

## ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

11/10/15


The large events task force (LETf) has provided the county with an extensive document outlining their view of the future of large events in Lane County Parks. However its many points do not represent a unanimity of opinion and the Commissioners should take into account the membership of the LETf in coming to their final conclusions. The task force contained a predominance of members either living in the immediate area of Howard Buford Park or associated with the park through its supporting volunteer organizations. Some committee members feel that the opinions of Lane County residents as a whole were not adequately represented by the final document and that it is highly likely that a more representative LETf would have reached conclusions more receptive to a variety of large events at County venues.

Under "General conclusions and guiding principals" (page 8) the LETf agreed that large events were appropriate, apparently legal, fit into the mission, generated useful revenue and needed solid management, contracts, and safety plans. With these guidelines the LETf then managed to come up with recommendations that, if adopted, essentially eliminate large events at Emerald Meadows and severely limit large events throughout the Lane County Park System.

The LETf, as so constituted, voted not to issue a minority report. If they had done so, that report might have recognized that Lane County Parks had already assessed traffic, safety, roads, environmental impact, revenue, health, neighborhood impacts and other concerns in its earlier contracts with organizations sponsoring large events. A failure to enforce a contract provision with the Kaleidoscope organization was, in fact, the cause of the turmoil that led to the formation of the LETf. Prior to this contract violation events such as "Fairie World", "Dirty Dash", scout jamborees, war re-enactments, etc. had been generally well received by the public. Accordingly, a minority report might have included the following recommendations:

- 1.) LC Parks should limit large events to no more than every third weekend at any one site. (HBRP has two identified sites.) These should be representative of a variety of community interests and benefit from the rural parkland environment. Proposed large events should be reviewed by the Parks Advisory Committee to assure appropriateness.
- 2.) LC Parks should monitor large events with personnel capable of immediately shutting down such events when contract violations occur (e.g. cut power to amplified events).
- 3.) There should be no amplified sound after 10pm. "Rock concerts" and similar events relying on excessively amplified sound are not appropriate for most county parks including HBRP (an exception might be Richardson).
- 4.) The many salient concerns addressed by the LETf should be taken into consideration as potential improvements in future park operations but not viewed as binding limitations unless each is approved individually by the Commissioners. The elimination of special use permits for temporary camping and the formation of a "special review" committee should NOT occur.

The benefits of large community events held at County Parks are considerable and are widely appreciated by the general public. They have a polled approval rate as high as 71-92% when adequate oversight is assured. They can enhance the use of county parkland and introduce visitors and new users to the many possibilities inherent in these public resources. They are of only a marginal financial asset to LC Parks. The main point remains that large events of various types attract and engage a majority of our citizens and the overly restrictive recommendations of the task force deserve some modification.

  
541-686-6745

11/10/15



November 9, 2015

Board of Commissioners  
Lane County  
125 E. 8th Ave.,  
Eugene, OR 97401

Chris Orsinger  
*Executive Director*

RE: Friends' resolution supporting recommendations of Large Events Task Force.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chaz Dutoit  
*President*

Brian Millington  
*Past-President*

Philip Bayles

Tim Blood

Christian Fox

Jill Hoyenga

Greg Hyde

Rich Linton

Kevin Shanley

Bob Wright

Dear Commissioners,

The Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah board of directors reviewed and deliberated on the Large Events Task Force's final report and passed the following resolution:

**Resolved,** The Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah commends the Large Events Task Force (LETF) for their substantial and diligent work culminating in their Final Report dated October 5, 2015. We urge the Lane County Board of County Commissioners to fully endorse the recommendations from the LETF as written. We believe the recommendations place common sense limitations on large events in the Howard Buford Recreation Area and provide adequate protections for regular park visitors, neighbors and the native ecosystem.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Julie Daniel

David Funk

Margot Helphand

Jewel Murphy

George Rode

We value our partnership with Lane County to enhance habitats and low-intensity recreation at the Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA). We look forward to collaborating with Lane County Parks and other stakeholders to develop viable options consistent with the HBRA Master Plan for the North Bottomlands area within Buford Park.

Sincerely,

Chaz Dutoit  
Board President

cc: Steve Mokrohisky  
Marsha Miller  
Mike Russell

PO Box 5266  
Eugene, OR 97405  
541-344-8350  
[www.bufordpark.org](http://www.bufordpark.org)