



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday November 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm with the following park board members in attendance:

Board Members present: Tim Manns, Jason Benson, Jose Riefkohl, Greg Francioch, Chris Allen, and John Semrau

Staff Members and Representatives: Brian Adams

Board Discussion

Acquisitions:

Skagit Community Property

The acquisition of three properties were discussed. The first property is referred to as Skagit Community Property and is located off Francis Road. The family owns 50 acres and is looking to set aside 35 acres for community parks and conservation. John talked about the property being in the UGA and mentioned that if the property is converted to parks, it will change the dynamics and projections for accommodating growth. Tim spoke about how parks need to be considered as Mount Vernon expands and felt that this would be a good addition in a great location. As the population grows, the level of service for parks and open space grows simultaneously. The landowners are considering the placement of up to 35 acres for public use. Chris made a motion for staff to write a narrative justifying the acquisition. Tim seconded the motion. The board voted to pass the motion unanimously.

Cascadian Falls Park (P30951)

Known as White Falls, the property on Hilt Creek is located on SR530 and is two miles south of HMSP. The 20-acre parcel has an active salmon stream and a cascading waterfall. An old growth cedar 10 feet in diameter is located on the land. The property owners would like to gift the land to SCPR. Tim made a motion for staff to write a narrative justifying the acquisition. Chris seconded the motion. The board voted to pass the motion unanimously.

Skagit Riverside Park (P37617/P40393)

This has a traditional fishing access located on the South Skagit Highway. The parcel provides a mile of river frontage that has long been available to fishermen. If it was to be sold privately, this traditional fishing access could be lost forever. The landowners would like to gift this property to Skagit County Parks and Recreation. The Board asked questions about a WDFW partnership, the health of the riparian, and the potential for transients. Brian felt this land would require little maintenance. He wants to see the old fishing shack removed as part of the purchase agreement. Tim made a motion to have staff write a narrative in support of the acquisition. Greg seconded and the motion passed unanimously.



Staff Report:

Skagit Playfields:

Soccer fields: The DOE, MV and Corps have signed/approved our plans and we are still awaiting local approval for the storm-water plan. Before moving forward with the project, a retention pond will need to be designed, which will require a survey. A contract for these services will be forwarded to you very soon. I had a good conversation with the Mount Vernon School District and the City of Mount Vernon about establishing a scheduling plan for the fields. We will be working towards creating a three-way interlocal agreement in the future.

Softball fields: We will be having a ribbon-cutting ceremony in May or June. This provides time for us to do a couple of winter projects, including walkway improvements.

HMSP: We have filled our maintenance/ranger position. We have several winter projects lined up, including some electrical upgrades to a final section of the camping area.

Pressentin Park: There will be more work to do in 2022 to finish the rails on the footbridges, complete the trailhead, and prepare the bathroom facility. It's my hope that we can purchase the Balise property, complete a boundary line adjustment, and auction the two homes in 2022. Our goal would be to retain all the land along the river. This would benefit the town by adding housing, while simultaneously providing for our park needs. Financially, auctioning the two homes would result in a net gain for Skagit County.

NSRA: The design has been completed and the permits are in hand. Unfortunately, the design isn't yet bid-ready. We are putting together the drawings for the camp host and will be going out to bid for construction in 2022.

We continue to collaborate with The Skagit Trail Builders as we plan trail projects along Goat Creek in 2022. A new footbridge is being completed that will allow the reestablishment of a trail that existed when the hospital and farm were functional. The agreement with the Port of Skagit and Sedro-Woolley has been finalized and signed.

Adjourn.