



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm with the following park board members in attendance:

Tim Manns, Chris Allen, Ralph Rowland, Elizabeth Detillion, Kerri Cook, and John Semrau.

Staff Member: Brian Adams

From the Public: John Schmidt and Brian Bieche, there to present a proposal for a Veteran's Memorial Park

There were no additional matters raised by the public, beyond issues already on the agenda. The agenda and minutes were passed by those present without any changes.

Board Discussion

Veterans Proposal for NSRA:

John Schmidt and Brian Bieche submitted drawings of their vision for a Veteran's Park for a portion of NSRA. The board all seemed to agree that a Veteran's Park would be beneficial to the public. The proposal was conceptual and included a picnic shelter. A picture of a large sign was also routed for consideration. The sign was once on display on a commercial/industrial building on Farm to Market Road. Due to its large size and depictions of specific events, the park setting applicability was discussed by the board. Many board members thought the sign was designed for another place/purpose and may not be suitable as a park amenity. Elizabeth thought the sign may not commemorate all soldiers and as a result, may not be as inclusive as it needs to be for a public park. In other words, many veterans may not have served directly in combat. Regardless of the capacity of their service, these veterans have still been instrumental in providing protection and serving their country in a variety of ways. It was felt another plaque or interpretive sign may be a better fit for the park. A smaller group will meet in the coming weeks and talk further about the park concept. The overall concept was well received and the Board would like to continue to work with the veterans group to come up with a plan that commemorates the hard work of the veterans of Skagit County.

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Trailhead:

The idea for a trailhead near the Big Rock Grocery was discussed. A parking area with trailhead amenities is needed for the phase 1 section of the trail. It was thought that the commercial property to the south may fill that void. Funding match and agreements with the nearby business would be needed.

NSRA Port Proposal:

The latest proposal was discussed. The board is in general agreement that the shift in ownership is a positive change. The Skagit Port staff has always been very good to work with. A partnership between a business park and a recreational facility can create a campus type setting and provide a positive outcome for the community.

Staff Report:

Clear Lake Project Update: The changes have been made to the plans and we'll be opening bids on March 23. Bid award is a week later and notice to proceed will be at the end of April. There is a 60 day construction window but it's our hope to have the job completed before the end of the window. At the latest, we'll have a bathroom in place before the end of June.

Fidalgo Park Updates: The Sharpe Park trail improvements have created a path that's more conducive to those that aren't as fleet on their feet as others. A bypass is paving the trail out of low and wet areas. The new Tursi Trail is progressing. A surveyor will be finishing the work in the spring. The landowner will inspect and approve the route before signing the easement.

Recreation Update: March Madness will be starting March 7 for our department. There will be four hundred games played before we are done.

Rodger's Property: Brian is working with Eccos Design to come up with a plan that fits our needs for the site. We won't be held to the specifics in the plan. It's essentially a placeholder for future development. This will be forwarded to the Corp of Engineers. If the Jay Group study is reapproved, it will buy us another five or six years, providing fewer regulations than a new delineation. It's our thought that the mitigation will be banked off-site, allowing our department to utilize the entire site for park/college needs.

Chairman for 2015: John Semrau was elected to lead the board for another year.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: TBD

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