

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2012

1. At 9:02 a.m., Chairman Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Wheeler were present.

2. **MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2012.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **MASTER GARDNER & EXTENSION DEMO GARDEN**

Derek Godwin, OSU Extension Regional Administrator, Tina Andersen, Polk County Fair Manager, Ray Steele, Fair Board, and Barbara Nichols, Bill Lehey, Delores Mayfield and Don Erickson, Polk County Master Gardeners, attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of developing a demo garden at Nesmith Park.

The Master Gardener group explained that they currently have small garden plots at the Brunk house, Gentle House, Dallas Arboretum, and the Fairgrounds, but they would like to have one demo garden in one location that could be used for trainings and workshops. They are requesting to use 1.5 – 3 acres of the flat, grassy area currently at Nesmith Park to develop into the demo garden. Power for lighting and sprinkler timers could be available from the Fairground buildings.

Tina and Ray expressed concern that the location within the Park that the Master Gardeners are referring to is used during the Annual fair for camping and parking for the 4-H participants. The Board also expressed concern that the design of the entire Fairgrounds complex expansion is not known, and until a design is in place, it would not be practical to select a location for the garden. The park is closed from approximately October 1 – May 1 due to high water, and so access during these months may not be available for trainings, workshops, or garden maintenance.

The Board suggested that the Master Gardeners continue to meet with the Fair Board to create a more specific and mutually beneficial vision/plan for the park and fairgrounds campus, meet with the Rickreall Community Water Association Board to discuss the feasibility of providing water to the gardens, and creating a sustainability plan for the management of the garden.

4. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

- a. **FAIRGROUND LIGHTING BID**

Tina Andersen informed the Board that the current T-12 lighting in the Fairgrounds facilities (main building, 4-H, arts & crafts, and swine barn) will be discontinued as of October, 2012, and the current fixtures will need to be replaced with high-efficiency fixtures. Tina has received bids from four local electrical companies, and presented the best bid to the Board. The cost would be \$45,749, but \$14,428 would be reimbursed by the energy trust of Oregon. The high efficiency fixtures will save the Fairgrounds \$8,344 annually in electricity costs. The Board directed Tina to contact the Council of Governments, Wedbush, and USDA to seek additional funding to offset the costs of the upgrades.

b. **FAIR BOARD EXPENDITURE**

Ray Steele informed the Board that at their next meeting, the Fair Board will be deciding on whether to approve a \$5,000 expenditure for an architect to design a new layout for the expanded future fairgrounds campus.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE \$5,000 EXPENDITURE REQUEST

Chairman Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Minutes: Heather Alvarez

Approved: March 27, 2012