

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Presentation Worksheet

Presentation Date: October 13, 2009 **Time:** 10:00 am **Length:** 45 minutes

Presentation Title: Developing Solutions for County Parks on the Clackamas River

Department: Business and Community Services (BCS), Sheriff's Office

Presenters: Dan Zinzer, Department Director; Pam Girtman, BCS; Matt Ellington and Kevin Layng, Sheriff's Office

POLICY QUESTION

1. Should the Board of County Commissioners support the ecOzone program at Barton and Carver parks to resolve safety issues (related to underage drinking, vandalism, litter, etc.) along the Clackamas River?
2. Should the Board of County Commissioners establish an alcohol ban to be observed in Barton and Carver (or all county) parks to reduce problems along the Clackamas River?

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

July 4, 2007, brought midweek record-hot summer weather and with it massive numbers of rafters and high-profile media coverage. Current county park policy allows alcoholic beverages in county parks, but the added activity prompted County Commissioners to modify that policy to ban alcohol temporarily in Barton and Carver parks between July 20 and Sept. 5, 2007.

The BCC directed staff to work with citizens in a public process to create a report of recommendations in time for a safer, healthier summer season in the parks adjacent to the Clackamas River. Primary citizen recommendations from that process resulted in the following components leading to significant progress, since designated as part of the ecOzone, which has been in operation for the past two summers:

- Enhance security through volunteer and education programs
- Ease congestion with additional rest rooms and parking space (purchase of Carver Curves property)
- Reduce litter and pollution (volunteers and education campaign)
- Increase funding for law enforcement.

In late summer 2009, a group of river residents met to discuss the need for increased attention to the problems along the Clackamas River. County staff from parks and the sheriff's office met to address solutions.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. Allocation of \$120,000 from the county general fund for summer 2010 to pay for a crew of reserve deputies to enhance park security
2. Gate fee increase from \$3 per car on Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer season (Memorial Day through Labor Day) to \$10 per car seven days a week, to pay for increased staff and security in the parks and to reduce crowding in the parks and on the river
3. Ban on alcohol in Barton and Carver parks, as suggested by the sheriff's office, to reduce problems in the parks
4. Enhancement and continuation of the ecOzone volunteer and education program

RECOMMENDATIONS

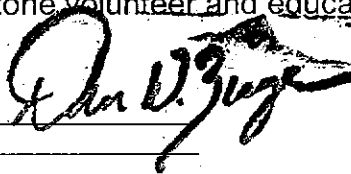
1. BCS and sheriff's office staff recommend \$120,000 from the county general fund to pay for reserves from the sheriff's office to respond to law enforcement issues in the parks
2. BCS and sheriff's office staff recommend gate fee increase for daily car assessment to reduce crowding in the parks and on the river and to fund security
3. Sheriff's office recommends a ban on alcohol in county parks/Barton and Carver parks
4. Parks Advisory Board, citizens and staff recommend enhancement and continuation of the ecOzone volunteer and education program.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____



For information on this issue, contact Pam Girtman at 503-742-4353.