



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, August 18, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm with the following park board members in attendance:

Board Members present: Tim Manns, Jose Riefkohl, Greg Francioch, John Semrau, Elizabeth Detillion, Chris Allen, and Kevin Loy

Staff Members and Representatives: Brian Adams

Members from the Public: None

The June minutes were discussed and passed unanimously without a modification.

Board Discussion:

Drones in Parks: Tim acknowledged that drones can be a lot of fun but obnoxious to backcountry experiences. Drones have been banned in national parks for these reasons. Tim had thoughts about a designated area at NSRA. Wildlife interference is also a concern. Staff has mentioned the concerns about drones in the Veterans Plaza area. This may interfere with the experience veterans desire when visiting the park. Staff wondered about FAA regulations and 'codes of ethics' with drone use. The primary concern was with the infringement of privacy at campgrounds. Complaints were lodged at HMSP regarding the use of drones above camping areas. John mentioned the professional use for surveys and lidar. He mentioned that there are license requirements for professional use but no license needed for personal use. The question about other jurisdictional rules was asked about. Staff agreed to do some research on the rules from Whatcom County, Anacortes, and other local ark providers. We agreed to bring in some guests to talk about drones. Greg Adams has a lot of knowledge from his time with the sheriff's department. Josh Greenburg is an advocate of drone use and may be willing to join is in our discussion in September. We will also ask one of the people who brought up privacy concerns. This subject will be discussed again in October.

-E-Bikes Resolution for Hearing: Brian shared the resolution and changes with the board. Brian has been asked to meet with the commissioners individually for feedback on the proposed changes. There will be a hearing required and the notice for the hearing will need to be advertised in the newspaper of record.



Staff Report:

Guemes Island:

Schoolhouse Park: We hope to have the new playground completed by August 25. A ribbon cutting on September 16 will provide an opportunity to visit the island.

Cascade Trail: We continue to receive phone calls and e-mails regarding the Wiseman Creek washout. We are attempting to build several partnerships (including Seattle University) to cobble together a permanent solution.

Centennial Trail: The PUD project continues to make good progress. The project will continue into 2023. A grant application for completing the trail will be presented this week.

Studley Community Park: The boundary line adjustment is being completed. The Studleys would like us to draft the transfer agreement for their review. I will be working with Steve on this request.

Fairgrounds: Gate revenues increased 20k from 2021 for a total 225k at the gate. Food sales were up significantly. Although we thought the record revenues of 2021 would be an anomaly, we continue to see greater interest in this event.

NSRA: The Veterans Park project is progressing well and will be completed by the end of September. The camp hosts have been in the park since August. A non-profit organization will be selling and installing the name placards. The ribbon cutting is planned for November 10 at 3pm.

Adjourn.