

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

**Thursday, September 21, 2023**

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

**Board Members Present:** Jose Riefkohl, Greg Francioch, Chris Allen, and Kevin Loy

**Staff Members and Representatives:** Brian Adams

**Members from the Public:** Belinda Rotton and Gary Artim

***A motion was made to approve the August minutes. The motion was approved and passed unanimously.***

### **Board Discussion:**

**Lake Campbell:** Gary Artim a resident in the Lake Campbell area presented a proposal for a paddle and oar dock at the current public launch site. A dock was recently placed at the launch site but it doesn't accommodate safe launch and recovery of kayaks, paddle boards, canoes, and rowing shells. A footrail further impedes access to paddle and oar watercraft by creating a trip hazard. Participation in kayak and paddle boards is extremely popular nationally. Gary would like to see a new low profile floating dock (30 by 8). Gary believes this dock could be attached to the current dock or run parallel to the adjacent power dock. This new dock would be strictly used for non-motorized boats and would not be outfitted with mooring cleats. Several manufacturers (such as EZDOCK) make modular floats that are relatively inexpensive and durable. Gary mentioned a similar facility managed by WDFW at Lake Stevens. The cost compared to power dock structures is very reasonable.

Gary asked about RCO grants and whether these funds could be used for this type of project. He felt there would be support from the community, clubs, and paddle sport advocates. There aren't many larger lakes for launching kayaks and the public facility would create an opportunity for a popular and low impact activity. Belinda mentioned the factors that would add time and process: funding and permitting. The board was receptive to the idea but had some questions about compatibility and safety. There were some questions about the cost and how agency standards might increase the initial estimates. Belinda and Brian agreed to meet in the coming month to discuss the request and talk about other local Fidalgo Island facilities.

**NSRA Trail and Bridge Plan:** Two trails parallel Hill Creek and we need to connect with the Pumphouse Trail and North Knoll Loop Trail. Currently, some trail users cross the creek without a bridge which can be dangerous and create resource damage. In the past and when the hospital was operational, there were several formal crossings. One of these road crossings was adjacent to the proposed pedestrian crossing. Social trails and crossings will be formally abandoned. Bridge crossing will be installed using enclosed rock abutments above the OHWM on each side of the creek. Glulam Beams will be set with hand winches and rigging. All work will be stationed on the left bank, out of ordinary high water. All other work will be completed by hand tools. The bridge decking will be 3"x 12" Douglas Fir.

The Skagit Trail Builders plan on doing the work. Once the trails are formally connected and the bridge has been completed, the trail builders will be looking towards another long-term project. The Board was encouraged to make a site visit to hike the trails and see all the great work being completed.

**Docket Item:** We attended the planning commission meeting and were able to discuss our thoughts on why the permitting process should have allowances for minimizing requirements for trail maintenance.

**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 are being resolved and the attorneys are sorting out the details.

**Projects:**

**Skagit Playfields:**

Soccer fields: TRICO will be wrapped up by the end of this month. This is an ideal timeframe for getting the turf established once the October rains begin. We hope to have turf established by the middle of November and have the fields ready for play in the spring of 2024. The project was completed under budget and without a change order.

**NSRA:** Our fall work parties have begun with The Skagit Trail Builders. We are pursuing the final loop trail and will be submitting an HPA before October 1. New maps and wayfinding signs are being installed. The SW cross country team has had a lot of great invitations and duals with perfect weather. The amended interlocal agreement with the Port, City of SW, and Hospital District is obtaining signatures. The agreement should be in front the Board by the end of October.

**Recreation:** Fall Sports Leagues are underway. The Adult Fall Softball League began play the week of September 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> with 34 teams playing through late October. This league is only made possible with our synthetic turf infields allowing us to extend the season. With dirt infields we usually finished up softball in mid to late September. A Fall Girls & Boys High School Basketball League also got underway on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. There are 24 teams playing in this pre-season basketball league to get ready for the upcoming High School season that gets underway in mid-November. Our High School Basketball League runs right up to the start of High School practices allowing teams and players a chance to prepare for their regular season. We'll also have adult basketball and volleyball leagues beginning in October, as well as the regionally popular Girls SWISH Basketball League kicking off on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Big Rock Acquisition:** This is a priority in the Comprehensive Parks Plan and the Skagit County Strategic Plan. We hope to attain the grant in the 2024 grant cycle and complete the project by the end of 2025.

**Adjourn: 7:15 pm**