The Commission wrapped up a productive meeting in Ilwaco that included presentations, work sessions, guest speakers and more. Here's an overview of topics covered.

## COMMISSION ACTION

### Item E-1: Review and Disposition of Commission Policies

Policy and Governmental Affairs Director, Owen Rowe, provided an update on the status of the ongoing review and maintenance of Commission policies. He also provided an overview of Commission authority in regards to policy and administrative code development and plans for continued maintenance of Commission policy.

This requested action asked the Commission to repeal three policies that have been superseded by other Commission action or are already addressed in other documents.

This item was unanimously approved.

› View Presentation

Lisa Lantz and Ryan Karlson hosted an excellent tour at Cape Disappointment State Park. The group enjoyed the views (and wind) on Benson Beach.
Item E-2: Klickitat State Park Trail Long-Term Boundary Revision
The Commission was asked to approve a long-term Boundary modification and land classification for the Klickitat State Park Trail. The project area is between the town of Klickitat and Warwick. The Commission was presented with a recommendation and a summary of the public process during the planning effort and an overview of comments received. The long-term boundary changes will help in collaborative conservation work being undertaken between state parks and the Yakama Nation and other partners.

This item was unanimously approved.

View Presentation

Item E-3: 2023-25 Capital Budget Development
The Commission was asked to approve a capital budget development assumptions, budget structure and overall magnitude of the funding request to guide the preparation of the agency’s 2023-25 capital budget request.

The Commission approved the staff recommendation outlined in Option 1 with a 6-1 vote.

View Presentation

Item E-4: Financial Update
As a result of the 2022 supplemental budget, Parks’ total biennial budget increased by $19.5 million, to a total of $232 million. Revenue continues to outpace what was estimated, sitting at 9.3% ($3.6 million) above projections as of the end of February. While Discover Pass sales to date are lower than this time last year, they are still 21% higher than they were two years ago. Camping revenue to date is outpacing last year’s revenue by 2.4%. An unusually high level of position vacancies across the organization continues to contribute to high variances, freeing up funds for one-time expenditures where strategic opportunities exist.

View Presentation
Item E-5: 2023-2025 Operating Budget
A good budget is born out of good strategy. Every two years, Parks submits biennial budget requests for consideration to the Governor’s Office and the Legislature. As Parks works towards submitting their budget requests for the 2023-25 biennium, strategy is central to development. Parks’ leadership spent time in March generating ideas for consideration. The 43+ ideas in discussion are being routed, as appropriate, into work group discussions, consideration for purchasing now and executive leadership team strategy sessions. Input and ideas for consideration are welcome throughout the process. Parks will seek commission approval for intended requests at the July commission meeting.

View Presentation

Item E-6: 2022 Director’s Performance Agreement
The Commission reviewed the Director’s Performance Agreement for 2022.

This item was approved unanimously.

View Requested Action

Pre-Arranged Guest Speaker - Washington State Parks Foundation
John Floberg, the Executive Director for the Washington State Parks Foundation, provided an update about the foundation. Floberg shared a brief recap about the recent Beverly Bridge event, an overview about a survey conducted last fall, information about the upcoming I Love My State Parks week, the Check Out Washington expansion and more.

View Presentation
Health and Safety Update
Wayne Adams, Employee Health and Safety Manager, provided an overview of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Health and Safety Program. The information included acknowledging several employees for their efforts in encouraging employees to work safely, 2020 - 2021 safety statistics, the agency's experience modification rate and the goals and objectives for 2022.

View Presentation

Volunteer Program Update
The volunteer program spans all of Washington State with over 1200 active volunteers and volunteer groups, 25 Friends Groups, 500 Park Hosts and over 250,000 hours of service given each year to the betterment of our parks. Volunteers have recently accomplished work to fulfill the state parks mission through welcoming campers and helping park staff in over 43 parks, cleaning up over seven beach approaches and filling multiple dumpsters with trash from our ocean, cleaning up tens of thousands of pounds in invasive plans during park cleanups, and going out in winter on snowshoes to clean up our trails.

