

Morrow County Parks Committee Meeting Agenda

Date: Tuesday June 9, 2026

Time: 1:00pm -3:00pm

Location: **Bartholomew Upper Floor Conference Room**

110 N. Court St. Heppner, OR 97836

Meeting Called By: Mike Gorman, Chairman

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

- Welcome and Introductions
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (March 17, 2026)

2. Reports

- Anson Wright Updates – See Park Manager Report
- Cutsforth Updates – See Park Manager Report
- OHV Updates – See Park Manager Report

3. New Business Items

- Termed Committee Member Seats – Mike Gorman
- Adding Parks Committee Secretary – Mike Gorman

4. Updates

- Parks Master Plan – Vince Guerrero
- TLT Tax– Vince Guerrero
- ATV Ordinance – Vince Guerrero
- ResNexus Credit Card Processor on Hold – Raymi Cain
- Star Gazing event – Vince Guerrero
- Fishing Derby – Raymi Cain
- Mother’s Day Ride the Blues Recap – Vince Guererro
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7. Announcements

- None

8. Public Comment

- Open Forum

9. Next Meeting Date

- September 8, 2026 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

10. Adjournment

Time: June 9, 2026 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82384604955?pwd=SsZ08y6w4jmWskdylFIIdmNpKaAcal.1>

View meeting insights with Zoom AI Companion

<https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/edl?muid=066ab377-bd73-48e1-a752-22a009bb1a1f>

Meeting ID: 823 8460 4955

Passcode: 183109

Morrow County Parks Committee

Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2026

1:00pm-3:00pm

Committee Members and Staff Present:

Mike Gorman, Vince Guerrero, Greg Close, Glen Maret, Tim Wright, Kirsti Cason, Jeff Wenholz, George Shimer, Sabrina Bailey & Raymi Cain

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

- Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Gorman at 1:00pm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- Introductions made

2. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes approved by committee

3. Reports – Park Updates

Anson Wright Park

- Liz Morris will be returning for the 2026 season as camp host.
- Sandy McDonald coming back as a relief host for all Parks.
- Park crew has done lots of burning of pine needles and fallen trees. It is still too wet to burn any brush.

Cutsforth Park

- Don Ashcroft will be returning for the 2026 season as the camp host.
- Park crew has been able to burn brush, and they have also added gravel to campsites to accommodate larger camp trailers.
- All overhead power has been removed and now all Cutsforth's power is completely underground.
- No market for logging the trees.

OHV Park

- Kathy Spears will be returning for the 2026 season as camp host.
 - Park crew has been working on trail clean up, water diversions, cleaning all the cattle guards, and widening cattle guards to 82" to accommodate large equipment and vehicles.
 - Campground has been logged.
 - Work and updates are going on at the Landing. Back room has been enclosed for use, tables have been retreated, adding new dinnerware and utensils.
 - Three events planned for the 2026 season: April 17th-19th Stargazing event this is before the parks open and is the first year for this event, Mother's Day (opening weekend) weekend NWRA, and in October the Ride Over Cancer Event.
 - It was reported that there were almost 700 reservations made when reservations opened back up January 1st, 2026.
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4. New Business

The Landing Vendor for 2026

- Sharon Helms is the planned contractor for the 2026 season. Contract is currently being finalized. Sharon processes her own meat and has her own meat trailer she will bring with her to the OHV Park. She has agreed to do a soft opening for the Stargazing event the weekend of April 17th- 20th.

ATV Ordinance

- Has gone through review with the Sheriff's office and Forest Service and they approved the language and mentioned concern regarding speed limits.
- Draft is currently with Bob Blackmoore, the County's contracted attorney.
- Maps will be created once ATV Ordinance has been approved. Maps with legend and color coding will be created once ordinance is in place.
- Signage will need to be posted.
- Public input will be open after Ordinance has been approved by Commissioners.
- Currently, the plan is to begin by opening the area south of Blake Ranch to ATV use, with an initial focus on connecting the parks through ATV-accessible roads. Additional ATV-approved roadways within the County may be considered for future expansion if needed.

Park Host for 2026

- The contract is currently being reviewed by legal counsel. Once ready, Greg Close, Parks Manager, will coordinate with the hosts to complete signatures for the upcoming season.

Yurt Concept

- A concept plan for future yurt development at the parks is being discussed, with consideration given to location and quantity. The yurts would be dry units situated near restroom facilities.

