

Parks, Recreation and Fair Board Minutes

Thursday, June 15, 2023

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

Board Members Present: John Semrau, Greg Francioch, Adriana Suarez, Jose Riefkohl, and Kevin Loy

Staff Members and Representatives: Brian Adams

Members from the Public: John Woods and Terry Gifford

A motion was made to approve the June agenda and May minutes. The motion was approved and passed unanimously.

Board Discussion:

Flood Impacts to Terry Gifford's property: Terry attended the meeting to discuss the signage she has placed along the trail corridor. Terry has approached SCPR in the past about her business and has solicited permission to place wayfinding markers and historical information along the corridor. The Board deliberated and asked Director Adams if he would be willing to send a letter to Terry to define the thoughts expressed by the board. The narrative is shown below:

Thank you for your comments at the Parks Advisory Board meeting last evening. As discussed, our general policy is to be good neighbors with those who reside along the Cascade Trail. When the trail was constructed 25 years ago, it was very controversial with many of the folks who live along the trail corridor. We have attempted to repair relations with neighbors by trying to be accommodating. With that goal in mind, we have done our best to be very flexible with the properties that interface with our trail.

The ROW of the railbanked trail corridor is 100' wide along most of the trail and the trail itself is about 12'. We generally like to keep fence posts and other infrastructure away from the path so that trail users have a safe and unobstructed recreational experience. Our informal policy allows property owners to utilize the corridor for extending their farms and landscapes, as long as our policy isn't taken advantage of.

This flexibility is conditional and site specific to each parcel, based on the neighbors' use of the land. If we suspect that landowners are using the land for (1) permanent structures (2) activities that are unneighborly, or (3) their use creates safety and/or environmental concerns, we are prepared to reverse course and take action.

Although your current use of the corridor is acceptable to our department, you will need to make sure all corridor work is harmonious with land-use codes and policies. As the landowner of record, our department can be held responsible for violations on land within our ownership. If the proper permits aren't obtained, we will redeliberate and potentially change our position.

Model Rocketry: John Woods attended the meeting to discuss his desire to launch model rockets at NSRA. John worked for Boeing and has a background in fire training so he is aware of the dangers associated with this type of activity. John's proposal is to launch in the morning, between 7 and 9am during mid-week. His comments are listed here:

- *Tuesday and Wednesday morning. (Early before the wind picks up, most activities are on weekends, and before most people show up. If weather foils a launch day I always have the next day or next week to try again.) If day and time are established up front then planning for all is a lot easier going forward.*
- *If any activities or events come up, I can just skip that day.*
- *I'll leave it up to you to what type of weather SCPR would restrict me from launching. Of course burn bans and if I get to the field and it looks too dry I wouldn't anyway. But the final decision on that stuff is up to you. If there are Bittern nests, odds of landing a rocket on a nest floating down by parachute is pretty slim but a*

risk. Running across a nest while trying to walk to the rocket adds the risk. I will keep all launching well away from nests or avoid launching during nesting season.

- *I plan to inform SCPR when I plan on launching within the timelines and boundaries.*
- *If I arrive and people walking around the field I would not launch as that can be a physical safety issue.*
- *I would keep a copy of the permit with me so anyone asking I can show it.*

PRAB reviewed the code and discussed the proposal before deciding it was best kept up to SCPR and the director to permit rocket activities, as per the language in SCC. Brian will set the parameters and issue permits accordingly.

Fire Danger: It's an especially dry year and volunteers are needed for keeping an eye on parks.

Cavanaugh: John discussed the land at Cavanaugh. The land is bordered by DNR lands and not encumbered by a lot of critical area. Brian will make sure the land is documented well in the facility database and that Joseph ensures its earmarked a banked parkland for future recreational use. John will do more research.

Acquisitions:

Filipini Falls: Brennan continues to pursue the design and permitting for the trailhead.

Studley Community Park: The family would like to see conditions added to the transfer agreement. These matters will need to be resolved before we finalize the acquisition.

Padilla Bay Shore Trail: Dike District work has begun on the trail. The Dike District will be resurfacing the trail after the work is complete. They have furnished all the material and labor for the structural work. We will be providing material for the surface work. Ongoing trailhead vandalism has frustrated staff.

Soccer fields: The bid documents were distributed and bids were open on June 20. The apparent low bidder was TRICO at 700,000. We anticipate the project taking 85 working days and being wrapped up by October 31.

Adjourn: 7:15 pm