

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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

Keith Magee, Chairman
Colleen Fisher, Vice Chair
Lloyd Brown
Jeri Krampetz
John Semrau
Liz McNett Crowl
Kevin Loy

Absent

Peter Swanson

Staff

Bob Vaux
Jim Rabenstein
Patrik Dylan
Dennis Lind
Tawni Helms

6:35 – 6:45

September Minutes – The September minutes were reviewed and changed as follows:
correction to the reference to duck hunting season date.

Minutes were approved as revised.

It was also requested that revised minutes be routinely distributed to board members in addition to posting them to the website.

6:45 – 7:40

Public Comment Period – Bob distributed copies of a position paper received from Jack Cross, president of the Citizens to Save Pilchuck Creek. The position paper was read and reviewed by the Board. The position paper was entered into the official record of this Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Comment [d11]: from

Jim Vogelsang made a request to hear comments on the recent Western Washington Growth Management Hearing Board (WWGMHB).

Bob Vaux responded on the ruling that came down. Unable to fully articulate the proceedings due to legal issues he stated that the ruling indicated the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan update was out of compliance with Skagit County Permitting. This was due to the language that referenced buildings as part of the Frailey Mount Gun range plan.

Jim Vogelsang said he appreciated the comments. He inquired about the official WWGMHB documents and wanted to know if they were available to the public.

Bob Vaux responded that they were available to anyone that completed a public disclosure request form.

Jim Vogelsang asked that when a letter is submitted or included as public record it should clearly state the authors name.

Chuck Manning commented on the position paper titled, *Why the Frailey Mountain Shooting Range is no longer a viable project*. He stated that he recognized the author even though it was not included in the document. He inquired about the support of the Board of County Commissioners and the continued delay in public hearings.

Bob Vaux referenced the Hearing Examiners ruling on the most recently continued public hearing . The ruling specifically states who is responsible for which task. Bob further noted that the hearing notice was reviewed with three (3) different departments which all assured him it was correct and timely. Bob ended his comments stating he takes full responsibility for the error and the resulting cancellation of the hearing.

Chuck Manning stated that the problems started with the Skagit County staff and permitting. He stated that it is Skagit County staff that give him more indigestion than the opponents of the project. He went further to state that it is open conversation that the Parks staff are not in favor of the project and are disregarding the Board of County Commissioners expectations. He asked for direction from Bob on what he needs to do to move this project in the right direction.

Bob countered with a list of progressive steps the Parks department has completed to push the gun range project forward. This list includes the completion of the comp plan update, including the Frailey Mtn. Project and the completion of the DNR/s reconveyance application. These sizable accomplishments have been completed because of the focused attention to this project. Bob also acknowledged the frustration associated with the technical difficulties with this project.

Chuck asked how the hearing is cancelled two times in a row.

Bob responded that its because the Board of County Commissioners have been let down. He also said he was not trying to make light of the malfunctions as he realizes there have been a couple of significant ones. Bob apologized on behalf of the staff of the County. He also stated tat the County's position has not waived. It has struggled but it has not waived.

Chuck ended his comments with a statement of appreciation for Bob's honesty and a request for Bob to advise him of how his group can help the Parks Department move this project forward.

Ed Lipsey requested that the Parks Department assure the residents of Hamilton that should a flood reach the 28ft. level the gates of the Cascade Trail will be opened.

Bob responded that one of the Parks crew workers and Ted Anderson have been in close contact to ensure that gates are unlocked. The Parks Department will be sure to get the gates open and private property owners have been issued keys. Ranger Lou Petersen has also been working on this project.

John Semrau made a public comment on this issue of the Jack Cross position paper. He stated that he forwarded the document to the proponents of the gun range. John stated that the content of the document should be addressed as there were a number of inaccuracies. In particular, the zoning which was fine until it was changed. It's important information that should be noted. Additionally, he is considering how much time/work/effort should be put into an appropriate response. He recommended that a portion of the original Shooting Range Advisory Committee be re-instated. He also stated that the position paper was timely because he hears both sides of the argument all of the time. The greatest concern John had in reference to the position paper was the last sentence of the 4th paragraph where it states that the County admitted to the WWGMHD that the Parks Plan designation of the Frailey Mountain site for a shooting range was in error.

Bob Vaux responded that this is still a legal process and that is one of the inaccuracies of the position paper.

