

Skagit County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, August 21, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.
Clear Lake Beach Picnic Shelter
12925 South Front Street
Clear Lake, WA 98235

P.R.A.B. Members Present:

<u>District 1</u>	<u>District 2</u>	<u>District 3</u>
Liz McNett Crowl	Peter Swanson	Kevin Loy
Mike Elde	Lloyd Brown	Nathan Salseina

P.R.A.B. Members Absent:

<u>District 1</u>	<u>District 2</u>	<u>District 3</u>
Colleen Fisher	John Semrau	Jeri Krampetz

Staff Present:

Bob Vaux, Pauli Mickelson, Dennis Lind & Amber Killogjeri

Roll Call of General Meeting:

6:33 p.m. Kevin Loy, 2008 Co-Chair called the meeting to order.

Approve Agenda

All present approved agenda.
Agenda approved as written.

Approve June 19, 2008 Minutes

No additions or corrections.
All present approved minutes.
Minutes approved as written.

Introduction of New Parks & Recreation Staff:

Tabled.

Public Comment Period:

None.

2009 Budget:

Bob Vaux presented an overall picture of our budget. We were mandated by the County Commissioners to decrease the current 2008 budget by 10% for the rest of 2008. We also prepared the budget for 2009 based on the decreased figures. There were cuts to make, it's a busy time of the year, and the program for creating and submitting the budget is new. Bob commended Pauli for taking the lead with this. Bob also thanked the PRAB for all of their support. Bob is concerned that with the new budget parameters, filling retired Marshall Pederson's position in 2009 will be difficult. We're all doing our best to hold on and maintain what we've got. Bob then requested feedback from PRAB

regarding our Capital Facility Projects. Gave update on 2007. Discussed 2008 and discussed hopes for 2009.

Part of 2008 and 2009 budget regards the Skagit Valley Playfields/Dream Field. Bob discussed in further detail the current situation with the restrooms' sewer system. They get a lot of users. The system cannot handle the capacity. Port-a-potties have been rented on many occasions to help fulfill the need. We want to bump the restroom/sewer line project to priority #1. After discussing various aspects of the potential plan, a motion was made by Peter Swanson to make Skagit Valley Playfields Restroom remodel the PRAB's highest capital priority for 2009. Lloyd Brown 2nd the motion. None opposed. Bob thanked them and said he was sure all of the softball players and spectators would thank them too.

Indoor Recreation Center:

Still working toward a request a permit for the site plan from the City of Mount Vernon. We are keeping in mind the needs of the public as we continue to work on this project.

Skagit County Trails Coalition:

Liz McNett Crawl handed out summaries from July 16th meeting. Planning is going well. Figuring out what trails we have and what we need to get to connect Skagit County to surrounding counties since many trails from other counties currently dead end once they come to Skagit County. The group is very excited to have Public Works on board. A memorandum of understanding is being prepared. Important idea to keep in mind in planning process is that all transportation trails are recreation trails, but, not all recreation trails are transportation trails. Next meeting is September 16th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Port of Skagit County. They have a special guest speaker attending that will shed more light on this process.

Liz discussed the importance of advocacy for projects (The Recreation Center and the Trails project). Public support for projects and funding for projects is important. The Trails Coalition may partner with the Skagit Parks Foundation to advocate support for the Trails project and to create a link where people could donate monetary support.

Liz then reported that the trail counters located on various trails are getting impressive numbers. Liz is working on getting the information compiled into a form so that we can all access the results.

Staff Reports:

Bob gave the following report/updates:

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association approached Bob and asked for our support of their goal to obtain National Scenic Status. If they get National Scenic Status, they would be able to obtain more funding for their projects which would include helping with some of our trails. So far, the PNTA has obtained support from all of the governmental entities except Skagit County. They will be looking to the Commissioners soon for support. On behalf of PNTA, Bob asked PRAB to support their effort and help them with the County Commissioners. Lloyd Brown motioned that PRAB support PNTA efforts. Mike Elde 2nd the Motion. All in favor.

Dennis handed out his August Recreation Division Report. (Please see copy attached to these minutes.)

Board Discussion:

Inquiry made by board if falling property values were a concern to us. They will impact us, but, they always fluctuate and it's something we are used to.

PRAB was impressed with Clear Lake Beach. Happy to see that we are still able to keep our parks beautiful in times of budget cutting. PRAB wondered about other ways to generate revenue at Clear Lake Beach.

We will try to visit NSRA in September.

Kevin Loy, Lloyd Brown & Nathan Salseina's terms were re-upped.

Bob met with Gary Rowe and Tim Holloran and discussed the need to have a volunteer recognition gathering/PRAB meeting and invite the Commissioners to partake in the event. PRAB thinks an evening event would get more response than a lunchtime event. We will shoot for 11/20/2008 for the PRAB meeting/recognition of volunteer(s)/outstanding individuals. This should be an annual event.

