



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, October 18, 2018

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

Board Members present: Mike Elde, Jason Benson, John Semrau, Elizabeth Detillion, and Alex Knighton. Staff Members: Brian Adams

Agenda and Minutes: The minutes and agenda were recommended for approval by Elizabeth and seconded by Mike. The September minutes passed unanimously with no corrections.

Board Discussion

Establish Comp Plan Timeline:

Suggestions from meeting: Swap 'existing operations' and 'goals/objectives' chapters. This would allow us to provide more emphasis and time to goals and objectives. John mentioned "existing operations" as a chapter that wouldn't need much Board input since it's more of an internal parks subject.

2013 Comp Plan Review:

A discussion about the Habitat and Conservation chapter was raised. The chapter was very controversial during the last PRAB process. It was primarily updated by natural resources at the time but PRAB was left to defend the content and language. Staff suggested the purging of the habitat/conservation chapter. Jason and John thought a subject line of habitat and conservation could be added to the goals/objectives chapter. The loss of the habitat chapter needs to be vetted further by the entire board. RCO no longer requires the chapter due to other entities and agencies being more closely involved with the specifics of ongoing habitat matters. Park departments were once the primary umbrella organization for all habitat related issues. With the evolution of land trusts, fish enhancement groups, watershed councils, government natural resource divisions, and other organizations, the expertise has been shifted. Most habitat grants are awarded to WDFW, and WDNR. The chapter won't change our ability to succeed with the grants we have been successful with. Jason mentioned the importance of emphasizing wildlife corridors and habitat linkages in our goals and objectives chapter. John thought we should check on the status of the open space plan the county started several years ago.

Survey:

Parks managed by Skagit County: Cascade River Park, Rexville Rock and Pilchuck Farm should be added to the plan under open space or undeveloped parks. Question 8: Elizabeth wondered if this is something that should read "list in order of priority" or whether it is a ranking of each category of 1 through 5. Needs clarification and word smithing. 9: add shooting as a category. 10: Shooting range should be added. 11: change motorcycle trails to motorized trails. 14,15,16,17,18: "OK to Skip this question if you are unfamiliar with....." Rather than "tell us why" use "comments." 22: use "additional outdoor activities" rather than "leisure services" use examples such as snow shoeing, concerts, etc. 25: use campground utilities rather than utilities to

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campground. Add outdoor lighting. Synthetic turf rather than artificial. Can take our backstop.

Staff Update

NSRA: The contract for the 500k we received for infrastructure and utility improvements (septic, water, and parking improvements and lighting) should be on the BOCC consent agenda for the last week of October. Coffman Engineering is working on the engineered drawings which we are hoping can be done by December 31. Once the drawings are in hand, we can start putting the bid package together. I am awaiting the septic drawings so that I can get the permit in the process. Phase 1 should be completed by June 30, 2019 and phase 2 will be completed a year later. Parking improvements, legacy walk infrastructure, solar panels, historical artifacts, a restroom, and campsites are included in phase 2, funded via RCO. We met with the Port to finalize the plans for the reconnection of the hospital and the park.

Big Rock: The harvest has started. We have received some amount of calls from the public, mostly because they were unaware of where the park boundary was in relation to the operation. Precautions are being taken to make sure the public is kept safe.

Skagit Playfields: SVC has reviewed and signed the interlocal agreement, aligning our goals for permitting and developing our adjacent properties. We met with Reid Middleton and GBA to pull the information together for the COE permit application for developing rudimentary soccer fields for the Rogers property. The soccer fields will evolve as funding becomes available and as a part of the 2020 YAF grant cycle. We are working with the college -- It's important both parties work together to utilize the properties for their greatest potential. We presented our YAF grant for synthetic infields and will be funded if WRPA's proposed budget of 12 million makes it through the State budget cycle. If it's trimmed to 10 million, we'll still be north of the funding line.

Recreation: Fall sports are in full go. Our Fall Boys & Girls High School Basketball Leagues (32 teams) have been playing since September 16th. However, we've now begun Adult Basketball and Volleyball Leagues, as well as have had local Girls S.W.I.S.H. Basketball League teams up and practicing in area gyms since mid-September. The MV Pre-Season Jamboree (20 teams) is Saturday, October 20th and then the popular regional Girls S.W.I.S.H. Basketball League (75 teams) will kick off on Saturday, October 27th. Boys Pre-Season Games (5th-8th Grades) will be held in November/December and we'll have about 70 teams playing 70 pre-season games prior to the start of our Boys S.W.I.S.H. Basketball League (begins Saturday, January 5th).

Adjourn

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