completed letter to Ed Hodney, Albany Parks and Recreation Director (as noted below), no later than October 10th to insure that they are included in the grant application.



PLEASE NOTE: Letters should be addressed to the Oregon Water Enhancement Board; however, please send your completed letter to Ed Hodney, Albany Parks and Recreation Director (as noted below), no later than October 10th to insure that they are included in the grant application.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Ed Hodney, Director of Parks and Recreation

LETTER OF SUPPORT INFORMATION:

1. **Letters of support should be written on your organizations letterhead (if applicable) and addressed to:**
Oregon Water Enhancement Board
Attention: Ken Bierly, Deputy Director/Manager
Land Acquisition Grant Program
State Lands Building, Third Floor
775 Summer Street NE, Ste 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
2. **SEND YOUR COMPLETED LETTER TO:**
Ed Hodney, Director
Albany Parks and Recreation Department
P.O. Box 490
Albany Oregon, 97321-0144
3. **Send the letters NO LATER THAN October 10, 2008 to insure that they can be included in the grant application.**

Please feel free to call if you have any questions:

Annette Higinbotham 541 928-0552 alanhigspottery@aol.com or

Mark Azevedo 541 990-4574 azevedom@onid.orst.edu

East Thornton Lake Natural Area PROJECT OVERVIEW

The primary goals:

1. *Reduce human impacts and inputs into the lake and watershed which will occur if proposed imminent subdivision development occurs.*
2. *Protect/Restore the site's known habitat for sensitive species including Thornton Lake's rare combination of native Western pond and painted turtles, amphibians, fish, acorn woodpecker, Western grey squirrel, native plants, butterflies, songbirds, raptors (which utilize snags on site), and many migratory bird species.*
3. *Protect/Restore land as historical riparian and upland prairie/oak savanna habitat. (Volunteer Oregon white oak seedlings have already begun to regenerate on the edge of the riparian buffer).*
4. *Restore/Enhance water quality, connectivity of lake to improve aquatic habitat and increase native turtle, fish and amphibian populations.*
5. *Provide educational opportunities and benefits to regional schools and communities including outdoor environmental education, volunteer and restoration group activities (Watershed/Historical/Native American/Life Sciences); Provide on site interpretive kiosk with Historic, Cultural & Biological information, and soft trail for wildlife viewing.*

Cooperation- Individuals from the following groups and organizations have been consulted with and are in favor of protecting and restoring this site. Additional educational and community partnerships will be developed as the project progresses:

Benton County Water and Soil Conservation Service District Fish Passage Program
Calapooia Watershed Council
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Friends of East Thornton Lake
Friends of Mature Albany Trees (F.O.M.A.T.)
The Greenbelt Land Trust
Luckiamute Watershed Council
Oregon Wildlife Institute
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department
Oregon State University (Botany and Plant Pathology Dept. and Biology program in
Environmental Sciences)
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Staff, City of Albany
The Trust for Public Lands
The Turtle Conservancy

Educational Benefits of the East Thornton Lake Natural Area

A small City Park will be located on the SW corner of the property. The park will contain informational kiosks which will describe the rich cultural and environmental history of site. Informational signage will include a history and description of the properties usage by the Calapooia Indians as well as the history and importance of J.Q. Thornton in early Albany and Oregon pioneer history. The restoration process and watershed enhancement management goals will also be presented. Guided trips could be provided for schoolchildren by local educators including the Greater Albany Public Schools (GAPS), the Albany Regional Museum, and the Benton County Historical Society. A soft trail adjacent to the oak savanna will provide an opportunity for observation of the native plants and wildlife as well as first hand observation of the restoration process.

Because of the rare occurrence of both western pond and painted turtles, this site provides a unique opportunity for research by University scientists. Graduate and undergraduate student research in Botany, Zoology, Ecology, and Fisheries & Wildlife could be facilitated within easy commuting distance to Oregon State University. The university has excellent outreach programs for education with local high school and grade school children. As an extension for this outreach, local schools could apply for grants such as the Five Star Restoration Program administered through the Environmental Protection Agency. This program provides grant and technical support to community-based restoration projects that involve youth for restoration of wetlands. The Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde can provide demonstrations on Native American use of native plants for basketry and food sources in addition to descriptions of their cultural history for the general public.