Adjourn:

Move to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting:
September 18, 2008
6:30 p.m.
Northern State Recreation Area
Helmick Road
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284**



Recreation Division Report August 2008

Another very busy summer is winding down. Recreation staff---fulltime and part time have done another great job of organizing and conducting a variety of recreation offerings for our residents.

All-Comers track meets, held at BEHS, again had a very successful summer. The 6 meets held on Wednesdays through July had record attendance and continue to grow in popularity. These are co-sponsored with Burlington parks and recreation.

Clear Lake Swim Beach has had a good summer, particularly on the hot days. Because of an incident involving a life guard, we hired part time security for the beach to insure a safe environment for staff and beach patrons. Barring poor weather the remainder of August, we are pretty close to being on schedule to meet our revenue goal (\$35k to date) of \$40k at the beach. **Swim Lessons** have been pretty much full all summer at the beach also.

Clear Lake Triathlon was July 12th from the beach. Around 250 triathletes participated in this year's event, up some from last summer. Hard to believe this was the 21st year of this annual event. The **Youth Triathlon** follows the adult event, and is becoming more and more popular with around 50 kids participating. Kudos to Tony for his organizing and conducting this fun and popular event.

Summer Mobile Playground program (S.T.O.M.P.) has shown an increase in numbers from last summer. Conway and Skagit Playfields sites were very successful in numbers, and Allen and Sedro Woolley (River Front Park) numbers steadily increased over the summer. Our new Recreation Assistant Skye Dunn has done a nice job overseeing this program.

S.T.R.I.V.E. (Skagit Teens Recreation in Volunteer Environment) had another successful summer. A lot of good community projects were undertaken, and the teens are then rewarded with a Friday "Recreation" day---trips to the water slides, ballgames and more.

Thursday in the Park trips for adults continued through the summer, even though our main trip leader Cheryl Willis started a full time job with Whatcom County. Cheryl was still able to do most of the trips due to some flexibility in her full time work schedule, but unfortunately probably will not be able to do much after the first of the year. Cheryl and Lauren have done a great job building this program, and we will be looking for ways to continue it.

Summer Youth Camps...especially **Boys Baseball and Pitchers Camps** (90 + kids) **Girls Softball and Pitcher's Camps** (30 kids), **Tiger Girl's Basketball Camp** (80), **Golf Camp** (28 with a waiting list) and **Young Explorers** (3 different sessions) had very successful numbers and lots of compliments from parents.

Adult Softball Leagues (77 teams) because of a lot of rain early in the season, wrapped up their spring-summer season with a lot of make up games that carried us into August this year....a couple weeks later than normal. **Indian Summer Softball Leagues** have just started, and we are up to 60 teams this year for this fall program, along with 4 **Kick Ball** teams.

Girls High School Fast Pitch League grew two teams to 8 this summer, and some games were played at Janicki Fields and well as Skagit Playfields. **Summer High School Basketball leagues** had 33 teams participating with games at MVHS and SVC.

July 11, 12, 13 we hosted the **Washington Amateur Softball Association Girls 12u Fast Pitch State Championships** at Skagit Playfields and Janicki Fields. 33 of the top girl's teams in the state participated, and enjoyed hot weather the whole tournament weekend. We had rave reviews for the fields, but did have some issues with Skagit Playfields restrooms again, which had to be shut down a couple times due to the septic/grinder overflowing. This (restroom improvements) are a top priority for SVP that have to be addressed.

Skagit Valley Dream Field had the most games ever played on it this summer, with local youth team's primary users, including American Legion, Babe Ruth and Senior Little League, who hosted their Senior Little League State Tournament here. Adding lights has been a huge plus. We hosted two American Legion Tournaments at SVDF this summer---our **Skagit Dream Field Invite** in June and the **American Legion AA District Tournament** July 18-22. Both tournaments were very successful, with again lots of compliments for Dream Field, though again the one negative is restrooms, having to use port-a-potties and they fill up quickly with so many people that attend....causing not so pleasant odors. **Dream Field Light Dedication** was July 26th between Legion District Tournament games. It was nice to see many of the original "Dream Field committee" members in attendance, and good to be able to acknowledge them in a public ceremony, as well as PRAB members and BCC's.

Youth and Adult Trips have been going well this summer, including trips to the **Sequim Lavender Festival, Cathedral Lakes, and Fifth Avenue Theatre, Seattle Mariners, Emerald Downs** and more. **Summer Concerts** were held at Howard Miller Steelhead Park.

I'm missing some things I'm sure, but all in all another very successful summer of Recreation programs and events.

Fall Recreation and Leisure Guide will come out September 3 in the Anacortes American and September 4th in the Skagit Valley Herald.

Dennis Lind
Recreation Manager