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SENATE COMMITTEE ON PARKS

March 4, 1997 Hearing Room 137

3:00 PM Tapes 19 - 21

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Gary George, Chair

Sen. Bill Dwyer, Vice-Chair

Sen. Joan Dukes

Sen. Verne Duncan

MEMBER EXCUSED:

Sen. Veral Tarno

STAFF PRESENT:

Glen Stonebrink, Administrator

Brad Harper, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

- Privatization

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

Tape/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 19, A		
003	Chair George	Chair convenes meeting at 3:14 PM.
012	Glen Stonebrink	Committee administrator. Discussion of proposed committee bills.
<u>Oregon Parks & Recreation Department</u>		
023	Chair George	Question of Bob Meinen.
025	Bob Meinen	Director, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD). Response regarding content of presentation. Submission of written materials. (EXHIBIT A) .
034	Chair George	Question regarding OPRD budget.
040	Meinen	Response
050	Sen. Dukes	Discussion of bond obligations.
056	Chair George	Comment
059	Sen. Dukes	Question regarding proposed improvements to parks.
064	Meinen	Discussion of budget narrative. Discussion of \$28 million bond proposal.
090	Sen. Dukes	Question regarding allocation of \$28 million bond proposal.
102	Meinen	Agrees that bond would free \$10 million from budget. Discussion of budget projections.
155	Sen. Duncan	Comment
160	Chair George	Question regarding revenue issues.
167	Meinen	Discussion of revenue estimates. Discussion of house bill proposing increased trip permit revenues of \$1.4 million.

		Discussion of funds necessary to avoid park closures.
200	Meinen	Summary of budget narrative.
241	Sen. Dukes	Question regarding natural resources excise tax.
243	Meinen	Response
249	Sen. Dukes	Statement regarding need to find \$30 million in additional funding.
256	Meinen	Discussion of current funding issues.
265	Sen. Duncan	Comment
272	Sen. Dukes	Statement regarding funding conflict with salmon restoration plan.
280	Chair George	Comment
287	Meinen	Discussion of bond proposal. Recommendation that \$10 million be set aside for park restoration.
350	Meinen	Discussion of possible revenue generation from additional meeting facilities.
359	Chair George	Question regarding possible conflicts with other industry interests.
370	Meinen	Comments regarding possible consequences and OPRD policy.
392	Chair George	Question regarding auditorium capacity at Champoeg state park.
TAPE 20,A		
015	Meinen	Seating capacity of 3,500 - largest in state park system. Discussion of noise complaint issues.
030	Sen. Dukes	Question regarding scope of day use fees.
033	Meinen	Response
038	Meinen	Discussion of park resource stores, conference centers and matching grants funding.
075	Sen. Dukes	Question
080	Meinen	Response
090	Sen. Dukes	Support for revenue bonding.
101	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of revenue measures possible during this biennium. Discussion of lottery stream as means of bond repayment. Preferable to financing through bank.
131	Meinen	OPRD does not support private bank funding of bond proposal.
140	Chair George	Question regarding renovation schedules.
143	Meinen	Response
162	Chair	Proposed legislation would generate \$14 million every year.

	George	
180	Sen. Dwyer	Question regarding budget
185	Meinen	\$62 million over current biennium with \$6.2 million out of general fund.
192	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of shifting revenue from lottery and general fund.
225	Chair George	Question regarding reasonableness of revenue proposal.
237	Meinen	Discussion of allocation of proposed revenue and possible benefits.
264	Sen. Dwyer	Necessary to find dedicated revenue source.
273	Chair George	Statement regarding current direction committee is taking.
293	Sen. Duncan	Question regarding revenue bonds.
310	Chair George	Current funding guarantee is \$4.4 million.
321	Sen. Dukes	Supports bond proposal, but also agrees with Senator Dwyer's idea to dedicate lottery funds.
360	Chair George	Discussion of priority of spending projects.
365	Sen. Dukes	All projects will not be accomplished during one biennium.
375	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of revenue measures which do not require constitutional amendments. Discussion of revenue streams.
421	Chair George	Discussion of increasing recreational vehicle fees.
TAPE 19,B		
025	Sen. Dukes	Question regarding \$8.4 million revenue from 50% increase in recreational vehicle fees.
040	Chair George	Question regarding committee procedure.
061	Sen. Dwyer	Question regarding leverage possible with \$8.4 million.
069	Meinen	Clarification of spending priorities.
084	Sen. Dukes	Question regarding raising current bottle deposit.
089	Meinen	One-cent increase in bottle deposit equates to \$10-11 million per year.
104	Sen. Dukes	Discussion of proposal to raise \$66 million per biennium.
108	Meinen	Comment
111	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of uncollected bottle deposits.
120	Chair George	Question

