

# Morrow County Parks Committee

## Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2026

1:00pm-3:00pm

### Committee Members and Staff Present:

Mike Gorman, Vince Guerrero, Dean Robinson, Sheryll Bates, Tim Wright, Kirsti Cason, Jeff Wenholz, George Shimer, & Raymi Cain

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#### 1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

- Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Gorman at 1:09pm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- Introductions made

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#### 2. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes approved by committee with the correction of date listed from 3/16/2026 to 3/17/2026.

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#### 3. Reports – Park Updates

##### Anson Wright 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 Ward's 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.
- Re-graded 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 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

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#### **4. New Business**

##### **Termed Committee Seats**

- It was decided Raymi Cain will send out applications to the members with positions termed for renewal. If any of the members do not wish to return, then open seat(s) will be posted and opened to receive applications.
- Vince Guerrero will review the current Park Committee Bylaws regarding a secretary and present it at the September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 committee meeting.

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#### **5. Updates**

##### **Parks Master Plan**

- RFP for a consulting service has been posted, and applications are due June 24, 2026.
- Committee has voted to have a Parks Master Plan Sub Committee to review RFPs, and future Parks Master Plan as the development of the plan is made. Sub Committee members will be; Mike Gorman, Kirsti Cason, George Shimer, Greg Close, and Sheryll Bates.

##### **TLT Tax**

- No new updates on TLT tax. If voted to move forward most likely will take effect January 1, 2027.

##### **ATV Ordinance**

- Still moving forward with getting all necessary items in place to open county roads to connect the parks with ATV use. Some concerns were voiced about ATV riders not staying on the approved roads and going on roads that are not ATV permitted. Discussion on having more presence from the Sheriff's Department and making sure that signs are posted and visible so there is no confusion.

##### **Updating Credit Card Processor**

- County Administrator Matt Jensen and Finance Director Kevin Ince have put a pause on updating the credit card processor at this time. Parks has been asked to revisit again in the fall.

#### **Event Planning**

- **Stargazing** event had a good turnout with 25 reservations. The presentations put on by the Tri Cities Astronomy club were a success and had positive reviews from the guests that attended. The stargazing went well; there were several headlight interruptions due to traffic on County Roads and by campers trying to see where they were driving throughout the OHV Park. Parks is planning to pour several concrete pads around OHV Park for year-round stargazing.
  - **Mother's Day Ride the Blues Event** was a full house. Largest ride yet with 354 registered riders, Park was completely booked, including overflow sites. The North West Trail Riders Association (NWTRA) marked around 30 miles of trail for the ride which included a little of every type of terrain the park has.
  - **Fishing Derby** had around 70 kids registered. The event was a huge success, and with additional donations from local business the parks were able to purchase extra items for goodie bags and had additional prizes to add to the raffle.
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## 6. Announcements

- No announcements
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## 7. Public Comment

- None

**Meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm**

**Next meeting planned to be held Tuesday September 8, 2026, from 1:00pm-3:00pm**