



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 630pm with the following park board members in attendance:

Chris Allen, Jason Benson, Elizabeth Detillion, Mike Elde, Kevin Loy, John Semrau, Ralph Rowland, and Tim Manns.

Staff Members: Brian Adams

No additional items were added to the agenda. The minutes were approved as written, as per the approved motion. Brian introduced Jason Benson as our latest parks board member and provided an opportunity for Jason to deliver a brief summary on his background. Jason is a fourth generation Skagitonian, graduating from Burlington High School before getting a degree from UW in botany. Jason has been with the NPS for 17 years, working as a preservationist.

Board Discussion

Naming Policy Updates

Tim Manns led the discussion on the new edits for the naming policy. John felt it was important to provide additional time for the board to digest, discuss, and decide on the proposed changes. The Board asked Brian to send them via e-mail after the meeting so that they could have another month to review the most recent edits. The board seemed to generally agree that a narrative should be part of the application process. It was noted that John will have been on the board for 30 years in July. Brian will schedule a time to commemorate the members of the Board in late June.

2017 Project Priorities

Brian listed some of the projects for 2017. The Board was pleased to see some of the project monies being made available for projects. Mike mentioned Cleveland Park was overdue for a new playground and was content to hear it was moving forward. Brian also mentioned the schedule for the 2019 comp plan, explaining it would have to be started towards the end of this year. John and others felt strongly we should ensure trails are multi-use where suitable and be favorable to equestrian use, as per the request of planning commission members. Trails that have greater user groups have a higher chance of being funded through RCO. John mentioned Tom Pasma as someone who has interest in seeing further expansion of equestrian operations at NSRA.

Big Rock

We are looking for a safe, reliable, and legal access to Big Rock. The Skagit Land Trust has been pursuing this with landowners and has located a potential location for a trailhead and path. We hope to be able to provide more information very soon.

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Staff Update

Rogers Property

We are building a coalition of participants to help create a vision for the Rogers Property. If we work with the college to bank both properties simultaneously, there will be no need for buffering the wetlands or go through a master plan process.

Essentially, the City currently controls the buffers and the Corp controls the wetlands. If we were to decide on utilizing buffers, MV requires we hire their consultant to determine constraints/costs moving forward. If we were to go through a wetland banking process we will have more flexibility to make changes to the plan. Once the land is banked, there would be less scrutiny on development because we would be developing uplands. Ultimately, the Corp will need to buy off on the project and the DOE may also need to vet the mitigation/banking plan. If we work with the college, a coordinated plan needs to move to the Corp relatively soon, since the waiting period for a permit is 12 months or more.

We don't anticipate finding cultural artifacts, based on prior permits in the area. We can most likely get away with doing an EZ-1 form, costing approximately 7-10k. We will be meeting with MV School District and Skagit Valley College to vet this process further. A site design will be forthcoming. It's important to find a place for the Hispanic soccer leagues.

NSRA State Budget Request

We are asking the State for a million dollars via a capital request sponsored by Kirk Pearson. The narrative is attached.

Skagit Leadership Project

Skagit Leadership has proposed a viewing platform for the Centennial Trail. The access is near the Russian Orthodox Church via a County road right-of-way. The platform will look out over Barney Lake. While scoping the area recently with Dave Lervik, we saw several beavies of swans taking flight from and to the fields. The viewing platform would provide a place to view wildlife, farms, and open space. Having their partnership will help with future grants.

Adjourn Next Meeting: February, 2017

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