

**PORT OF BROOKINGS HARBOR
Special Commissioner Meeting
16350 Lower Harbor Rd Suite 202
Thursday, April 30, 2020 • 2:30pm
Teleconference**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting Teleconference Call-In Number (Public & Commissioners): 1 (301) 715-8592

Access Code: 859 2607 8388

Participant ID: # (to mute/unmute: * 6)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Roll Call
- Modifications, Additions, and Changes to the Agenda
- Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interest

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. Please email your comments to danielle@portofbrookingsharbor.com prior to the meeting, no later than 2pm day of meeting. *Please wait to be called on before speaking***)**

4. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Beachfront RV Park Closure Extension
- B. 2020 Events at Port

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. None

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE – Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:00pm

8. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION ITEM – A

DATE: April 30, 2020
RE: Beachfront RV Park Closure Extension
TO: Honorable Board President and Harbor District Board Members
ISSUED BY: Gary Dehlinger, Port Manager

OVERVIEW

- March 23, 2020, Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-12 to curb the COVID-19 pandemic has closed many of the Port's retail businesses and RV Park. Also, during this ongoing state of emergency that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals stay at home or at their place of residence.
- March 24, 2020, Board of Commissioners approved to close Beachfront RV Park and Fishing Pier immediately and reevaluate closure before May 8.
- Beachfront RV Park operates under the Oregon State Park guidelines for stay limits.
- Oregon State Parks extended all campground closures to May 25.

DOCUMENTS

- Oregon State Parks News Release April 28, 2020, 5 pages

COMMISSIONERS ACTION

- **Recommended Motion:**
Option 1:
Motion to approve extend the Beachfront RV Park closure through May 25 or until Governor Brown releases the Executive Order on campgrounds and refund all reservations through May 25.

Option 2: Staff not recommended
Motion to reopen Beachfront RV Park on May 8 with site restrictions...guidelines to be determine...to achieve social distancing requirements.

COVID-19: For the latest information on COVID-19 in Oregon, visit the Oregon Health Authority. Interested in how we're handling COVID-19 in Oregon State Parks? For the latest updates, visit our **Frequently Asked Questions** web page.

Feature Articles | COVID-19 Response: Parks closing



**Closed
starting
March 23**

04/28/2020

Reviewed date: April 28, 5:00 p.m.

Updated: April 28, 5:00 p.m.

We have made the difficult decision to close the entire state park system by March 23. No daytime or overnight visitors are permitted at any state park. **This does not affect the ocean shore.** We'll revisit that decision if people don't maintain 6' social distance and if cities/counties make a formal request through the state's Office of Emergency Management.

Read the closure announcement.

The state park closure will be extended past May 8. There is no date for opening day-use at any state park. State park camping and day-use reservations have been cancelled from May 8 through and including May 25. We'll share the status of future reservations before May 25, but more cancellations are likely.

What? Why? Isn't this an overreaction?

This is the hardest thing we've ever had to do. We'd hoped people would protect themselves, and more importantly, others by limiting their travel just to short trips to places with space. That didn't happen, and we understand why: people need to get out, and they need a little nature time to make this whole thing bearable.

But you're more important to us than our mission. Our local neighbors near each park – many of them small and rural – need our support and understanding. They and their health care systems (and grocery stores) don't need a few thousand extra people on their doorstep.

Can I get my tax dollars back since you are not operating?

Oregon State Parks does not operate with any general fund tax dollars. Park operations are funded through three main sources: Lottery revenue, user fees, and a portion of RV registration proceeds.

So now what do I do? Sit around for a couple of months?

Go out if it's important. Take a walk around your neighborhood where it's easier to avoid clumping up, if that's what you need. Please do not travel to any popular recreation hotspot. You might think, "Well, if everyone else stays home, that means I can go." This works only if we all do our part.

Cancellation policy

Site fees will be refunded for any cancelled reservation through and including May 25, 2020. If your reservation is for after that date, we are not refunding those reservations at this time standard cancellation and refund policies apply.

Example: if you were due to stay five nights and only camped two before we closed, we'll refund the other three. If your entire stay was cancelled, we'll also refund the normally nonrefundable \$8 reservation fee. Example: if you have a four-night reservation starting tomorrow, we'll refund all those nights and the \$8 reservation fee.

We are processing these refunds as quickly as we can, but be patient. It may take a week or more. If you don't see your refund within 10 business days, please email park.info@oregon.gov or call 800-551-6949, M-F, 8a-5p.

How about day-use parking permits?

We'll automatically add time to all 12- and 24-month day-use parking permits after we resume normal operations. Example: if parks re-open in June, any 12-month parking permit purchased in March, April, or May would be valid through June 2021. (In this example, 24-month permits would be valid through June 2022.)

What about beaches?

This decision doesn't currently affect the entire ocean shore, but it does close all state park-managed parking lots and beach accesses. Cities, counties, federal land managers, and businesses who manage accesses may follow suit. For example, the ocean shores within the North and South boundaries of the city of Seaside are closed. If you visit a beach, you may be approached by law enforcement to remind you of the Governor's order to limit travel and maintain social distance from people not in your family.

