

Parks, Recreation and Fair Board Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm with the following Park Board members in attendance:

Board Members Present: Barry Brower, Greg Francioch, Jose Riefkohl, John Semrau, Tim Manns, Elizabeth Detillion, Gery Cardenas, and Kevin Loy

Staff Members and Representatives: Brian Adams and Joseph Shea

A motion was made to approve the January Agenda and pass the prior minutes. The motion to approve the minutes and agenda was approved and passed unanimously.

Board Discussion:

Quick recap

The group discussed the naming of Big Rock and the commitment made to the Hoag family, considering various options and consulting with Scott Schuyler for further input. They also reviewed the progress of park projects, including the installation of a new bathroom at Howard Miller Steelhead Park, the Swinomish boat launch project, and the ongoing Centennial Trail and Cascade Trail projects. Lastly, they planned for the distribution of 60th anniversary shirts to members.

Big Rock Naming and Hoag Commitment

The group discusses the naming of Big Rock and the commitment made to the Hoag family. Brian provides background on the land acquisition by Skagit Land Trust and the subsequent park development. Molly Doran (SLT Executive Director), who has reviewed historical files, explains that Dr. Hoag was terminally ill when the land was acquired. The conversation aims to ensure that any future naming decisions for Big Rock honor the original agreement with the Hoag family.

Park and Hill Naming Discussion

The team discussed the naming of a park and the 'Rock' within it. The park was donated by the Hoag family, and they had requested it to be named after them. The team considered various options, including a hyphenated name combining "Big Rock Yudwasta" for the park, and "Hoag Peak" for the hill. They also discussed the potential for offense from the Yudwasta community if the knob was named after the Hoag family. The team agreed to consult with Scott Schuyler for further input on the naming process.

Floyd Memorial Park Naming Discussion

Brian, John, Molly, Gerard, and Kevin discussed the naming of Hoag Memorial Park, which was a gift from the Hoag family. They considered renaming it Hoag Memorial Peak, but decided to consult with the living family member, Richard, before making any changes. John confirmed that the park's name was already specified in the deed, as "Dr. Richard M. Hoag Memorial Park." They also discussed the progress

of the purchase and sale agreement, which was being worked on by Michael Kirshenbaum. Lastly, they discussed the positive feedback from neighbors about the stairs installed by WTA at Big Rock Park.

Park Projects Update

The Board discussed progress on several park projects. Joseph reported on the installation of a new bathroom at Howard Miller Steelhead Park, noting some foundation settling issues that may need monitoring.

Pressentin Park

The RCO project has been closed and we will be receiving the final \$90k in the coming month. The opening of our seasonal camping area, scheduled for March 2026.

The resolution for auctioning the property has been reviewed by civil and we have a tentative date of June 9 for the auction. An open house for the Balise Property in Marblemount is scheduled for March 26, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM, followed by a meeting at the Community Hall at 4:30 PM.

NSRA

The new Song Sparrow bridge is open and attracting large numbers of hikers. The Skagit Trail Builders will transition from our park to Port properties this fall. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and campus tour is scheduled for September 19. A consultant will join us to recognize NSRA's history, with a team of historians and artists meeting on April 3 at a Public Health meeting room. Fun runs at NSRA have been ongoing through our partnership with the SW Chamber and Skagit Running Club.

Swinomish Boat Launch

After two years, we have secured our permit from the Army Corps of Engineers! Work is scheduled for completion in October 2025. In the meantime, keeping the docks afloat for the next eight months will be a challenge.

Adjourn
