



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, February 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm with the following park board members in attendance:

Board Members present: Tim Manns, Jose Riefkohl, Greg Francioch, Elizabeth Detillion, Chris Allen, Adriana Suarez, and Kevin Loy

Staff Members and Representatives: Brian Adams

Members from the Public: None

Elizabeth made a motion to pass the January minutes and the February agenda. Tim seconded the motion, with the Board unanimously in favor.

Board Discussion:

Skagit Playfields Project: Brian presented updates to the plan for the Rogers property. The current dialogue includes SVC and MVSD. The preliminary project for the site includes plans for soccer fields, bioswale, retention pond, and a native plant buffer. This project will complete the Corp / DOE mitigation requirements. The project design has been completed and anticipated cost estimates are in the 750k range. Due to higher than anticipated costs, we are working with potential partners to cost-share. SVC will need to pay 200k for their portion of the development and MVSD has pledged 250k. Kevin felt the long-term plan should prioritize basketball courts. Adriana expressed the desire for retaining the original spirit of the agreement for soccer fields. Greg stated his thoughts on synthetic turf that could accommodate a multiplicity of sports and activities.

Young's Park: This was a discussion about a potential acquisition so the notes will be very general. The landowner adjacent to our property sustained property damage during the king tide events in December. This same landowner owns the tidelands in front of our park. A discussion about a potential property exchange was discussed. This matter needs to be discussed further with the BOCC to see if there is support for attaining the tidelands.

Conway Park: John has a history with this area, both personally and professionally. The assessor map seemingly has some parcels that don't match the chain of title transfers. These land discrepancies may include land owned by the Dike District, Skagit County, and the Fire District. The Board asked that we follow-up with a meeting to discuss the discrepancies. We will start with the assessor and GIS offices.



Staff Report:

NSRA: The Veterans Park Plaza is close to meeting the grant requirements with RCO. To complete our project and close the grant we will need to install solar panels on the picnic shelter. The contract has been signed and the panels will be placed within eight weeks.

We continue to collaborate with The Skagit Trail Builders as we complete the final trail projects. New maps and wayfinding signs are being completed and are being installed.

The non-profit organization responsible for the veteran placards is having issues with timely installation. We are working with them to resolve this issue. The placards are selling at a clip of about 15 per month and we anticipate more now that there has been further advertisement.

BERP: We have been informed that our department continues to have management responsibilities for the Burlington-Edison Regional Park on B-ESD High School property. Although we believed this park was officially transferred, we don't have a record of the transfer. RCO grants were used to develop the facility and they have recently contacted us about compliancy. We are hoping to work with the B-ESD to unravel this and didn't know if there was an agreement on record indicating a transfer of management. Our department hasn't maintained or improved this park in twenty or more years.

Cascade Trail: Our team of students and partners continue to work on the Wiseman Creek project. The full study and partial design are scheduled for May. I will be attending the student presentation at SU when the report/design is completed.

Adjourn.