

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, October 27, 1999**

- *T 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Presentation – 1999 Award for Excellence to the Skagit County Parks & Recreation Department from the Washington State Department of Transportation for the Department’s Accomplishments in Preparing the Cascade Trail for Accessible Multi-Use Recreation.
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Department Heads/Elected Officials Meeting.
- *T 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Human Services Department Quarterly Report.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, October 26, 1999, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Robert Hart, and Harvey Wolden present.

PRESENTATION – 1999 AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE TO THE SKAGIT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN PREPARING THE CASCADE TRAIL FOR ACCESSIBLE MULTI-USE RECREATION.

Pete Mayer, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager, reviewed the activities of the Footprints and Bike Tracks Conference recently held. He stated that several awards were presented at the beginning of the conference to recognize outstanding contributions throughout the state to promote bike and pedestrian safety and to recognize excellence in multi-use recreational opportunities. Mr. Mayer stated that Skagit County was singled out for excellence in how it was able to put together a 23-mile railbank corridor for use by bicycles, pedestrians and horses, working cooperatively with Skagit County Public Works. He stated that the award was made possible through the efforts of the Washington State Department of Transportation, whom are focusing more and more on non-motorized methods of commuting and promoting healthy lifestyles. Mr. Mayer reviewed several different publications available showing various trail activities throughout the State. The award was presented to the Board.

Upon query from Chairman Anderson, Mr. Mayer advised that very few trails are considered multi-use like the Cascade Trail, which offers recreational opportunities for hiking, bicycle-riding, and horseback riding.

Mike Woodmansee, County Administrator, spoke regarding the multiple uses of the Cascade Trail.

A discussion ensued on initiating interlocal agreements with other jurisdictions for utilization of dike tops as recreational opportunities for the general public, and in particular senior citizens.

HUMAN SERVICES QUARTERLY REPORT.

JoAnne Angevine, Human Services Department Coordinator, reviewed the history of the Jail Liaison to assist in transitioning people with mental illness from the County Jail to appropriate care and treatment. She introduced Kathy Coe-Vetter, who was hired as the Jail Liaison in June, noting that funding for this position comes to the County via the North Sound Regional Support Network, with no funding from the General Fund for support of this program. Ms. Angevine further advised that the Youth and Family Services Department is also interested in utilizing Ms. Coe-Vetter’s services in the future. Ms. Angevine advised that there is an oversight committee, which includes the Public Defender, family members, Commissioner Hart, a member of the NSRSN, emergency services personnel and the mental health center personnel.

Kathy Coe-Vetter reviewed the history of the program since June, noting that there have been 87 contacts with 59 different inmates housed at the Skagit County Jail. Medical service personnel also send referrals as well as judges and the inmates themselves. She reviewed specific statistics of the program from June through

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September of 1999. She stated that she works hand-in-hand with judges, public defenders, and prosecutors to act as a resource to them. She expressed concerns about mentally ill offenders being held in jail. She stated that she has been able to drop the calls from the Jail about 75% of the time because of prescreening of inmates. She presented the Board with a report showing demographics.

Chairman Anderson asked about drug treatment programs and the problems of inmates not following through with medications, and therefore getting back into the jail system.

Ms. Coe-Vetter reviewed her efforts to follow-up with inmates to assist them in keeping their appointments and on their medication.

Chairman Anderson commented on the number of homeless people who are mentally impaired, which oftentimes makes them end up in the criminal justice system.

Commissioner Hart stated that he was delighted to see the progress Ms. Coe-Vetter has made in this regard. Commissioners Wolden and Anderson concurred with Commissioner Hart's remarks.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Staff presented an Out-of-State Travel Request for Tawni Helms to attend the National Association of Counties Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 16 through November 20, 1999, for a total cost of \$1,050. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Out-of-State Travel Request as presented, and Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. **(Approved)**

2. Staff presented an Out-of-State Travel Request for Mike Woodmansee to attend the National Association of Counties Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 16 through November 20, 1999, for a total cost of \$1,050. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Out-of-State Travel Request as presented, and Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. **(Approved)**

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

Robert Hart, Commissioner

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ATTEST:

Patti J. Chambers, Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners