

DRAFT MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MARCH 9, 2006

Attendance:

PRAB Members:

Jeri Krampetz
Lloyd Brown
Kevin Loy
Peter Swanson
Nathan Salseina

Staff Members:

Bob Vaux
Brian Adams
Dennis Lind

Work Session:

The February minutes were passed with a minor correction to the list of attendees. Jeri was not at the February meeting and should be removed from the list.

The Rec Center

The Recreational Center meetings continue throughout March. The District 1 meeting was primarily attended by those interested in bringing tennis courts into the discussion. The upcoming District 2 meeting on March 15 will be attended by Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt. A presentation will be made in front of the Board of Commissioners on April 10 at 10am. Bob would like to encourage the park's board to attend.

The Finance Committee

Nathan had a question as to Keith's involvement with Finance Committee. Keith talked about the committee's objectives and the make up of committee members. Keith also said it is easy to make arbitrary budget cuts that cut our non-mandated services. It is more difficult to make cuts that allow the County to keep up some of the non-mandated yet important County services such as park and recreation. This is the message he would like to see carried through the budget process. SCPR plays a vital role in Skagit County and needs to continue to be a prominent part of the County network. The recent Skagit County poll showed the parks and recreation department to rank the highest in customer satisfaction.

The Skagit County Parks Foundation

The Foundation continues to do good work and is pressing forward in their partnership with Starbucks. The Foundation, Starbucks, and Park Staff will be working together to make improvements at Pomona, the Skagit Playfields and at Sharpe Park/MDH. The March work party will be an enhancement project at Pomona Park. The group will be planting native plants along the Friday Creek riparian zone. The April work party will focus on non-native plant removal and native plantings at the Skagit Playfields. In May we will be pulling non-native Scotch Broom on Sares Head/Bluff.

The Foundation engraved tile program is moving forward with scheduled promotional events planned for the Skagit Playfields. The Foundation and various SCPR staff will make themselves available at Playfield events in May and June. It is the Foundation's hope this will help kick-start the program

Staff Reports:

Director's Report: Bob talked about upcoming IAC grant proposals, including the upgrading of Memorial Field as one of the grants we will be pushing for in 2006. We also put in a letter of intent for a neighborhood park in Bayhill. A neighborhood representative from The Bayhill Neighborhood Association would like to have our staff meet with their neighborhood to see if we could help secure matching funds to turn a lot, which already has a basketball court, into a park.

The Recreation Manager's report: The Leisure Guide is bringing in support and programs are filling up. Basketball tournament brought in over 100 teams playing over 230 games. The Opening Day Mariner Game is scheduled for Monday, April 3rd. The Leisure Guide was published for the 2nd time in Anacortes American. It brought a lot of response.

The Operations Manager's Report:

- The playground and storage shed @ Clear Lake Beach will be ready for the opening day of swimming.
- The Custer Field fence will be done by the end of next week
- The NSRA Trails and picnic shelter will be ready for the cross country season.
- FEMA projects– The boat ramp permitting has been turned in and we are awaiting comments from various agencies. The ramp will be built in August and HMSP paving will be completed in May.