

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Wednesday, March 20, 1996**

**Wednesday, March 20, 1996:**

- 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.            Executive Session - Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition.
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.           Meeting with Cities of Mount Vernon and Burlington Parks & Recreation Departments regarding Skateboard Park (Commissioner's Hearing Room).
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.           Regional Transportation Planning Organization Meeting (Port of Skagit County).
- 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.           Skagit Council of Governments Meeting (Port of Skagit County).

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, March 20, 1996, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Robert Hart and Harvey Wolden present.

**MEETING WITH CITIES OF MOUNT VERNON AND BURLINGTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENTS REGARDING SKATEBOARD PARK.**

Jon Aarstad, Skagit County Parks Director, discussed the possibility of locating a skateboard park within the County. Mr. Aarstad stated that Larry Otis, City of Mount Vernon Parks Director, and Jim Taylor, City of Burlington Parks Director, have indicated that they have skateboard park space available, but that funding will be necessary to actually implement construction of the facilities.

Commissioner Hart inquired about the recreation immunity act. A discussion ensued in regard to the law and it was mentioned that the true intent of the law was perhaps to provide immunity for use on trails or a truly unmaintained area, however, that proper design, maintenance and monitoring by the Cities might provide coverage of this immunity law. It was determined that if there is a "charge" for use, the recreational immunity law is virtually non-existent.

Mr. Otis reported to the Board that they have been looking at this type of project for the last five to six years and that the Mount Vernon City Council is willing to take the risk and believes that if the facilities are managed properly, the risk would decrease. Mr. Otis stated that there is enough support for this type of activity to justify a facility in each community.

Mr. Otis announced that the City of Mount Vernon is hoping to locate the skateboard/rollerblade area in Bakerview Park, as the site is conveniently located in addition to being on the SKAT line.

Commissioner Wolden inquired as to cost estimates for this type of facility and Mr. Otis reported that several years ago the anticipated cost was in the range of \$28,000, which included fencing, and that the City of Mount Vernon would like to proceed as soon as funding is established.

Jim Taylor concurred with Mr. Otis that as soon as funding is secured, Burlington would like to proceed with developing a skateboard park and hoped to locate the park near the retention pond behind Fred Meyer in Burlington.

A discussion ensued in regard to the benefits of constructing these facilities to centralize skateboarding activities.

The Board concurred on the definite need for the Cities to pursue these parks and proceeded to discuss the possibility of funding from area service clubs, businesses and various ways the County could assist with funding.

Bekky Love, Mount Vernon resident, mentioned that Dan Harpole, Port Townsend City Councilman, has recently spearheaded a large fundraising effort to develop a skateboard area in that area and Ms. Love stated that the fundraising was so successful that it was not necessary for the City and County to assist in funding.

The Board suggested that a presentation be put together by the Cities of Burlington and Mount Vernon at a time when the real estate excise tax committee could possibly be present.

The Board again mentioned their encouragement for the Cities to proceed with these projects. VOL 83 PAGE 264

**ADJOURNMENT.**

Chairman Anderson made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



*Ted W Anderson*  
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Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

*Harvey Wolden*  
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Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

*Robert Hart*  
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Robert Hart, Commissioner

**ATTEST.**

*Debby Sims*  
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Debby Sims, Clerk  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners