

## **Parks, Recreation and Fair Board Minutes**

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**

**The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm with the following Park Board members in attendance:**

**Board Members Present:** Gery Cardenas, Barry Brower, Greg Francioch, Jose Riefkohl, John Semrau, and Kevin Loy

**Staff Members and Representatives:** Brian Adams and Joseph Shea

**Members from the Public:** None

***A motion was made to approve the April minutes with corrections was approved and passed unanimously.***

### **Board Discussion:**

#### **Naming of soccer fields at the Skagit Playfields**

Several names were discussed, including naming the soccer Fields after the Roger Family who sold them to us. The Rogers Family were very strong supporters of the college and the athletic fields. It was decided to name the soccer fields Los Arcos at The Skagit Playfields. A sign will be created. Ken Dahlstedt who did a lot of the work behind the scenes with SVC and supported the project will have a bench with a plaque showing his tenure as commissioner.

#### **Resolution for Honors Bench**

The Advisory Board discussed the Honor Bench Program at an earlier date. As a result, we have drafted a resolution for the commissioners to sign so that we can place the policies in the honor bench application. After some controversies, the Board felt it was important for the policies to come from the Board of County Commissioners. Some folks who purchased benches in the past felt that their benches should be perpetual, much like a grave in a cemetery. The Board wanted us to add one word to the resolution. In policy 3, we will add the word “vandalism” before sending it on for signatures.

#### **Access to Walking Trails**

The general thought is that access to a trail or park should be within a half a mile or ten minutes from the doorstep of any home. Having parks and trails within this distance is cited in a study done by the UCLA Center for Health Policy. Having trails and parks this close has shown that residents are 5 times more likely to access these facilities. This results in better health—mentally and physically. The CDC developed the Access to Parks Indicator, emphasizing that proximity to parks within a half mile is crucial for promoting physical activity and overall health. The goal should be that 100% have access to a park or trail within a half mile or ten minutes by 2035. They should work with other park and trail providers to ensure this goal is met.

## **Project Updates**

### **Swinomish Boat Launch**

We are putting together the bid packets so that we are ready for the October construction window. In the meantime, we continue to make repairs to keep the facility functional. We meet with the engineering firm this week to finalize the timeline.

### **Centennial Trail**

Our focus in 2025 will be on design and permit work to position us for funding opportunities in 2026. The RFQ process has closed and we have selected RRM Design to do the design work.

### **Filippini Falls**

We are still awaiting the stormwater review. We plan on doing the work with county staff so I intend on starting the closure process. The title report and PSA have been completed so we simply need to prepare the deed and tax exemption letter.

### **Skagit Playfields**

The Mount Vernon Soccer Association will be paying \$2500 to use the fields in the fall of 2025. The kick-off jamboree will be on the 22nd of August. A ribbon cutting is being scheduled for this event. We are currently in negotiations for allowing La Liga to use the fields during the spring months for the identical fee. Our softball fields were used for State B tournaments in May and continue to be in high demand. I met with the new vice president of SVCC and we hope to put together an MOU that will allow the soccer clubs to use their portion of property for sports fields. I will be meeting with him again this week.

### **Big Rock**

Funds have been confirmed and will become available soon. Soon we will be preparing the Purchase and Sale Agreement. WTA has installed steps and crib walls on the steepest portion of the trail. After our preapplication meeting, we have some direction for completing the parking lot and trailhead. We will need to review and complete the wetland/riparian study before we are ready to complete the design. Perteet is working with us on those processes

**Adjourn: 7:15 pm**