

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Final Minutes

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Jack Davis Maintenance Shop

Burlington, WA 98233

6:30 p.m.

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

**Present**

Colleen Fisher, Chair

Lloyd Brown, Vice

Kevin Loy

John Semrau

Peter Swanson

Liz McNett Crowl

Keith Magee

Jeri Krampetz

**Absent**

Nathan Salseina

**Staff**

Robert Vaux

Brian Adams

Dennis Lind

Tawni Helms

**Guests**

Bob Taylor

Kevin Mendoza

Agenda for meeting approved

**Public Comment:** *Bob Taylor presents for REET funding request:*

*Bob T.:* Bob distributed a summary page of the proposed project to build a batting cage at Sherman Anderson baseball field. The handouts included full size blue prints plans for the proposed facility. Bob addressed the board by stating that his volunteer fundraising group already submitted the proposal to the city of Mount Vernon and successfully presented it the city. They have agreed to put \$20k towards the project. The anticipated cost is \$60k. This is due in part to Spane construction's willingness to do the work at cost. In addition some materials will also be provided/donated at cost.

The original plans for this project were to raise all of the funds privately. Because construction costs have increased so rapidly the group has found it necessary to go to the City and the County.

Bob T. also went on to say that the group did a lot of research for the project in order to raise interest from other groups. Bob also stated that should the County agree to support the project access would be made available to the facility would be made available at no cost to the County.

Keith M.: Will users be required to pay a user fee to participate?

*Bob T.: I prefer to see it is open to users without a fee.*

Kevin Loy: Has the City approved the location?

*Bob T.: Yes, but not all of the permits are completed.*

Peter S.: Will the City maintain ongoing utility costs?

*Bob T.: Yes.*

Keith M.: Your sponsors are paying what towards the project?

*Bob T.: It varies from sponsor to sponsor*

Colleen F.: Will revenue from advertising sponsors go towards ongoing maintenance costs or just the construction costs for the project?

*Bob T.: Building*

Peter S.: Is the equipment included in the cost of the project?

*Bob T.: Each organization/user will bring their own equipment/machines. Only minimal equipment will be included in the project costs such as nets, etc.*

Peter S.: Can more than one user use the facility at a time?

*Bob T.: Yes*

Colleen F.: Have you been seeking funds from the Mount Vernon School District?

*Bob T.: No, we haven't. We can but it's not proposed to be a school facility. We have requested their support to collaborate by giving them some of the existing equipment in the area we plan to construct the facility. It would then be their responsibility to remove it which in turn would accomplish some of the site prep work.*

Lloyd B.: How many teams per night can utilize the facility/scheduling?

*Bob T.: The City will need to coordinate the scheduling for use of the facility.*

Kevin L.: The Janicki/Sedro-Woolley facility is scheduled in one hour blocks of time per user. Users may request all of their requested time at once. It is then up to the coordinator to spread out the use between users with preference given to the owner of the facility.

Keith M.: The City of Mount Vernon is prepared to take on the coordinator of scheduling?

Bob V.: Will private use be encouraged/discouraged? Will commercial use be restricted? Commercial use has created some competitive issues for Recreation programming.

*Bob T.: Local, public use will be encouraged.*

John S.: Where do the collected fees go?

*Keith M.: They should likely go to the City.*

Dennis L.: Will there be lights and/or heat in the facility?

*Bob T.: Lights not heat.*

Bob V.: I'd like to offer a staff recommendation. Nothing about this proposal doesn't fit in with our mission. We have a great working relationship with the City. \$10k would be doable right now and would not adversely impact our programs/projects. If 20k is granted we would be interested in pursuing support for the project from the Mount Vernon School District. Perhaps as a primary user of the proposed Mount Vernon School District could credit the County's MVSD facility bill for their hours used at the proposed batting cage facility.

Bob T.: To clarify, you would want to see a credit towards your current bill for Mount Vernon School District space/use?

*Bob V.: Yes.*

Bob V.: The other staff recommendation is for the Board set up criteria and protocols for similar requests through REET

Keith M.: We should use the basic structure of the request for any amount but pursue Mount Vernon School District credit for any REET allocation towards project.

Dennis L.: The primary user will be Mount Vernon High School.

Peter S.: Gym space is an issue and we are competing for space.

Keith M.: Moved to endorse the proposal for the batting cage project up to 20k subject to securing an agreement with MVSD for credit towards our gym bill for their use of the batting facility.

Lloyd B.: Motion was seconded by Lloyd

Bob V.: Staff recommendation is for 10k minimum without conditions. 20k contingent upon MVSD agreement being negotiated.

Kevin M.: This proposed project is not for the school but for the kids. We're doing it solely for the kids.

Keith M.: Agencies/organizations should all have to pay a fee if they haven't contributed towards construction costs.

Kevin L.: The fee structure is up to the City of Mount Vernon to create.

Liz MC.: Would have loved to see this group having met with the MVSD prior to this meeting.

Colleen F.: What is the timeline for the project?

*Bob T.: Scheduled for this Fall. Whatever we can do to help facilitate an agreement between the school district we will do.*

Dennis L.: It's an opportunity to bring the subject up and discuss partnerships. We've been told by MVSD our facility use bill will double this year.

Tawni H.: Having sat in meetings regarding facility use and negotiated prices for gym space I believe it is very feasible to have the support of the Mount Vernon School District for this project. It's a win-win scenario. The bills for use and space are opportunities to create revenue but they are not attributed to real costs to the district. MVSD has an opportunity to partner without conceding any dollars.

Jeri K.: I make a motion to endorse a flat 10k REET contribution towards the proposed project. Another 10k will be allocated for the proposed project contingent upon the proponents of the project meeting with the MV school District and negotiating an agreement for a financial contribution or as credit to Skagit County Parks and Recreation's facility use bill. Peter seconded the motion.

All in favor. Yes.

Meeting adjourned 8:00