

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Final Minutes

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Jack Davis Parks Maintenance Shop

690 County Shop Lane

Burlington, WA 98233

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

6:35 – 6:40 p.m. Roll Call of General Meeting

Board Members Present

Colleen Fisher, Chair

Lloyd Brown, Vice Chair

Liz McNett Crowl

Kevin Loy

John Semrau

Board Members Absent

Nathan Salseina

Peter Swanson

Jeri Krampetz

Staff

Brian Adams

Tawni Helms

6:40 – 6:45 January Minutes– Motion was made by Keith to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Lloyd and the minutes were approved by the board.

6:45 – 7:25 **Indoor Recreation & Event Center Update** – Keith asked for input from the board regarding the workshops facilitated by ARC Architecture.

Lloyd reported that the meetings/workshops were well done and well run. Comments he has heard from the participating community members is that the plan for parking is excessive.

Kevin said there was a lot of “me” people in attendance. People pushing for their interests. It will be a challenge to get people to see the big picture. The meetings he attended made sense. The priorities were sometimes different but the “me” attitude was very interesting.

Lloyd concurred that special interests sometimes dominated the forum.

Colleen said that Rex facilitated the meetings very well and was instrumental in discussing strategic phasing so all interests could be considered.

John reported that we have a long road to go. He also reported that he was unsure of a building up of enthusiasm for the project.

Colleen responded that it's hard to be excited without a visual. Now that we have a tool to share with the community it will be easier to share something tangible.

Partners need to come together. Brian stated that he thinks of this facility as a community resource. He believes that if it is described that way it will draw a lot more interest and investment from the community. Tawni agreed that a community facility will draw the families and the parents and the elderly.

Kevin stated that we need to identify what we want then develop a marketing plan. He also said that slowly people are beginning to learn and hear about the project. Upcoming meetings will draw even more people. Each workshop grew in attendance. It may be an uphill battle to find funding but getting the word out and getting community buy in is a long term process.

John responded that part of the strategy is timing. Cost projection in January when everyone is broke doesn't excite or attract a lot of people. What does the community want? That is the question.

Keith said the next phase of community involvement will be to lead the district workshops with an impressive array of public input that has been collected over the last year. The data has been collected and there has been a long term effort to involve the public. It will also be important to put ranges of prices out there for people to consider the project in phases. We can then begin to review options and priorities for the facility.

Creating a facility that can generate revenue for operation and maintenance costs will be a challenge as well. Ballard King reported that an aquatic facility could help. A break even scenario would be to include fitness.

Keith suggested that an alternative that may be the most attractive is the recreation (gymnasium activities) and fitness. Financially that could be the winning combination. The problems would like in the opposition from private health clubs.

Lloyd said a big key to the success of this project is to get the other municipalities involved including the school districts.

All agreed that the location is great and that no longer seems to be an issue.

Keith asked what are we going to provide at the workshops?

- Provide data and input collected from previous workshops
- Provide display boards and visuals and handouts (take homes)
- Ask the public for more information and input

Keith also said the aquatics can be addressed by the schools, college and the YMCA. We need to meet with the YMCA to discuss the future needs of aquatics.

Keith commented that the general public needs to feel like it's a facility for *all* ages. We need to stress **Community Recreation Center**.

Kevin said if it's going to succeed you need to take your time and sell it appropriately.

Keith said that raising the Capital will be the greatest challenge and our biggest hurdle.

John stressed the importance of splitting the project up and looking at phases.

Liz stated that the quality of life theme for Skagit is huge. We should spend a little more time on attracting the older generation. Skagit is an aging community and that is an untapped resource. We should consider partnerships with senior (community) centers.

Keith said that communication has to continue. We should plan and prepare for the upcoming workshops. Keith is setting up meetings with the Board of County Commissioners.

7:25 – 7:35

FOUNDATION REPORT:

Colleen reported on the Foundation. There will be another Starbucks volunteer work party scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2006. This will take place at Northern State Recreational Area. The task at hand will be to clear and lay a trail. To date this will be the fifth Starbucks work party. All of them have been extremely successful and have generated at least 700 dollars each to the foundation in addition to the volunteer labor and completed site projects.

The Foundation can be a great partner for the REC effort.

7:35 – 7:50

STAFF REPORTS:

Brian distributed the "What's happening in our Parks?" column written by Tawni that will be going into our Spring Leisure Guide. This is a short snapshot of some of the activities and highlights of the projects that have been worked on by the parks crew. Featured in the column is the recent work at Pressentin with the new picnic shelter. Also included is the recent work done in Bayview on the Padilla Bay Shore Trail. This quarterly report will be included in the leisure guide to promote our parks and share project updates with our community.

Keith inquired about the trail at MDHP. The entrance to the trail is flooded from the pond. Brian said that the crew will be working on some clean up and will correct it as much as possible. The flooding is due to the beaver activity in the pond and the water level has risen in the pond. Keith suggested building a puncheon bridge for that area.

Brian reported that we are working on acquiring a pay station for the Swinomish Boat Launch. This should help to increase revenue.

The Custer fencing will soon be completed thanks to our in house crew. The bid process was unsuccessful so SCPR has purchased the materials and will construct the fencing.

Brian stated that thankfully we have REET dollars in 2006 to help us accomplish many of our project goals.

7:50 – 7:55 **BOARD DISCUSSION:**

Keith reported that he was selected to serve on a financial committee by the Board of County Commissioners. There is a committee of six, two representatives from each district. Keith will be discussing quality of life issues. The committee work should be done by July, 2006.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 7:55
Next Meeting March 16, 2006