



## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, May 18, 2017

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

**Chris Allen, Jason Benson, Liz McNett Crowl, Kevin Loy, and Elizabeth Detillion.**

**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.

**Public Comments:**

The Guemes Trail Committee Presentation: Lorrie Steele and Lu Lemieux made a presentation for the Guemes Trail. The trail is slated for the east side of Guemes Island Road, extending from the ferry landing to Schoolhouse Park. Without proper separation from bicyclists and pedestrians, there have been some incidents over the years. Armed with four hundred letters of support for the project, the group is looking for traction and committee members are confident that a little progress (via completion of a section of trail) would kick-start their funding. They admittedly need almost 200k and currently have only about 2k. The Board was concerned that the project design isn't yet approved by Skagit County Public Works and since its 100% within the road right-of-way, it will need to meet their official approval. And although the committee has had a pre-application meeting with planning and development, Jason was concerned with their ability to complete the project within the stated timeframe, especially within the expected two year expiration date of the permit. The committee is looking for support from SCPR of approximately \$3000 in permit fees.

**Board Discussion**

**Guemes Island Commuter Trail:**

Although all PRAB members were very supportive of the trail concept, they have concerns about the lack of funds and the committee's dependence on grants. Elizabeth made a motion for Staff to write a letter stating the PRAB position and placing benchmarks that would need to be met before funding is approved. Kevin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Benchmarks necessary for Board consideration: the Committee need to meet with the Skagit Land Trust to strategize community funding efforts and get direction for potential grants. The Committee needs to consult with planning and development to see if permit extensions are possible if they fail to complete the project in two years. The design needs to be vetted and approved by Public Works. And lastly, committed funding from the community needs to raise 10% of the estimated cost (\$20,000). PRAB is concerned that the provided funds may be wasted if the permits expire before the work is completed. If these benchmarks are achieved,

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the Board is willing to make a recommendation that staff pay for all permitting costs up to \$3500.

### **Earth Day Presentation**

Taylor Ann Schmuki provided a brief presentation on the success of the Earth Day event at Howard Miller Steelhead Park. More than 65 people signed up and with the addition of park guests in the campground, 80 or more people were involved. The volunteer work efforts primarily focused on pulling plant protectors. In addition, SFEG provided juvenile fish survey demonstrations, archaeological and historical presentations, fly fishing demonstrations, guided nature walks, and children's activities.

### **Staff Update**

#### **Walberg Field**

The project is complete and final billing to RCO will go out by May 31. A ribbon cutting with RCO representation will be timed to coincide with the Cal Ripken Jr. Tournament. That date is tentatively scheduled for July 6 at 5pm.

#### **Cleveland Park**

The old playground has been removed and a new playground will be installed in mid-June. We are reaching out to the community to raise \$20,000 in funds to pay for one of the primary features (the spinner). The playground will bring us up to safety compliance and be incredibly popular.

#### **Recreation Report**

With a wet spring underway (April/May) we've had 52 adult teams begin play in our Spring Softball League, which has games Monday through Friday nights at the Skagit Playfields in Mount Vernon. We also have 8 adult COED volleyball teams and 8 Men's basketball teams playing in Spring Leagues, as well. We also just finished up our Spring Girls High School Basketball League this past Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and are already gearing up for our Summer Boys & Girls H.S. Basketball League that begins June 6<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>. This coming weekend (May 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>) we have a record 37 girls 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball teams playing in our Tiger Classic, which will play games at Skagit Valley College and BEHS and the City of Refuge Church in Burlington (85 total games this weekend). The Tiger Classic is a joint venture and fundraiser w/ the Burlington-Edison Girls Basketball team, which we also will do similarly w/ the Mount Vernon Invitational (June 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>) for the Mount Vernon Girls Basketball team.

#### **Pressentin Update**

In partnership with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, we were awarded 1.9 million dollars for side channel habitat, trails, footbridges, and other improvements at Pressentin Park. The ALEA funds are threatened due to a technicality that arose with the budget. In the Governor's 'book 1' budget, the ALEA funding was set at 1 million of general funds with an additional 4.3 million apportioned from the State Bond Fund. This budget was proposed before it was completely known that 85% of the State Bond Funds would be required to satisfy the necessary cost share for an unanticipated number of successful school bonds. We believe a reasonable resolution would be to "back out" the proposed bond funds from the equation and restore ALEA to the intended target of 5.3

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million. After the restoration at 5.3 million, any later budget trimming to the overall RCO package would affect ALEA Funds by the same rate.

**Adjourn      Next Meeting: June, 2017**

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