To continue the great work of volunteers in state parks, the Volunteer Program is currently working on setting up foundations to make the process of onboarding and maintaining volunteers in our parks easier: including rewriting a staff manual, creating a new volunteer handbook and purchasing new Volunteer Tracking Software. Program staff are also evaluating the volunteer program to learn what has worked well in the past and what has not to better inform where sustainable growth can be made and what resources are needed for that growth. The Volunteer Program staff are also working to support staff and volunteers in their work at parks through developing formal training, providing accessible resources and evaluating and planning appreciation events like Camporee for 2024. Finally, Volunteer Program staff are moving towards inclusion and welcoming new volunteers through evaluating the program through a DEI lens, looking for staff network to support volunteer efforts and align with other programs and initiatives at Washington State Parks.

View Presentation
State Parks Commission and Commission on African American Affairs Workgroup and Report

Governor Inslee's 2021 proposed operating budget included a proviso that directed the State Parks Commission and the Commission on African American Affairs to work together and collaborate with stakeholders who have expertise in the Black experience of outdoor recreation. The goals of this collaboration include identifying barriers to inclusion and developing recommendations to increase Black Washingtonians' participation in the State Parks system, and in other recreation spaces and public parks.

There were two parts to this work: a survey to assess the needs of this community related to state parks and outdoor recreation and a series of conversations with 12 individuals appointed by the Governor’s Office that will result in a final report with recommendations.

Reco Bembry, the lead facilitator for the workgroup conversations, shared an update on the development of the final report and outlined recommendations for further consideration by the Commission.

View Presentation

Blake Island Concession Update:

Staff presented an overview of the condition of the concession on Blake Island, known as Tillicum Village. The concession provided transportation to and from Blake Island, a meal of salmon cooked by traditional methods and tribal cultural programming for over 40 years. Items covered were: history of Blake Island, the history and background of the concession, issues with the concession building and a potential path forward to secure a new concessionaire.

View Presentation
WORK SESSION PRESENTATIONS

**Interpretive Program Update**
Program staff conveyed how development of authentic interpretive opportunities occurs at the speed of relationships. Ryan Karlson provided an overview of Commission policy on tribal interpretation with a focus on lessons learned in the realm of intellectual property and the reality of partnership project timeframes. Karlson shared an example of a notable tribal partnership at Federation Forest with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

Exhibit program coordinator Sam Wotipka provided an overview of our exhibit development process and the critical role of relationship building. Wotipka shared an exhibit wayside project at Peace Arch that benefited from the work of several internal staff and external stakeholders—including the Paul Robeson Foundation. The final area of focus was a presentation from Makaela Kroin our Folk & Traditional Arts program coordinator. Kroin’s presentation focused on relationship building with partner, Golden Bricks Events, which has produced in person and virtual programs and developed the framework for an oral history project to center black narratives.

[View Presentation](#)

**Brand Refresh Update**
Stephanie McDermott, Brand and Marketing Manager, provided the Commission with an update about the branding refresh process. The presentation included a summary of findings from the internal and external surveys and plans for next steps.

[View Presentation](#)
Capital Program Update

State Parks received a total of $104 million ($38.9 million reappropriation, $65.3 million new money) in Capital budget appropriations for the 21-23 biennium. There are currently 87 Capital projects funded for the biennium, of which 18% are in the construction/closeout phase, 70% are in design/permitting and 12% are not started. As of the end of February, approximately $30 million has been spent or encumbered (28.8%), an additional $28 million (27.5%) is projected to be spent by the end of the biennium, and approximately $45.5 million (43.6%) will be requested for reappropriation in the 23-25 Capital budget.

Factors affecting the delivery of Capital projects have included staff shortages, both internally and externally, increasing material costs and environmental permitting delays. Capital Program staff discussed several solutions and short and long-term mitigations that will aid in improving efficiency of Capital project delivery and bring down the size of future reappropriation requests.

View Presentation
GOLD STAR AWARDS

Simon Ray Cutter - Birch Bay
Thank you for your outstanding effort and initiative in using mobile GIS applications to map park signage and promote GIS resources to operations staff.

Nick Klein - Payables
Thank you, Nick, for all of your hard work and excellent customer service at the 2022 Seattle RV Show. You were spectacular at the presentations and we appreciate you serving as Bagley the Beaver. You helped make our booth the best!

Jason Smith - Contracts and Procurement Services
Thank you, Jason, for always being very helpful, professional and maintaining a positive attitude even while multi-tasking! Thank you for your help - we appreciate you!

Hang onto your hats! It gets a bit windy at Beverly Bridge!
Commissioners, staff and special guests posed for a picture at the grand opening event on April 8.

Commissioners, staff, Governor Inslee, elected officials and members of the public attended the Goldendale Project Celebration on April 7.