

Skagit County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting  
Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, Jack Davis Shop

ROLL CALL OF GENERAL MEETING

Chairman Loy called meeting to order at 6:33pm

Board members in attendance: Lloyd Brown, John Semrau, Nathan Salseina, Liz McNett Crowl, Chairman Kevin Loy; (Coleen Fisher arrive 7:05pm)

Staff in attendance: Director Bob Vaux; Recreation Manager Dennis Lind

Agenda was reviewed and accepted. November meeting minutes were reviewed and approved, with one correction---Nathan Salseina noted that he WAS in attendance at the meeting, but minutes did not reflect that. Correction noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public in attendance at the meeting. Two letters submitted by the public---Dennis Katte and Ron Carlson were presented to the board for review and part of the public record.

REET FUNDING REQUESTS

From November meeting, some discussion was tabled, to be continued at January meeting in regards to use of REET funds appropriated to department, and specifically as it relates to non-department requests for funds. Discussion followed:

BV: generally, relates to overall question of non-department agencies asking for REET funds.

NS: Don't really remember the previous meeting discussion, been two months.

KL: generally like the less formal approach, (as opposed to official grant/form for review)

JS: PRAB needs to review all requests along with department funding requests and priorities....this gives us the ability to show those non-department requests or agencies what our department requests are...and the fact that, in some cases department requests have been in the works for many years, still waiting to get funded. Agencies that come in and expect immediate funding need to realize this.

BV: We have worked hard to get where we have some control of this funding within the department and PRAB...the victory currently is that requests now go before the PRAB for consideration (as opposed to a committee set up by the BCC as was done at one time with little department input).

LB: Fact is we have been poor at saying "no" to outside requests in the past...notably school facilities, tracks etc that have been funded by REET, at the detriment of our own facilities.

BV: on a side note, we have a formal agreement with the city of Mount Vernon for the \$10k county REET request for batting cages at Sherman Anderson field. In return, SCPR programs will be afforded 50 hours of use per year in the cage. (Note also that BV was going to see that Skagit County's name was physically on the facility)

LMC: What are our intentions for the 50 hours?

DL: we do not have specific plans at this time, but wanted to make sure that we did have the opportunity in the future should the need arise.

LMC: On a side note, just wanted to bring up the fact that school tracks (Burlington-Edison, Mount Vernon specifically, but county funds also went to La Conner and Sedro Woolley and Anacortes) are not readily open/available for public use. There should be some formal agreement that facilities such as the school tracks, funded by public REET funds, must be available for public use.

DL: we use the BEHS track some, and are not charged for use per se, but are charged a substantial fee for a custodian to come out and open it.

LB: I think we should keep the overall review process of non-department funds requested the same---something to the effect that "requests will be evaluated by the PRAB taking into consideration public use/access and the overall merit of the project."

Call for the question: motion passed unanimously. Requests to be evaluated along with department requests and taking into consideration public access and overall merit of the project as seen by the PRAB.

#### INDOOR RECREATION AND EVENTS CENTER

BV passed out REC informational sheet that is finalized and being used by lobbyist Ryan Pennington. Consultants Sink-Combs-Detlef has submitted a proposal for contract and services. BV is working with Suzanne Gilbert to finalize, and they should be on board soon. BV will be meeting with state reps next week in Olympia to further pursue state funds. Jeff Morris has agreed to be the project sponsor; overall, with Ryan Pennington's help, we are optimistic at this point for state funds. BV also met with YMCA/Bob Shrumm recently and there is some "renewed interest" from the YMCA in working with us (county).

NS: question: have you met with new Commissioner Dillon, as there could be issued with the facility being located in Mount Vernon....and not at NSRA

BV; we had a very good meeting with Commissioner Dillon before the New Year, and she seemed to be on board with the project, and well as very supportive of SCPR in general---our parks and programs. She was in agreement that NSRA is better suited at this time for trails, day park use and RV camping in the future.

KL: walked the NSRA trails recently and noted that horses are causing major ruts etc on some of the trails.

