

Skagit County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, August 26, 2010, 6:30 p.m.  
Picnic Shelter  
Mount Vernon, WA

**P.R.A.B. Members Present:**

District 1  
Mike Elde

District 2  
Lloyd Brown  
John Semrau  
Liz McNett Crowl

District 3  
Chris Allen

**P.R.A.B. Members Absent:**

District 1  
Colleen Fisher

District 2

District 3  
Kevin Loy  
Elizabeth Detillion

**Others Present:**

Brian Adams, SCPR Director

**Roll Call of General Meeting:**

6:30 p.m. Mike Elde, the 2010 chair, called the meeting to order.

June, 2010 Agenda was approved as presented.

**2011 Budget**

Brian presented the 2011 proposed budget to the members. He explained the presented budget was showing a need for slightly less money for 2011 than was asked for in 2010. The budget will now be reviewed by administrative staff before moving in front of the Board of County Commissioners. Brian said he expected to answer questions about the budget in October and hear more about specific cuts in November. There is no indication of where the cuts will come from although there are quite a few rumors floating around. Brian said he remains cautiously optimistic even with the knowledge of revenue shortfalls. The revenues in the parks, rec, and fair divisions remain strong for 2010 and are expected to exceed projections by over \$100,000. Expenses will be lower than projected by at least \$50,000.

### **Clear Lake Modifications:**

With safety issues continuing to be a concern at Clear Lake and no other agency willing to take on the risk at the park, the County has decided to remove the traditional infrastructure used for lifeguarded swimming. The beach will continue to operate as a sunbathing park and the sandy beach will remain in place. We are also contemplating opening up the restrooms in 2011. An incident at the beach in June helped seal the decision to remove the swim structures. The equipment will be removed after Labor Day. Chris talked about the history of Clear Lake.

### **Public Comment Period:**

Brian read a letter from the softball association regarding the alleged dangers of the softball fields. John felt the dangers in the dug-out were not an issue as long as the players remain alert when on the field of play. Brian agreed with John and said the dugout openings would remain the same. Brian proposed raising the backstop behind first base on Poppe Field. He felt the raised fence would capture 90+% of the overthrows. Mike felt the playfields were on par with the safety standards of other regional fields.

### **Ribbon Cutting for Tennis Courts**

The ribbon cutting will be on September 3. The phase 1 portion of the project is complete and phase 2 will begin in the late fall.

### **Samish Island**

Brian gave an update about Samish Island. The agreement is yet to be signed but should be worked out in the next month. The park will be available for access by spring of 2011.

### **Trails**

There are trail projects in the works. SCPR has been working with the land trust to finish some regional linear trails. Liz mentioned her advocacy for the Tursi Trail connection.

### **Comp Plan**

The comp plan discussion was set aside until the September meeting.

### **Staff Reports**

Tony's report was submitted. Brian talked about the preparation for the Fair.