



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Minutes

Thursday, July 18, 2013

6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order with the following board members in attendance

John Semrau, Mike Elde, Kevin Loy, and Chris Allen

The agenda was accepted as written. The June minutes were passed unanimously.

PNTA UPDATE

Jon Knechtel and Mathew McGrath updated us on the state of the Pacific Northwest Trail. The trail has been federally sanctioned after making it through congress, the senate and the executive branch a couple of years back. The staff and board would like to see the trail connect, thus creating a better interface with local communities along the route, especially when and where the trail meanders off of federal land. A management plan is being developed for this nationally recognized scenic trail, with community collaboration being a primary focus. The PNTA would like to sign an MOU with the County, which should help immensely in creating greater resource opportunities, including the potential for added trail grants, maintenance funds, signage, and PNTA labor crews. The aligning of the public sector and this non-profit association has the potential for creating a number of mutually advantageous synergies.

After listening to Jon and Mathew of the PNTA, Mike Elde made a motion to formalize a partnership with the PNTA. The motion reads: "we recommend that Skagit County Parks and Recreation (SCPR) enter into a formal memorandum of understanding with the PNTA and/or USFS, with the intent of creating a long-term and mutually advantageous partnership. This partnership will create collaboration between the two entities, primarily for the maintenance, improvements and operations of a portion of the Cascade Trail. Furthermore, SCPR values the federally designated Pacific Northwest Trail, knowing trails are a high priority of the people of Skagit County. SCPR is committed to the trail and will support the efforts of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association in all reasonable means possible." Chris seconded the motion. Brian was asked to send the motion out to the Parks Board for further discussion.

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Big Rock

Brian updated the board on the Big Lake Fire. Not much new to report. Speculation is now involving the illegal discharge of fireworks.

Grandy Lake

WSP investigated. Although a report has been completed by the County Sheriff's office, the WSP investigation is not complete. The County report shows no negligence on the part of Skagit County. The driver of the vehicle has had past issues and was arrested for outstanding warrants after the accident.

SV Playfields

Skagit County Parks and Recreation is looking for a permanent location to run their operations from. A location off of Martin Street near the playfields is being considered. The Moen Office will be placed up for auction by the end of 2013. The temporary location is the A. Beane Building on Continental Place.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: September 19, 2013

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