We have the authority to close the beach temporarily for health reasons. If people don't get the message that clumping up and overwhelming local areas is a bad idea, we'll have to revisit the decision to leave all beaches open.

Cities and counties can also request beaches closed within their boundaries with the state's Office of Emergency Management. We will honor requests approved by the OEM. Local law enforcement is primarily responsible for enforcing the closure. Such closures apply to all visitors, including locals and travelers. Please check before you go.

What about boat launches?

All boat launches inside state parks are closed. If you take in from a launch outside the state park, please be advised that your take-out point inside a state park will not be accessible.

Why not let some people camp, but send others home?

You mean, allow RVs, but only if they are totally self-contained and people promise to stay inside them? Or close big parks, but not small ones? Or close more popular sites but not more rural ones? The only thing harder than closing an entire park system is closing it to some, but not others.

We understand that some people rely on public camping, and routinely move from place to place. However, this decision is also about reducing the strain on rural communities. We encourage you to find a place to stay closer to an area that is better equipped to handle this health emergency.

Half-measures won't do, so this closure is system-wide.

Are RV dump stations staying open?

When we close a park, we close the entire park, including dump stations. Commercial providers may still be open.

Can I just sneak in?

Closed is closed. We lock restrooms, stop trash service, and it's not safe for you to go into a closed park. If we see you in a park, we'll ask you to leave. If you refuse, we can issue you a citation. If that's not persuasive enough, we can call law enforcement. We don't want to do that, and they don't need the hassle. Take a step back and understand this is temporary and driven by Oregon's state of emergency. Stay home, stay healthy, visit us online, and we'll see you on the other side.

What's the problem with a walk on a trail?

A single person walking on a trail is fine. There are a few million people in the west who are thinking the same thing, and the next thing you know, people are parking alongside roads to get into a park. That's bad for you, it harms other people, and it puts stress on local businesses and health care systems.

What are the rangers doing? Why should they have access to the parks when the public cannot?

Ranger work varies from park to park. Where we can, we are focusing on deferred maintenance projects, such as trail clean up, natural resource restoration, removing hazardous trees, fixing winter storm damage, repairs to water and electrical systems, crack sealing and painting, just to name a few.

Remember:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a time.
- Avoid touching your face.
- If you're sick with any ailment, stay home. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- When in public, maintain a social distance of at least six feet.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it away. If you don't have a tissue, use your elbow.
- Clean surfaces you touch regularly.
- **Follow the guidelines.**

For other land management agencies and their updates, please visit:

- **National Parks:** <https://www.nps.gov/state/or/index.htm>
- **US Forest Service:** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/home/?cid=fseprd716206>
- **US Bureau of Land Management:** <https://www.blm.gov/oregon-washington/covid-access-restrictions>
- **US Army Corps of Engineers:** <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/>
- **US Fish and Wildlife Service:** <https://www.fws.gov/home/state-by-state-closures.html>
- **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife:** <https://myodfw.com/COVID-19>
- **Oregon Department of Forestry:** <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>
- **Oregon Recreation and Parks Association:** <https://www.orpa.org/page/covid19>
- **Idaho Power parks:** <https://www.idahopower.com/community-recreation/recreation/>

- Portland General Electric parks: www.portlandgeneral.com/parks

DO ✓

Enjoy the outdoor areas of your home.

Enjoy physical activities solo or with members of your household (e.g. walking, biking).

Have a virtual picnic with friends.

Open doors and windows to get fresh air.

Get things done at home (e.g. gardening, car washing).

DON'T ✗

Don't participate in group sports.

Don't visit crowded or closed parks.

Don't attend social gatherings.

Don't go out if you're sick.

Don't travel.



REMEMBER: Keep a safe physical distance of at least six feet from people you do not live with and wash your hands regularly.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, DO YOUR PART

Respect the closures. Closed means closed.

Stay home. Save lives.

ACTION ITEM – B

DATE: April 30, 2020
RE: 2020 Events at the Port
TO: Honorable Board President and Harbor District Board Members
ISSUED BY: Gary Dehlinger, Port Manager

OVERVIEW

- March 23, 2020, Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-12 to curb the COVID-19 pandemic has closed many of the Port's retail businesses and RV Park. Also, during this ongoing state of emergency that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals stay at home or at their place of residence.
- The Kite Festival has cancelled their event this year and the Port refunded the deposit.
- Other events that have submitted Event Permits to the Port have not cancelled but are waiting on the Port or Governor Brown to make a decision. List of events at the Port:
 1. May 23 Bigfoot Blues Festival
 2. May 23 & 24 Curry County Cruisers
 3. May 30 thru October 10 Saturday Market
 4. August 7 thru 9 Pirates of the Pacific Festival

DOCUMENTS

- None

COMMISSIONERS ACTION

- **Recommended Motion:**
 - Option 1:***
Motion to approve cancelling all remaining events at the Port for calendar year 2020 and refund deposits to the event organizers.
 - Option 2: Staff not recommended***
Motion to allow the events to take place on Port property with...guidelines to be determine...to achieve social distancing requirements.