

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
JACK DAVIS PARKS MAINTENANCE SHOP
690 COUNTY SHOP LANE
BURLINGTON WA 98233

6:30 P.M.

6:30 – 6:35 p.m. **Roll Call of General Meeting**

Present

Peter Swanson
Lloyd Brown
Jeri Krampetz
John Semrau
Liz McNett Crowl
Kevin Loy

Absent

Keith Magee, Chairman
Colleen Fisher, Vice Chair

Staff

Bob Vaux
Brian Adams
Patrik Dylan
Dennis Lind
Tawni Helms

6:35 – 6:45

March Minutes – The March minutes were reviewed and approved.

May Minutes – The May minutes were reviewed and approved.

6:45 – 6:55

Public Comment Period – Bob distributed copies of a letter received from Jack Cross, president of the Citizens to Save Pilchuck Creek. The letter was read and reviewed by the Board. The letter was entered into the official record of this Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. The decision granted the LCIA and CSPA motion for a summary disposition of the issues in this case.

Comment [d11]: from

6:55 – 7:15 p.m.

Adopt A Trail

Responding to the Parks and Recreation Quarterly Newsletter United General Hospital orchestrated a volunteer group to adopt a portion of the Cascade trail. Patrik showed pictures of the Adopt A trail signs he created. A formal presentation of the proposed adopt a trail guidelines will be shared at the next meeting.

Liz added that she has researched trail adoption guidelines and she observed that a common element was an official agreement between the property owner and the volunteer organization. Some agencies have very specific and elaborate agreements and others are fairly simple depending on the nature of the work involved.

Comment [d12]: add "organization"

Jeri reported that based on a recent conversation she had with the M.V. Mayor she was happy to report that he supports trails on dikes.

Liz reported that the Kulshan trail permits are due to expire soon. Fred Buckenmeyer who was a driving force behind accomplishing the trail has taken a new job with the city of Anacortes. Liz suggested initiating an interlocal agreement between Mount Vernon and the County for care and custody of the trail.

Jeri mentioned the need to finish the section of trail on Hwy 20 between Burlington & Sedro ~~Woolley~~ Woolley. Her Kiwanis group would like to adopt this portion and would like to assist in completing it. Kevin offered to talk to the Sedro-Woolley city council regarding this trail section.

Comment [d13]: "Woolley"

Lloyd requested a status report and trail update on both the Kulshan and Hwy 20 trails at the next meeting.

7:15 – 8:00

Conway Boat Launch:

Bob discussed the condition and current state of the Conway Boat Launch Park. This site is a decently maintained boatlaunch in the 8 foot flood plain. The park washes away from normal river expansion because it is in the floodway. Currently it has a seasonal camping use permit allowing overnight campers to stay during the months of May through the end of October. It's close enough to I-5 that it attracts transients and less than savory visitors. The park rangers spend a lot of time enforcing the 14 day camping limit. Nearby merchants have been concerned about the campers for quite some time and have issued many complaints to the Parks department regarding campers encroaching on private land. Additionally, the volunteer fire department has been called out on numerous occasions to deal with incidents at the park.

Bob is proposing to change the Conway Park to day use only encouraging boat launch users which is primarily what the park is designed for. The park's essential use is the boat launch.

John expressed some concern that we might be preventing overnight duck hunters from camping during duck hunting season. The time frame for the seasonal camping doesn't cover the duck hunting season which opens in October. Bob stated that enforcing a policy that your vehicle must have a boat trailer attached at all times makes a huge difference in how the park is used by visitors.

Jeri agreed that it is a bad situation that needs to be resolved. John supports the department in moving forward in resolving the problem.

An informational meeting with the Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for October 11.

Peter entertained the motion to change the Conway Park to day use only. Motion was seconded and approved.

8:00 – 8:50

Staff Reports -

Best SELF:

Bob gave a brief overview of the push to work with outside agencies in effort to create efficiencies and create new partnerships.

Tawni gave a report on her recent proposal to the Board of County Commissioners. The proposal was crafted after considering the mandate to reduce expenditures and work with the Boys and Girls Club. This task required a healthy review of the program's original mission and the need to compare and contrast both programs. Best SELF has met on numerous occasions with representatives from the Boys and Girls Clubs and has learned of drastic differences in the program models as well as stark similarities. With that knowledge Best SELF proposed two strategies in working with Boys and Girls Club.