123	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of possible \$12 million revenue from uncollected bottle deposits.
131	Chair George	Comment that funds may be illusory.
134	Sen. Dukes	Discussion of source of revenue estimates.
140	Chair George	Comment regarding bottle deposit issue.
142	Sen. Dwyer	Suggests seeking opinion of revenue department.
160	Stonebrink	Clarification of issues discussed.
169	Sen. Duncan	Comment regarding bottle deposit issue.
175	Sen. Dukes	Explanation of uncollected bottle deposits.
183	Chair George	Discussion of Thursday's agenda.
188	Meinen	Suggestion
195	Sen. Dwyer	Wishes to explore other states' approach to uncollected deposits issue.
203	Chair George	Comment regarding recycling rates.
205	Sen. Dukes	Other states have better recycling rates and they spend uncollected deposits.
215	Chair George	Committee has \$20 million proposal through increased recreation vehicle fees and bottle deposit.
220	Sen. Dukes	Suggests 3% of lottery funds as revenue.
220	Sen. Dwyer	With inclusion of lottery funds, total reaches \$37 million.
230	Chair George	Summarizes issues.
235	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of OPRD budget needs and general fund obligations.
250	Sen. Dukes	Supports hotel/motel tax.
256	Meinen	Current hotel/motel tax generates \$300,000 per biennium.
270	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of practical effects of hotel/motel tax.
293	Dell Ishom	Representing Oregon Association of Convention and Visitors' Bureaus. Discussion of current practice with hotel/motel tax.
320	Sen. Dwyer	Comment
325	Sen. Dukes	Effect of hotel/motel tax is to keep Oregon's park fees too high.
355	Chair George	Summary of current plans.
363	Ishom	Comment regarding practical effect of retaining hotel/motel tax.
375	Chair George	Question regarding enhancement of port of entry facilities.

385	Ishom	Primary concern is keeping parks open.
403	Sen. Dukes	Majority of hotel/motel tax collect at Fort Stevens.
TAPE 20,B		
020	Ishom	Discussion of parks utilization.
031	Sen. Dwyer	Committee must not only fund parks this biennium, but into the future. Answer lies in three current suggestions.
051	Meinen	Only a few midwestern states have lower recreational vehicle fees. Oregon is lowest in west, excepting Idaho.
060	Sen. Dwyer	Question regarding effect of 50% increase in those fees.
063	Chair George	Question
065	Meinen	Response
067	Chair George	Comments on public resistance to fee increases.
077	Sen. Dukes	Question regarding trip permit proposal.
080	Meinen	Discussion of measure proposed by OPRD.
090	Sen. Dukes	Question regarding amount of fee increase.
091	Meinen	Purpose to encourage people to register recreational vehicles rather than purchase ten day trip permits.
105	Sen. Dukes	Question
109	Meinen	Response and discussion of estimated \$1.4 million revenue increase.
122	Sen. Dwyer	Question regarding 1 percent statewide bed tax on hotels and motels.
127	Ishom	Discussion of current room tax implementation.
140	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of statewide room tax.
145	Ishom	Perceives room tax as local source of revenue.
155	Chair George	Comment
159	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of choices facing committee.
167	Chair George	Summary of proposals discussed during meeting.
181	Sen. Dwyer	Suggests placing all options within same bill.
194	Meinen	Summary of programs which would be funded under current proposals.
228	Sen. Dwyer	Restatement of issues to be discussed next meeting.
235	Sen. Dukes	Comment
244	Meinen	Comment
250	Stonebrink	Question regarding next meeting's agenda.

265	Meinen	Question
269	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of issues facing committee.
282	Sen. Dukes	Comment
289	Sen. Dwyer	Comment
300	Stonebrink	Discussion of committee's agenda.
305	Chair George	Comment
310	Sen. Dukes	Suggests inviting Good Sam Recreational Vehicle Club.
315	Sen. Dwyer	Supports suggestion.
325	Stonebrink	Question
330	Sen. Dwyer	Suggestion
335	Chair George	Comment
340	Sen. Dukes	Question regarding committee bill.
344	Meinen	Statement regarding privatization issue.
355	Chair George	Comment
359	Sen. Dwyer	Suggests defining options before going to public hearing.
371	Chair George	Suggests OPRD discuss privatization and summarize house action.
393	Meinen	Discussion of appropriation bill.
405	Sen. Dwyer	Comment
412	Chair George	Comment
TAPE 21,A		
015	Sen. Dukes	Statement that privatization will only apply to parks which already generate revenue.
028	Chair George	Discussion of cooperation between public and private sectors.
030	Sen. Duncan	Question
045	Meinen	Response
052	Stonebrink	Question
059	Sen. Dukes	Suggestion to facilitate legislative counsel process.
064	Sen. Dwyer	Comment
065	Stonebrink	Question
067	Sen. Dukes	Explanation of proposed committee bill.
073	Sen. Dwyer	Comment
	Sen.	

078	Duncan	Comment
080	Chair George	Chair adjourns meeting at 5:05 PM.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Brad Harper Glen Stonebrink

Administrative Assistant Administrator

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EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, written materials, Robert Meinen, 7 pp.
