Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, March 16, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 630pm with the following park board members in attendance:

Chris Allen, Jason Benson, Mike Elde, Liz McNett Crowl, John Semrau, and Tim Manns.

Staff Members: Brian Adams

The minutes were passed unanimously with a small correction. The Earth Day subject was removed from the March agenda. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and Americorp will be making a presentation about our planned Earth Day partnership event at HMSP.

No public comments were received.

Board Discussion

Naming Policy Updates

Tim Manns will change to include "other media if appropriate" to the advertisement of the proposed name change. Tim made the motion to pass the document with the small change. Liz seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The document will be moved on to the Board of County Commissioners via a resolution so that there is a recorded policy for future reference by future boards.

2017 Acquisition Funding Source

Without dedicated funds for making acquisitions, Brian is interested in finding a creative way to find a secure funding source. Although we have been successful in acquiring properties over the years by cobbling grant funds, in most cases matching funds are required. Most counties use conservation future dollars for their funding. Although these dollars are used for the Farmland Legacy program, 10% dedicated to our department for acquisition would go a very long ways. A discussion ensued about the amount of annual funding, the fund balance and the costs allocated towards the administration of the FL program. Liz made the motion to "allocate 10% of the Conservation Future Funds collected each year to be dedicated for parks acquisition. Tim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mousel Property Grant

An update was given to the Board about a potential acquisition. We worked with the State to secure 6 plus acres which allow us to create a separate trail in the steepest area on the north end. This will allow folks who aren't as fleet of foot to access the ridgeline. I have been meeting with weekend volunteers throughout the fall and winter and we have completed all the work to the State line. WTA does first class work and we are very proud of our partnership.   I have hiked the new spur trail to the Big Cedar Tree many times—it's a great new addition. I am working with the State and City of Anacortes in organizing a cross island hike on National Trails Day.

Skagit Leadership Project

Skagit Leadership has built a bird viewing platform near the Slavic Church—a dedication ceremony is scheduled for May 4. We are negotiating parking with the church and hope to have an MOU drawn up before Memorial weekend. As a part of this project we will be opening an unopened road right of way for pedestrian use as well as a half mile stretch of trail.

YMCA Project

The lease agreement will allow us to provide two full-size basketball courts for our SWISH basketball league--an extremely popular youth basketball program that has been steadily growing over the years. The SWISH program provides for a wide variety of skills and comes at a lower fee than the select basketball programs.

The availability of gym space for our programs has been a limiting factor in meeting the needs of our youth basketball program. The agreement will allow us to secure two additional courts for at least fifteen years—a prospect that will help ensure the health of our program and our kids—now and into the future.

Our parks and recreation plan specifically addresses the need for a recreation center with aquatic opportunities. The agreement will allow us to check off another recreational need for Skagit County.

Adjourn   Next Meeting: April, 2017

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http://skagitcounty.net/offices/
parks/index.htm