



## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday February 18, 2021

**The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm with the following park board members in attendance:**

**Board Members present:** Tim Manns, Jason Benson, John Semrau, Jose Riefkohl, Elizabeth Detillion, Kevin Loy, and Chris Allen

**Staff Members:** Brian Adams

**Public:** Kirk Moore, Kelly Moore, Eli Moore, Emmett Moore, Kent Moore, Paul Barron, Charles Wenker, William Whitmoore, Keith Fitz-Gerald, Kimberley B, Charlotte, Jason Mergenthaler, as well as other late participants. There were 16 participants.

**Public Meeting Discussion: Lake Erie Special Restrictions Code Change**

John Semrau began the discussion by reviewing the process and protocol for the meeting. Brian followed up with the petition, the history, and how the process will be structured. Brian reiterated that the Advisory Board and SCPR Staff had not taken a position. The Advisory Board may choose to provide a recommendation for the BOCC's consideration. The draft ordinance is simply a placeholder. It is ultimately up to the Board of County Commissioners to decide whether to sign the ordinance as written, create a new ordinance, or choose to keep the current policies the same.

**Keith Fitz-Gerald** was the first to speak. The peaceful nature of the lake has been disrupted by jet skis from outside of the area. He believes it has become dangerous and overbearing. The use of jet skis displaces other types of recreational activities. The jet skis are often on the lake until the late evening. He would prefer a 5 mile an hour speed limit.

**Kent Moore** was taught to ski on Lake Erie as a youngster. He has not heard of a safety issue in his 60 years on the lake. There have been multi-generations of people who have learned to ski on the lake. These people have shared their knowledge and skills on to kids and grandkids. He has never heard of injuries in all of his years.

**Kirk Moore** lives on the lake and believes the 2 stroke jet skis are loud and can be obnoxious. Kirk has not heard of anyone being drunk or disorderly. He doesn't want to lose what he has grown accustomed to. Kirk is concerned that eliminating another lake will displace these additional users to Lake Campbell.

**Paul Barron** doesn't believe long-term residents should have any more rights than anyone else on the lake. Paul likes motor sports and doesn't want to see motors taken off the lake. Others he has talked to are shocked that jet skis are allowed on Lake Erie. The noise reflects off of Mt. Erie. He believes that safety and quality of life are compromised by PWC's. Water skiers go between 28 and 30 miles an hour. A good compromise needs to be found.

**Eli Moore** has been on the lake his entire life and swims regularly with his brother. He believes people are respectful and has never had a sense of danger.

**Gib Moore** doesn't believe the jets skis are out often and there would be a "taking" if policies were over legislated.

**Jason Mergenthaler** would like to see the policies remain as they are. He feels that reducing the opportunities on one lake only pushes them to the few remaining lakes and that it's a domino effect. He thinks there should be a speed limit of 30-35 miles an hour. New jet skis are too fast.

315 South Third Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360.336.9414 phone  
360.336.9493 facsimile

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**Elizabeth Detillion** mentioned Lake Perrigin as an example of a lake with a compromise. It has a 9:00am to 6:00 pm rule. Elizabeth wants to know if there are legal implications in taking the rights from those who bought land if the code were to change.

**Kelly Moore** has been in emergency medicine for 30 years and believes it's unfair and not possible to gauge intoxication from the distance. She has never known of an injury on Lake Erie and believes she would know due to her time in the ER. She feels it would be unfortunate if there was a 5 mile an hour speed limit placed on the lake.

**Adjourn: 6:40 pm.**

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