Many opportunities exist for public education of watershed health. The informational kiosks and trail will provide explanations and documentation of the changes occurring in

the Thornton Lake Natural Area. The surrounding lakeside homeowners will be made aware of the management plans for the lake and opportunities for their involvement through active restoration participation and via information on how to manage their own properties for watershed health. Research performed by OSU and others will be available throughout the region, state, nation, and international communities. Outreach programs such as Adventures In Learning, Expeditions, and Saturday Academy could promote an understanding of watershed dynamics to schoolchildren grades 3-12. These programs draw hundreds of participants from across the state.

After determination of the appropriate placement by resource specialists, a soft trail will provide access to the non-sensitive areas of the property. The City Park and informational kiosks will be located in the SW corner of the site, away from the critical turtle nesting habitat.

East Thornton Lake Natural Area

Site location- The proposed East Thornton Lake Natural Area is located within the city limits of Albany, Oregon in Benton County. The site consists of two tax lots (Benton County Tax Assessor's Map 11S-4W-1AA Tax Lot 2100 (21.10 acres) and Map 11S-3W-6BB Tax Lot 1400 (3.07 acres)) totaling 24.2 acres. Tax lot 2100 extends about half-way into the lake. These two tax lots are continuous with each other and are located between North Albany Road on the West, rural residential housing to the East, Thornton Lake to the North and Southern Pacific railroad tracks and easement to the South (map attached).

The lake is situated ½ mile to the North of the Willamette River directly across from the confluence of the Calapooia and Willamette rivers. Thornton Lake is the remnant of an oxbow of the Willamette River and has a seasonal channel running from the Willamette into the extreme West end of the lake. The lake extends from the Southwest to the Northeast and is about 1 mile long and 0.1 miles wide at its widest point.

Cultural history- The lake is an old oxbow of the Willamette River and is continuous with the river during heavy runoff in the winter. The area is rich with wildlife including river otters, migratory birds and as habitat for breeding populations of both the western pond and painted turtles. The rich plant and wildlife diversity combined with the close proximity to the confluence of the Willamette and Calapooia rivers attracted early Native American activity as noted by Dr. Dennis Griffin (SHPO State Archaeologist); "Given that the lakes are the remains of an old channel of the Willamette River, the potential for buried cultural remains are quite high. A prehistoric burial has been reported near the current Willamette River directly to the south of your area. It is highly likely that burials, village sites and associated prehistoric camps were once located along the old river

channel and may still remain intact within the Thornton Lake area."

The site is part of the original Jesse Quinn Thornton Land Claim of the Donation Act of 1850. Jesse Quinn Thornton came to Oregon on the Oregon Trail in 1846, wrote two volumes about his experiences ("Oregon and California in 1848"), was a Supreme Court Judge before Oregon became a Territory, traveled to Washington D.C. by sailing ship to lobby the U.S. Congress to make Oregon a Territory, was responsible for Oregon becoming an anti-slavery Territory, named Pacific University in Forest Grove, was on the board of trustees for Willamette University, was a Benton County Legislator, was the first practicing attorney in Albany and coined the state's motto; "She Flies with Her Own Wings" (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesse_Quinn_Thornton). The original Thornton home and barn sites have been located on a nearby property (on West Thornton Lake Road) using the original 1850 handwritten survey notes.

The Plan- The East Thornton Lake Natural Area plan is divided into four separate phases:

Phase one is to secure the necessary funding to purchase the site, thereby protecting it from imminent subdivision development. The property owner is in favor of protecting the site assuming that adequate funding can be secured for its purchase.

Phase two is to evaluate each of the three distinct habitat types that exist on the site (see below) and develop management goals and objectives for each habitat type.

Phase three is to put the management goals into practice, particularly the restoration goals.