#### STAFF REPORTS

##### *Administration*

BV: Questioned whether PRAB members had been getting staff reports on the "bye" months when there were not meetings. General answer was yes.

BV: Mike Shannon, new ranger, is currently enrolled at the SVC Ranger Academy.

JS: anything to report on budgets?

BV: they have been approved, but we are still working on getting “hard copy” of the 2007 budget. Pauli will be providing this once she gets caught up on 2006 invoices and business.

### ***Recreation Division***

DL passed out written report. 2006 was an all-time high for program revenue and we are off to a good start in 2007 (see written report for winter program specifics). Penguin Dip was an all time high for participants, and discussion was that this may be a good bonding event for PRAB members in 2008!

JS: How are you doing for gym space? How many teams are being turned away?

DL: We are being very creative, so not turning teams away at this point, but in some case playing late into the evenings, which is not too desirable...especially Saturday when we start early in the morning and some in some cases are going until 9:00pm or so.

LMC: she has heard there is a real shortage of basketball officials, causing games to be cancelled etc for the high schools. Is this a problem:

DL: generally we are fortunate to have enough officials, as we employ many college and in some cases high school officials that we generally team up with more experienced ones. Some officials may work as many as 6 games in a day.

LMC: is training provided?

DL: we (Tony Tewalt and DL) try to provide a training workshop at least once per season. We work hands on with the younger officials and the veterans help with mentoring them also.

BV: It is really exceptional, considering how many games we schedule and conduct how few problems there are with officials and coaches, player's fans etc.

2007 Special Events Calendar was passed out, as was the 2007 Winter Leisure Guide for those PRAB members who had not seen it yet. Spring guide is in the works, and will be out March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION PERIOD**

BV: note that currently, many on the boards terms are expired, or soon to be. These positions are appointed by the BCC (3 each). Board is asked to think about their continued involvement (or not) on the board, and if anyone is wishing to no longer continue, this would be a good time for that consideration. This overall has been a very good board to work with, but it is realized that the pay is low (none) and it is a time commitment. General discussion followed:

JS: We should have been renewed in June. We are a consensus board, not a policy making board, appointed by the BCC.

CF: Aren't we appointed by the commissioner from our district? In a perfect world there would be a list of people waiting to serve.

BV: there is a Starbucks work party this Saturday at CLB. It was not certain what board members could attend. Most members were not aware of the work party.

CF: we need to work at having PRAB rep's at the SCPR Foundation meetings. There has been some confusion as to when these meetings are...as well as the work party's

BV: they are now on Tuesdays, and generally monthly. In some way, the Foundation and PRAB need to work more as one.

CF: the foundation is going a great job in a lot of areas, but we are going to need them to be at the forefront of the Recreation Center fundraising. This will be crucial when we enter the fundraising stage for the Recreation Center. Maybe we could assign each PRAB member one foundation meeting a year to attend?

BV: will talk with Chuck Mell to work with him on being sure that PRAB members are aware of work party's and foundation meetings.

LMC: met with BV recently to discuss a "trails coalition" in Skagit County, headed up by SCPR. She is creating a data base to invite people to join the coalition. Purpose is to promote access to trails and promote new trails. Skagit County needs to link our trails with our neighboring counties. In order for there to be potential grant funding, there needs to be a plan in place.

BV: Our comp plan identifies trails as a priority. We need a county trails plan.

KL: Can current P & R staff take on more projects without sacrificing something else?

BV: We do our best to address the most current needs and prioritize. Some things move to the front because of various reasons, sometimes as directed from BCC.

KL: we must be careful to not get too big and too many things going, where nothing gets done.

BV: priority has been given to SVDF and CLB projects because they are revenue creating parks.

JS: to clarify something I said at the last meeting...on the shooting range...when asked if people could come to me for questions on the range, I said no...however what I meant to say was people can come to me, and I would gladly discuss what I know, however I am not totally knowledgeable on many parts of the project.

Move to adjourn....unanimously approved...8:05 pm