



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday February 24, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 635pm with the following park board members in attendance:

Board Members present: Tim Manns, Elizabeth Detillion, John Semrau, Kevin Loy, and Chris Allen.

Staff Members and Representatives: Brian Adams

Presenters: Art Tuftee, Jim Taylor, Jerry Granahan, and Terry Gifford

Agenda and Minutes:

Motion was made and seconded to accept the October minutes and November Agenda, Minor adjustments were made to the board attendees. Both passed unanimously.

Board Discussion

Final Copy of the Comp Plan Celebration / Group Hug:

We sent in the signed document and received approval from RCO within a week. We are approved for the next three grant cycles and will plan on applying for two grants each of these three cycles. The plan will be reviewed further with the planning commission in 2020 as we go through the formal docketing process.

NSRA Trail Plan: Skagit Trail Builders:

The Skagit Trail Builders (STB) have been partnering with us on the trails with help from volunteers, including students and staff from the Job Corps. STB developed a trail plan two years ago that represents some of the possible routes and trails for future development. STB would like to get a formal endorsement from the Advisory Board for the plan via a motion and vote. Art talked about the criteria for new trails, including aesthetics and sustainability. It's important to assimilate the design standards the Olmsted Brothers incorporated into their plan almost one hundred years ago. It's also important that their vision for connecting to other public lands is recognized and pursued. Several streams bisect the park, including Brickyard, Hill, Coal, Red, and Hansen. These creeks provide challenges as well as opportunities. The vision is to create a trail system that rivals Galbraith Mountain to our north. John Semrau stated the trail plan could be rolled in to the Master Plan for the Park. A motion, deliberations, and vote were delayed for a month to allow time for everyone to review the plan. The item will be on the March agenda.

Electric Bikes on the Cascade Trail: Policy Review:

We have had a lot of questions that have arisen about whether e-bikes would be considered on the Cascade Trail or other locations. The bikes are being used on roads, sidewalks, and paths throughout the state. Agencies are scrambling to set new policies, much like they did with electric engines on lakes twenty-five years ago. Terry Gifford presented her proposal for e-bikes on the trail. Terry does a guided tour from her tea house on Coal Creek to NSRA and back. Terry says the trail surface is too soft for those that aren't strong bicyclists. The e-bikes have fatter tires and are more conducive for

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traveling long distances on the trail. She has a lot of older people who can't ride the distance without the assistance of an electric motor. Evergreen MTB Alliance has adopted a policy allowing for e-bikes and many others have followed suit. Many have even taken the position that electric bikes are considered "non-motorized" by some agency attorneys. PRAB decided to hold off on a motion until the March meeting to allow time for board members to research what other agencies are doing. Many have come up with a fifteen mile per hour speed limit.

Park Board Recruitment:

Everyone come back with two names for the March meeting. We need one member for district two and two new members for district one.

Project Summary:

Pressentin Park: There are significant development challenges due to the cultural resources along the terrace. Excavation should begin in May of 2020. The permits are in review and bid doc should be out very soon.

We weren't able to get bids from those on any of the pre-bid rosters for replacing the roof of the old Good Foods Building. We have taken the bid documents for the new Fair roof and repurposed/ re-scoped it for the new roof on the old Good Foods building. This bid will be hitting the streets in March.

NSRA: The signs are currently being constructed offsite and are very well done. We met with a CXT rep last month to finalize the details and placed an order for a delivery for March 23. We are starting the formal scope/design phase for the veterans' plaza and trails.

The Skagit Trail Builders have been partnering with us on the trails with help from volunteers, including students and staff from the Job Corp. The volunteer work parties are ongoing. The new trail will give visitors access to the campus before looping back to the park. I meet regularly with the Port of Skagit as we implement the plan.

Sharpe Park: We are researching and discussing connectivity of Sharpe Park to Deception Pass. The Skagit Land Trust will be acquiring an adjacent property which will allow us to extend the Broom Tomb Trail and get us that much closer to DPSP. The State has created their internal rankings for their priority acquisitions and the Mt High-G property (80 acres adjacent to the DPSP) finished at the top. If their project keeps the ranking through the RCO process the property will be purchased by The Conservation Fund and reimbursed with RCO monies.

Concrete Train Car

An old rail coach parked along our railroad corridor was sold to a third party in the nineties. The third party sold the salvaging rights but the salvager left before the work was completed. We have a contract with RJ Construction and hope to have the coach removed very soon. The Town of Concrete has been informed.

Adjourn.

Next Meetings: March 19, 2020

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