Phase four is to manage the site in a manner which maintains and enhances the completed restoration management goals and to provide educational benefits to regional schools and communities including outdoor environmental education, volunteer and restoration group activities.

Habitat types- The site falls into three distinct but continuous habitat types: 1- wetland (aquatic) lake site, 2- adjacent bottomland hardwood/softwood riparian zone along the lake bank giving way to 3- fallow farm land which was described as an oak savanna in the original 1850 land donation survey (attached). All three of these habitat types (wetland, bottomland hardwood forests and oak savanna) have been identified as broad-scale conservation priorities by the Oregon Biodiversity Project.

Priority Ecological Systems- The site contains the following Willamette Valley Priority Ecological Systems as identified by O.W.E.B.:

Freshwater aquatic beds, Riparian forest and shrub land, Western Oregon upland prairie and oak savanna (to be restored), and Western Oregon wet prairie (to be restored).

Rare or at risk plant communities- The site contains or could be restored to contain the following rare or at risk plant communities:

White oak/poison oak/blue wildrye, Oregon ash/Dewey sedge-stinging nettle, Pacific willow/stinging nettle, dense sedge-tufted hairgrass prairie, tufted hairgrass-California oatgrass valley prairie, Lobb buttercup aquatic bed.

Priority Species- The following priority species are found on the site: Painted turtle, Western Pond turtle, Red-legged frog, Western grey squirrel and Acorn woodpecker. The following priority species may be found seasonally on the site: Short-eared owl roosting habitat, American bittern, Chipping sparrow, Dusky Canada goose, White breasted Nuthatch, Western meadowlark. Historically, juvenile salmonids existed in this Willamette river oxbow. Minor alterations to the Willamette river seasonal channel to the lake, combined with onsite restoration efforts, could increase water quality and provide habitat complexity for the reintroduction of juvenile salmonids into Thornton Lake.



Proposed East
Thornton Lake Natural
Area



Oregon White Oak
(*Quercus garryana*) volunteer
seedlings have already begun to
regenerate upland area
of proposed East Thornton Lake
Natural Area



East Thornton Lake
north end, midsummer



East Thornton Lake, Fall



Albany's Thornton Lake is home to a rare combination of native turtles: Western Pond Turtle (center, 3rd) seen here with Western Painted Turtles, East Thornton Lake. Both species of native turtles are on Oregon's Sensitive-Critical list, and are Federal Endangered species in neighboring states.



The City of Albany, watershed councils, tribal, educational and natural resource representatives met for a series of meetings and field trips over the summer to discuss the potential of East Thornton Lake Natural Area & Park.



Western Painted
Turtles,
East Thornton Lake



Site in the springtime

East Thornton Lake Natural Area

& Surroundings



Capital Projects Report

PROJECT	STATUS	PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE	NOTES
53rd Avenue Neighborhood Park development	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Jun-08</i>	Closed on Sept. 30, 2008. Will initiate design work this winter.
Community Park acquisition	<i>Completed</i>	Fall 08	
Eades Park replacement	Land use approved. Construction should begin in Fall 08.	Spring 09	Sewer Fund, P&R Fund
East Albany Neighborhood Park Acquisition	In negotiations with landowners	Fall 08	SDC funded
Henderson Park playground replacement	Pending resolution of funding issues. Delayed until next FY.	FY 08-09	Grants, donations, annual appropriations
North Albany Neighborhood Park development	Project tabled due to homebuilding slow-down.	TBD	Park SDC funding
Oak Creek Area Neighborhood Park acquisition	Tabled. New owner, unsure of development plans.	Indefinitely postponed, delayed by developer	Donation of land
Kinder Park (formerly Oak Street Park)	Bids due October 7th; construction to begin this fall.	Spring 09	Grant of \$480,000 awarded by State
Pineway Park playground replacement	Awaiting grant funding cycle	Spring 09	Grants, donations, annual appropriations
Riverview Heights Park playground replacement	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Summer 08</i>	