2027 Tax Separation and Increase

- Discussed the upcoming increase in the state lodging tax and the possibility of applying the additional percentage to guest stay charges so the cost is covered by visitors rather than directly impacting the County's budget.
 - Mike Groman stated that the tax will rise further, with the additional funds designated to support Wolf Depredation programs.
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5. Updates

Parks Master Plan

- Approval for Parks Master Plan Grant has been received but the Notice to Proceed letter has not been issued yet.
- Last Parks Master plan was done in house and new Master Plan will be contracted out for professional assistance to capture all future needs and plans.
- Boardman Parks and Rec's George Shimer told the Committee that the City of Boardman recently updated their Master Plan and contracted out the work and was please with the amount of detail that was included.

TLT Tax

- County is looking into creating a TLT or a TID tax. Discussion is being had with County Administrator, Matt Jensen, Tourism Representative, Karie Walchie, and County Administrative Assistant, Vincent Guererro and deciding what tax to go with and what that will look like for the County as a whole.

Capital Improvements

- CIP group has discussed building a new shower/bathroom facility at Anson Wright Memorial Park that is larger than what is currently there and would replace current building. Parks will apply for a grant, and the Parks Department has enough funds to pay for the match portion.

- Replacement of 4H building discussed will be further out more than 5-year plan.

Updating Credit Card Processor

- Approval is being held up by Finance, follow up is being done by Parks staff, and County Administrator.

Event Planning

- Parks is looking to continue to add new events. One that is currently in the works for the Fall of 2027 is a Gravel Bike Race that is put on by Mudslingers, they host several events all over the state of Oregon.
 - George Shimer suggested a bike event where attendees could ride to each park.
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6. Announcements

Events

- Stargazing Event is planned to be held April 17th-19th, 2026, at OHV Park
- Mother's Day Ride is planned to be held May 9th, 2026, at OHV Park
- Fishing Derby held May 30th, 2026, at Cutsforth Park
- Ride Over Cancer will be held in October 2026 at OHV Park
- Advertising with SMG utilizing radio and digital advertisements, social media, and local newspapers.

Parks Master Plan Grant

- Approved waiting for Notice to Proceed Letter

Equipment Purchase Grant – Morooka

- Notice to Proceed letter received, currently out for RFP bids
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7. Public Comment

- None

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm

Next meeting planned to be held Tuesday June 9, 2026, from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Parks Committee Meeting

Park Manager Report

June 9, 2026

Anson Wight Park

- Fish were delivered to the park, and many visitors have been enjoying the ponds and camping
- Crew has kept up with the mowing and keeping the park up.
- We have a couple that volunteer and have been trimming and weed eating around the park
- Liz has kept the park in top condition with the cleaning and customer service
- Replaced picnic tables that were built at the OHV park.
- Took water samples to Pendleton for state of Oregon compliance updated up the AED for the office

Cutsforth park

- Crew has completed all the upgrades to use new water lines.
- Crew has kept up with the mowing and weed eating around the park.
- Repoured concrete sidewalk that had to be removed for power and water line upgrade.
- Fishing derby went well with around 70 kids registered; they enjoyed fishing and the prizes.
- Raymi put a lot of pictures up on Facebook of the derby and kept up with all the scoring of the fish. Thank you Raymi.
- Sandra Rice and Judy Gabriel, Glen Wards daughters donated 3 bicycles and two bags of small flashlights for raffle and prizes for the Glen Ward fishing derby.
- Heppner Elks provided hotdogs, Chili, hot chocolate and coffee for the Fishing Derby.
- Removed a couple of hazardous trees, cleaned them up, and hauled them away.
- Regraded gravel roads in the day use area of the park.
- Replaced a lot of picnic tables with new ones that were built at the OHV park.
- Took water samples to Pendleton for state of Oregon compliance.
- Updated the AED for the office.

OHV Park

- Milled lumber for tables and signs within the park.
- Built picnic tables
- Milled lumber for signs and post for the trail system.

- We should have all the trail markers complete this week for the entire trail system.
- We continue to mow and weed eat around the campgrounds.
- The Stargazing event went well for our first time.
- The Mother's Day ride (ride the blues) went off very well with 354 registered riders. This makes it the largest Ride the Blues attendance yet; it keeps growing every year. The Park was extremely full and was full shortly after opening the reservation system in January.
- So far, the park has had a pretty good turnout for park numbers.
- Currently working on surplus equipment with County and State Parks.
- Ranchers have started bringing in cattle for grazing on the Harrington creek or east side of the park (59 pairs and 3 bulls).
- Our crew are currently checking fence lines for fallen trees and elk damage.
- Crew has made and hauled a lot of firewood to all three parks so far this year.
- Current conditions at the OHV Park are dry, we have had a little rain that helped making trails dusty.
- Replace old metal panels with concrete blocks around firewood sales. Easier to clean and more aesthetic to the public.
- Updated AED for main office