

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Final Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2005

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

Colleen Fisher, Chair

Keith Magee, Vice Chair

Jeri Krampetz

Kevin Loy

Nathan Salseina

Absent

Lloyd Brown

Peter Swanson

John Semrau

Liz McNett Crowl

Staff

Dennis Lind

Brian Adams

Mike See

Lauren Woodmansee

Tawni Helms

6:35 – 6:40 January Minutes – The January minutes were reviewed and some minor changes were requested. Colleen motioned to approve the minutes with the changes. That motion was seconded by Keith Magee.

6:40 – 6:40 Public Comment Period – No public attendance.

6:40 – 7:45 Indoor Recreation Center -

Dennis Lind provided the Board with an update on potential site negotiations.

Keith stated that there should be a conceptual agreement to the approach of the land acquisition. Keith also said that he will be meeting with Kevin Loy, and John Semrau to come up with a list of potential candidates to serve on the citizens' committee.

Keith stated it was a great first step that there was agreement with all three commissioners to purchase the land. We need to continue moving forward after the purchase because we don't have consensus of the board beyond the purchase. Keith suggested making a request to have a session with the board to present the Indoor Recreation Center. The County has already requested 1.5 million from the State budget. They've already gone to the legislature to request funds. It's not yet clear if we will be successful this budget year. The request was made with the help of Chal Martin in the

lead role. A specific meeting on the project was had with Senator Spanel and Representative Quall. Both are interested. It was suggested that ideally, 1.5 million be requested the first year of the project and subsequent requests made the following years.

At this time Keith sent around a letter to the Board of Commissioners. It was reviewed by those in attendance and signed. The letter will be submitted to the board seeking their support for the project.

Kevin stated that outside regions are not necessarily supportive of the indoor recreation center if it is to be built in Mount Vernon. He said it is most important at this time to build support from districts outside of Mount Vernon. Community support will be very important.

Keith responded that it makes good sense to get out to communities early letting citizens know about project proposal. He also mentioned that a consultant needs to be recruited soon.

Kevin informed the board that Rick Larson told him to get community support then they will find funding sources. Kevin also said it will be important to phase in the project.

Keith said that there needed to be a balance between the concept of an exhibition center and a recreation center. Under the same facility there could be conflicting agendas, but each could help the other not to mention resolve political considerations as well.

Kevin mentioned that a great way to get support is to ask community members “what do we need to do to get your support?” Many times the response is focused around economic development.

Lauren suggested calling it the **R**ecreation and **E**vent **C**enter (**REC**) would cover all the bases.

Kevin reiterated that it will be a lot of work to accomplish.

Jeri mentioned the need to connect with charity organizations and stated organizations such as the Soroptimists have tremendous influence.

Keith said it will be critical to describe the proposed location as *central* and close to other recreational facilities. In many ways an expansion of existing resources.

Dennis suggested a site tour to other recreation centers take place. He and Lauren would be the tour leaders. The tours would cover both centers to the North and to the South. Destinations include:

North: New Wade Center at Western Washington University  
Langley, B.C.  
Ladner, B.C.

South: Issaquah  
Federal Way  
Mercer Island

A tour to the north was scheduled for Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

7:45 – 8:05

Howard Miller Steelhead Park –

Mike See distributed the proposed user fee increase schematic. Mike reviewed each fee increase and gave comparative user fees for neighboring facilities. The proposed HMSP increases are still under “competitor’s” prices.

Keith moved to adopt the HMSP user fee increases. Jeri seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Dennis reviewed the proposed increases of Skagit Valley Playfields user fees. Again the proposed rates were within range and under competitor’s prices.

Jeri moved to approve the increased SVP user fee schedule, Nathan seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

Staff Reports -

Budget 2005: Tawni distributed the approved 2005 budget. Board members will review and report back at the next meeting.

Cardinal Cove: Cardinal Cove will be discussed at the next meeting.

Parks: Brian reported that the state is revisiting the Cascade Trail for rail use. Bob will report to us prior to our next meeting. Also, the Parks maintenance division is in the process of interviewing for two positions. Positions include park maintenance workers for Skagit Valley Playfields and Howard Miller Steelhead Park.

Best SELF: Tawni distributed a staff reorganization proposal for Best SELF. In an effort to create some efficiencies in the budget while also addressing the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive minimum wage increase, Best SELF has proposed to change the staffing requirements of our classroom assistant position. In a nutshell, Best SELF will reduce the class support staff by 16% and increase the 8 year static wage of the classroom assistant addressing both the minimum wage increase and our fiscal restraints.

8:05 – 8:15

Board Discussion Period-

Parks Foundation: Fundraising project for tiles on Custer field back stop was discussed. Keith suggested the need for the Parks Foundation to focus fundraising efforts on the Indoor Recreation Center.

Adopt a Trail/Park: The resolution was unanimously approved by the Board of Commissioners. We now have an official AaT/P program.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:15

Next Meeting March 24, 2005 the Big Lake Elementary School Library