

Skagit County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, November 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Copper Room/Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA

P.R.A.B. Members Present:

District 1
Mike Elde

District 2
Lloyd Brown

District 3
Kevin Loy

P.R.A.B. Members Absent:

District 1
Colleen Fisher
Liz McNett Crawl

District 2
John Semrau
Peter Swanson

District 3

Others Present:

Brian Adams, SCPR Director

Roll Call of General Meeting:

7:00 p.m. Mike Elde, the 2009 chair, called the meeting to order.

October 15, 2009 Agenda was approved as presented.

With Colleen Fisher and Liz McNett Crawl giving their proxy votes to Mike Elde, the meeting went forward with a recognized quorum.

Mike moved the Tommy Thompson discussion to the front of the agenda to allow Michelle Pope a chance to talk about the Tommy Thompson Trail.

Tommy Thompson Trail Discussion:

Michelle Pope, Anacortes resident and the authoritative Tommy Thompson Trail fundraiser spokesperson, opened up with background information about the damage to the trail and the grassroots efforts to get the trestle portion of the trail operational by April 30, 2010. She told us Mayor Maxwell had met with the Samish Tribe and the Tribe had agreed to keep the costs low by foregoing a requirement for the replacement of the creosote piers. The City has agreed to match the Tribe with \$30,000.

The Advisory Board felt it was important to show cooperative agency support due to the disastrous results of the fire. The Advisory Board felt that the County should match a "half share" of \$15,000 out of the Special Pathways Fund. The trail connects the City of Anacortes to Skagit County and the Board felt a half a share pledge seemed like a very strong goodwill contribution. The Board further decided to recommend an increase in donation from the County coffers, should the City be willing to increase their cash

donation in the future. The Board recommended an offer of up to \$25,000 if the City contributed \$50,000 or more.

A motion was proposed by Lloyd Brown and seconded by Kevin Loy. The motion reads "The Parks Advisory Committee recommends the dedication of \$15,000 of Special Pathway Funds towards the reconstruction of the Tommy Thompson Trestle Bridge. Furthermore, if the City of Anacortes raises their cash donation, the County would be willing to commit half of what Anacortes is willing to commit, capping the County contribution at \$25,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period:

There was no public in attendance. A letter was presented by Ron Carson referencing the Huckleberry Island transfer to another agency. The Board would like the letter sent to them electronically. Although the Board felt public access was important, the Board didn't feel the S.C. Parks Department could properly care for the property, especially given the recent reductions within the department. The department no longer has a ranger program and as a result of all the reductions, the level of service has been compromised. Huckleberry Island would be impossible to take care of with the current staff. The Board thought a letter to the state supporting continued public access might be a good gesture. The board will respond further once they have a chance to read the state correspondence and determine why the transfer is being considered.

PRAB Vacancies

The board was asked to consider replacements. Brian will post information on the website, asking for applicants.

Capital Facilities Plan and 2010 Budget

Brian gave an update of the budget. More specific information will be available soon.

Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan

The rest of the meeting was used primarily as a work session. The Board made recommendations to staff and in turn, staff will be assimilating those comments into the 2010 update.

Projects

Brian updated the Board on the current projects, including the tennis courts, the Cascade Trail, the Memorial Field Renovations, the Playfield Bathrooms, and the Centennial Trailhead.

December

No official meeting: there may be an after work hours appetizer meeting somewhere in December. More information will be forthcoming.