Capital Projects Report

Teloh Calapooia Park playground replacement	Grant request denied; working to restructure project funding.	Fall 08	Parks and Rec funds, private gifts and grants
Veterans' Memorial at Timber Linn Park	Progress being made; being readied for Veterans Day ceremony 11-11-08.	Construction is expected to be completed in Fall 2008.	Annual budget appropriations for design, private funding for construction; State grant awarded \$22,000
YMCA at Timber Linn Park	CUP issued in July 07; pending land swap and related approvals by State, Feds and City Council; YMCA still raising money	2009-2010	SDC funded
East Thornton Lake Nature Area	Preparing grant application for OWEB acquisition funding	2009	Possibly SDC and grant funding

2008 Summer Statistics Report

Event	Participants	# in Series	# of Teams	# of Sponsors	Cash Sponsorship Total	In-Kind Sponsorship Total	Donations/ Merchandise Sales	Comments
Mondays at Monteith	4,625	6 concerts	n/a	8	\$6,630	\$4,500	\$2,679.92	Notes: Food and ice-cream service well received. Donations up slightly from past. Challenges: Need to expand and solidify sponsorship base. Need to secure food vendor for next year. Options considered 5 concerts or one no-cost concert.
Northwest Art & Air Festival	39,174	3 days/ 2 concerts	n/a	49	\$72,650	\$65,798	\$11,047.57	Notes: Very successful year. Challenges: Need to expand laser light show, beer/wine garden area, and solidify partnership agreements with all festival areas. Need to secure quality entertainment for both mainstage and festival stage. Need to create a "Sunday draw" to build success on the third festival day. Have already expanded next year's sponsorship base with early pledges and commitments.
Children's Village NW Art & Air Festival	686	3 days	n/a	1	\$3,000	\$3,456	n/a	Volunteer labor provided by Central Willamette key to this area's success.
River Rhythms	32,678	6 concerts	n/a	31	\$59,100	\$17,200	\$16,067.14	Notes: Revised VIP area very successful. Revised childrens and sponsor area successful. Increased security successful.

2008 Summer Statistics Report

Event	Participants	# in Series	# of Teams	# of Sponsors	Cash Sponsorship Total	In-Kind Sponsorship Total	Donations/Merchandise Sales	Comments
River Rhythms Pre-Concert Children's Area	664	6	n/a	Included in River Rhythms Sponsorship Information	n/a	\$1,300	\$94.83	Volunteer labor provided and essential to success of area. New location successful.
Camps	151	13 camps	n/a	3		\$1,650	n/a	Rosie the Riveter sponsorship by AAUW, Parr Lumber, and the Public Works Department.
Fun in the Park	642	6	n/a	1		n/a	n/a	One held in cooperation with Central Willamette Credit Union in parking lot.
Young Eagle Flights	301	n/a	15	n/a		\$7,500	n/a	Substantial in-kind sponsorship provided.
Softball League/Custom Programs	3556	5 nights/12 weeks	127	5		\$56,250	\$750	These numbers represent league and custom program sponsors
Softball & Team Sponsors	3556	5 nights/12 weeks	127	132	\$89,210	\$56,250	\$750	These numbers represent all the teams within the softball program that are sponsored by community businesses.
End of Summer Softball Event	250	1 day	n/a	2	0	\$3,000	n/a	First time offering.

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2008 Summer Statistics Report

Event	Participants	# in Series	# of Teams	# of Sponsors	Cash Sponsorship Total	In-Kind Sponsorship Total	Donations/ Merchandise Sales	Comments
Park Rentals	190	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$16,337	n/a	n/a	Does not include co-sponsored events or Albany Timber Carnival. Reflects rentals during regular season May 1-October 1.
CPAS	4012	15	n/a	14	10,800	\$2,000	n/a	Notes: Changed timing of programming to better meet community needs. Have received expanded sponsorship commitments for next year.
Community Picnics	1900	4	n/a	3	n/a	\$3,750	n/a	Notes: Provided opportunity for Council, Commission, and staff to connect with community, identify needs, promote activities and services, and respond to questions and concerns. First year offered. Very successful program.
Senior BBQ	98	1	n/a	1	n/a	\$100	n/a	Successful BBQ. Received positive reviews.

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