

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Staff Presentation Worksheet

Presentation Date: December 22, 2009 Time: 10:00am Length: 30 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: Should the Board of County Commissioners increase Park Day Use Fees in all County Parks to fund enhanced Sheriff's operations in County Parks and resolve safety issues (related to underage drinking, vandalism, litter, etc.) along the Clackamas River?

ISSUE & BACKGROUND: During extreme hot periods over the past three years, some day users of the Clackamas River have created law enforcement issues including: litter and pollution, improper rafting safety equipment, traffic congestion, crowd control, illegal vehicle parking, excessive alcohol consumption, and trespassing on private property. Numerous efforts using present controls, property acquisition, temporary restrooms, and education have produced some, but not total, resolution of all of the identified issues. Law enforcement activities have impacted available financial resources within the Sheriff's Department.

At a study session held October 13, 2009, the Board of County Commissioners directed parks staff to estimate the park day-use entrance fee necessary to support \$120,000 Sheriff's operations, \$25,000 additional seasonal ecOzone staff, staff time and educational materials, and \$20,000 for (2) automated park entrance ticket dispensers.

Based on the current counts of day use vehicle entries into the parks, the fee will need to be increased from \$3.00 to \$9.60 in order to fund the increased expenses.

The Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board at their November 17, 2009 meeting voted to not raise day-use entrance fees to \$9.60 for law enforcement purposes feeling that those services are the responsibility of the Sheriff's Department.

The Park Advisory Board recommended that we increase the Day Use entry fee to \$5.00 to be consistent with State Parks and use the money to install solar powered electronic collection machines at the gates and enhance the ecOzone program.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE:

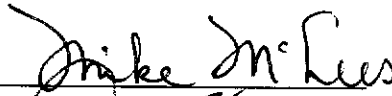
1. Increase Day Use fees at County parks from \$3 to \$10 and implement the entire program as outlined.
2. Increase day use fees from \$3.00 to \$5.00 and enhance education and volunteer programs.
3. Continue with the \$3.00 Day Use fee and maintain the program as is.
All options may or may not include a ban on alcohol without a permit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

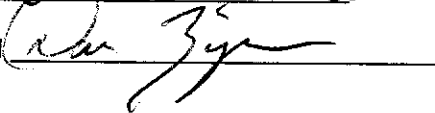
1. Staff respectfully recommends an increase in the park Day Use fee from \$3.00 to \$5.00, with the increased revenues used to enhance the ecOzone program, increase park staffing levels at Barton and Carver parks, add automated park entry fee collection machines at both parks, and modify the alcohol policy so that alcohol is only allowed within the parks with a special use permit.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval



Department Director/Head Approval



County Administrator Approval

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, contact Pam Girtman at 503-742-4353.