1. Drastically Reduce the number of Best SELF host classrooms
2. Eliminate the Migrant Program

To reduce the number of classrooms Best SELF chose to focus on a pilot site/district. Our largest host site is within the Mount Vernon school district. This district is also offering a large (free for service) literacy academy and there are some alternative programs available for students. Additionally, this district should experience the largest attrition in enrollment as a result of the elimination of the Migrant program. By cutting the Mount Vernon site virtually in half Best SELF will make a substantial budget reduction for the program as requested by our leaders. This will also create a supply and demand need for services that the Boys and Girls Club is willing to fulfill.

Eliminating the Migrant Grant was based on the cost and expense associated with rising academic expectations and special services necessary for serving this special population. The migrant grant dollars are earmarked for priority 1 students that require supplemental services that go far and beyond the traditional Best SELF services. These services have increased over the years as well as the criteria used to define migrant eligible students. The goal in eliminating the grant is shielding ourselves from future federal audits that require rigorous and time consuming data collection and ultimately allowing the school districts to resume the lead in offering services they are uniquely prepared to deliver. Many migrant families can and will continue to participate in a non migrant funded Best SELF program.

Initial reaction from the Board was negative. John has concerns about eliminating a solid funding source like the migrant grant. Additionally, he suggested creating alternate scenarios for reductions that include more districts. He specifically suggested cutting less classrooms from the Mount Vernon site. Questions on how and where the students would be served also surfaced.

Lloyd inquired about how to bring more full pay participants into the program. Tawni stated that in reviewing the mission of the program Best SELF will be attempting to attract more full pay families back to the program and to emphasize the element of inclusion for all families.

Best SELF is still unclear about the size of the requested budget cut and what Boys and Girls Club is prepared to do to serve more students. Funding remains a central issue for both programs.

After further review of the proposal the Board unanimously rejected it and requested that a new more conservative proposal be drafted for their review. Staff will present at the October meeting.

Cardinal Cove:

Bob reported that the Cardinal Cove property will be leased by Skagit County for two summers. The two year lease will allow time to identify needs and use and study feasibility for the site. Initially, it will be designated as a small craft center.

Liz reported on the many recreational opportunities that can be offered at this new location. It is an ideal location for a Jr. Rowing program, kayakers and small crafts could launch from this destination point as well.

Liz also talked about the need to build the expectation that people will use it and they will.

Parks Projects:

Patrik reported on the Custer field renovation. Outside of the many FEMA projects, Custer Field is taking priority for completion. Dennis added that the new lights at Custer Field will provide help to solve a critical need. With scheduling the many softball teams playing in Skagit County Parks and Recreation leagues, the addition of Custer Field lights will be much improved when have a huge positive impact on the number of games that can be played at night. The expansion potential is huge.

Comment [d14]: change to : with the many softball teams playing in Skagit County Parks and Recreation leagues, the addition of custer Field lights will have huge impact on the number of games that can be played.

Dennis also noted that recreation program income as of September 15th, compared to 2003 as of this same date is up nearly \$22,000, even though Clear Lake Beach income is down comparably by \$2,500, due to the decline in beach weather at summer's end. The revenue increase can be attributed to increased fees and increased participation in some program areas.

Comment [d15]: Dennis also noted that Rcreation program income as of September 15th, compared to 2003 as of this same date is up nearly \$22,000, even though Clear Lake Beach income is down comparably \$,2500, due to the poor summers end weather. The revenue increase can be attributed to increased fees and increased participation in some program areas.

8:55 – 9:00

Indoor Recreation Center:

Bob stated that a formal Indoor Recreation Center presentation may be made at the next meeting. In Keith's absence Bob asked that the board consider a date to facilitate a charette to work on a proposed Indoor Recreation Center. Keith had hoped to have the Charette scheduled before he leaves on November 14th. Patrick thought more time would be needed to attract volunteers to the project as well as develop the outline for the charette.

John suggested having the charette after getting the results/report from the consultant so that information can be included and processed in the charette. Patrik agreed with this logic. The Indoor Recreation Center may be on the agenda in October.

9:00

Board Discussion: None

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 9:00

Next Meeting October 21st