

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

**Thursday, September 19, 2024**

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

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

**Staff Members and Representatives:** Brian Adams

***A motion was made to approve the September Agenda. The motion to approve the minutes and agenda was approved and passed unanimously.***

### **Board Discussion:**

#### **Projects: 2025**

Finalizing the acquisitions will be the focus of 2025. After a lot of back and forth between legal representation, the agreement is close to being complete. We will have 20 years to complete the trailhead and trail. The 15 acres is about the same size as the Rogers Property and can one day provide sports fields for the region. The land is in the MV UGA. The Filippini property will be memorialized via a purchase and sale agreement. This should be completed by the end of November. Skagit County will pay for the permits. The Filippinis have already paid more than 70k in consultant and design fees. The Big Rock property will be acquired in July, 2025. The PSA will be completed prior to the RCO funds becoming available.

NSRA: The NSRA trail system will continue to be a priority for us. AS the trail network expands, it is becoming more difficult to maintain the brush. Without more staff, we will have to rely on volunteers. It may be time to reinvigorate the 'adopt-a-trail' program.

HMSP: The HMSP day-use bathroom will be completed in March of 2025. Our new online camp registrations should be up and running by January 1, 2025.

The interpretive center will get a new deck prior to the December eagle festival.

Swinomish: The dock is failing fast and permits have been slow to obtain. This is a priority for 2025. We will need to get this completed before its unusable.

Pressentin: The Balise House will be sold in the first half of 2025. The proceeds from the sale will be part of the match needed for the Big Rock purchase. FEMA work will be completed in 2025. We hope to be bid ready in the first quarter of 2025.

Centennial Trail: The design and permitting will be completed in 2025 so that we can pursue grants.

Fairgrounds: The new restroom is planned for the first half of 2025. The sewer replacement project is complete but there are some ongoing challenges with the permits.

#### **Park Naming**

Further discussions on the park renaming ensued. It was agreed that Yudwasta Big Rock Park will be part of our recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. Studley Community Park will be

the recommendation for the 15 acres on Eliza Lane. John didn't feel the need to go through the resolution process for the Studleys as the name will become official with the acceptance of the park. The Board tasked Brian with approaching Brennan and Kim Filippini about their wishes for the waterfalls on Hilt Creek. The falls seem to be known as 'white falls' on some websites. Its is unknown of there is an indigenous name for the waterfall.

We plan on creating a legal notice for the newspaper and a resolution for commissioner consideration.

**Adjourn**