



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, September 15, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 635pm with the following park board members in attendance:

John Semrau, Kerri Cook, Kevin Loy, Liz McNett Crowl, Elizabeth Detillion, and Tim Manns.

Community Members: at least 17 members from the public were in attendance to listen/comment on the naming request for the Veterans' Shelter.

Staff Members: Brian Adams, Mike McCutchin

No additional items were added to the agenda. The minutes were corrected to confirm the correct date.

Board Discussion

Veterans Community Park

A sign was fixed to the new pavilion commemorating Vern Sims for his service in the SW community. As per resolution, any and all park/park facilities are to go through a recommendation process with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. There are a set of guiding principles on the application that provide the sideboards for the process and because the sign was in place, this was being done retroactively. Several people in the audience spoke in favor of the sign, including Jon Schmidt, Richard Raccoon, Louie Requa, and others. Those showing their opposition included Theresa Trebon and Gary Moody. Their opposition was based primarily on aesthetics, its visual blemish on the park, and the fact a single individual was elevated above other Skagit Veterans. Doyle Guffey wanted to make sure it was understood that no malice was intended. His group had several-thousand dollars committed in labor and materials, including for the sign that was placed on each gable end of the pavilion.

Parks Board member Kevin Loy felt it would be a mistake to make a decision at the meeting since the application was not yet turned in and the process needed to be adhered to. Chairman John Semrau agreed. After deliberations, the board and staff decided to keep the sign in place while allowing the normal process to ensue. The billboard sign was also discussed. The billboard sign will not be erected before a decision is made by the board. Tim felt the sign was not created for the site, doesn't the inclusive spirit of the park touted during the planning process, and may be better suited for a site more fitting to where it was prior. Mike Elde suggested in his proxy e-mail that it may be better suited for a warehouse type building on the way into Sedro-Woolley. Louie Requa has volunteered to look into this at greater depth. The issue remains unresolved.

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An application for officially naming the pavilion was turned in at the end of the meeting and the discussion will commence at a following date.

Park Naming Policy Review

The process should follow the protocol currently in place. After the process is concluded, the Board shall revisit the policies currently in place.

Staff Update

Walberg Field

The dug-outs and drainage are completed. The backstop and fencing will be completed in the Fall.

Pressentin Park

The grant applications have been presented, ranked, and scored. Skagit County finished fourth and will be funded so as long as the legislative cycle goes as anticipated.

Big Rock

Graffiti and fire pits continue to be a problem. We are working on a new contract with Skagit Land Trust to help solve some of the ongoing issues. In the meantime, we are placing signs and patrolling. Mike and I took care of a good portion of the graffiti and will continue to make trips to the top to continue our campaign in the coming months.

Adjourn Next Meeting: October 20, 2016

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