Keith Magee reminded the public that they could enter into the record argument for or against the position paper. It is their right to do so.

Jim Vogelsang stated that the letter should have been submitted to the Board of County Commissioners instead of the Parks Board.

Jeri Krampetz inquired about the helpfulness of re-instating the Shooting Range Advisory Committee.

Bob Vaux stated the the project is progressing.

7:40 – 7:45 p.m. **Farewell Carroll -**
Fulfilling a 10 year commitment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Carroll Dillon retired. Bob Vaux thanked him for his contributions to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, to Skagit County Government and to greater Skagit County community.

7:45 – 7:55 p.m. **Adopt A Trail -**
Bob Vaux introduced the proposed protocols for the Adopt-A-Trail program.

Dave Towne introduced himself as a proponent of the Cascade Trail and a Kiwanis member. He said he was attending the meeting to partially represent 6 Kiwanis Clubs. He's eager to get the groups on board with the Adopt-A-Trail program as he believes it would be a fabulous partnership.

Dave proposed to have his groups take the next 4 miles of the Cascade Trail from Minkler Road to Lyman. He's looking for a full commitment from the clubs and believes it will be forthcoming.

After reviewing the documents and protocols for the new Adopt-A-Trail program Dave had a couple of recommendations. He recommended eliminating a specific number of people required to adopt a trail and instead indicating that the applicant shall have enough people power to conduct the necessary duties to to adopt the trail.

Bob stressed that we are just now working on the nuts and bolts of the program.

Keith Magee suggested broadening the concept for trails and include parks as he believes this program will take off.

Bob stated that we will continue making revisions prior to the next advisory board meeting where we will present the revised protocols along with a resolution for review and adoption by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and eventually, the Board of County commissioners.

7:55 – 8:00 **Hwy 20 Trail -**
Bob discussed the progress on the Hwy 20 trail. He stated that there is funding from Special Pathways to finish the project. We need to incorporate design plans that are defined as trails with rails as opposed to rails to trails. We need to consider how we safely design the route with this new definition and continue to move forward.

Jeri stated that this Hwy 20 trails project has been languishing for 5 years.

Kevin Loy inquired where the City of Sedro-Woolley should be picking up the project.

Bob stated that they are working on it.

8:00 – 8:35 **Staff Reports -**

Best SELF: Tawni gave a brief report on the revised Best SELF budget proposal. Holding the line, Best SELF will once again apply for the Migrant Education grant which will allow for the more classrooms to be hosted. Additionally, the bottom line request from the General Fund is still less than what was asked for in 2004. Overall, it's a 25% decrease. Tawni acknowledged that this decrease is intentional to meet the expectations of the BoCC and to be consistent with requesting only 50% of the operating budget from the General Fund. This emphasizes the seriousness in our efforts to be efficient and to respond to the Board of County Commissioner's request to cut costs.

John Semrau supported the new proposal but reminded us that we want to be sure that we continue to serve the families who would are not able to gain access elsewhere due to financial constraints.

The new proposed budget was unanimously approved by the board.

Conway Park: Bob informed the board that there was a public hearing for the consideration of changing Conway Park to day use. The response to the proposal was unanimously supported by the BoCC. The BoCC requested that the Parks Department float the proposed resolution to make the change to users of the park, local residents and merchants. Once the public is informed then schedule a public hearing to adopt the resolution.

HMSF Boat Launch ; Patrik reported that he, Bob and Gary Rowe met regarding the proposed solution to the HMSF boat launch. The Board supported the proposed project in essence to improve the launch and pursue this improvement project through the FEMA Improvement project application.

Recreation: Dennis reported that recreation programs increased revenue this summer by \$17,000. They have now moved programs and activities indoors. Gym space is becoming increasingly difficult to find and to afford.

Parks: Jim Rabenstein informed the Board that Jim Gutierrez submitted his resignation this week. He accepted a position with the City of Sedro-Woolley. Although this will be a tough loss for the department we will move forward and strategize how to best fill the position.

8:35 – 8:40

Board Discussion – Colleen proposed a discussion regarding filling the board vacancy. She suggested that instead of focusing only on the district where there is a vacancy that we look at where the deficiencies in community representation are.

Everyone agreed that areas to look at are:

- Recreation
- School Support
- Student advocacy
- Diversity

Keith suggested making suggestions/referrals to Bob so that he can discuss candidates with the BoCC.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:40

Next Meeting November 9th, 2004