

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

## **Minutes**

Thursday, January 18, 2001 – 6:30 p.m.

Hearing Room B

County Administration Building

### **1) Roll Call**

#### **Attended:**

Lloyd Brown

Colleen Fisher

Curtis Metz

Carroll Dillon

#### **Absent:**

John Semrau

Keith Magee

#### **Staff**

Dave Fair

Bob Vaux

Patrik Dylan

#### **Guests**

Lou Petersen

Pauli Mickelson

**2) Meeting Called to Order by Lloyd Brown at 6:33 p.m. There was a call for the approval of the November minutes.**

*Colleen moved that we approve the November minutes. Curtis seconded the motion. All board members voted yes and the minutes were approved as amended.*

**3) Public Comment Period** – No public in attendance. Letter from Citizens to Save Pilchuck Creek regarding the proposed gun range was entered into public record as they requested.

**4) Staff Reports**

**DAVE**

**Ranger Program** – Dave introduced Lou Petersen, sworn in as the primary Park Ranger. (He also reported to the Board that Scott Green, Park Manager at Howard Miller Steelhead Park was also sworn in by Sheriff's office as a Park Ranger. Scott has 16 years experience as a ranger in Washington and Oregon.) Dave presented an overview of this new program. The process was started in spring, 2000. The goal was a good/solid program. Lou's 27 years of experience with Whatcom County Sheriff's Department and Everett Police Department will definitely be a great help with this program. It was reported that the new logo for the park ranger was designed by Patrik Dylan. The program was started initially by the Commissioners due to their concerns on

trail usage. The major areas of concern were motorcycles and dogs, abandoned vehicles, vandalism, theft and illegal camping and dumping.

There is not a serious problem currently in the parks and we feel that a preventative program like this will help it remain that way. We have 1700+ acres of parkland, which includes 36 parks/ parcels. These are spread across the county in out of way locations. The commissioners provided the budget. The Sheriff's Office provided the commissions and requested that we serve the whole park system. The Park Ranger will patrol all parks with an emphasis on problem areas. Education will be our main tool but we will issue citations if necessary. We are a customer friendly department and this will be another chance to utilize our customer service. The park ranger will act as a liaison between Sheriff's Office and Parks Dept. He will provide our maintenance staff with current information and conditions that need attention.... he will be the eyes and ears of our department and be able to give us more current feedback. Dave and Lou made a presentation on the new ranger program to the board. Areas covered included budget, staff selection, vehicles, uniforms, equipment, procedures, training, badges and current issues facing this program.

**Sharpe Park** - Dave discussed with the board a land/trade/purchase proposal regarding property located near Sharpe Park. The individual expressed an interest in meeting with the board to discuss his proposal. Dave believes this is worth the board's time.

**Community Centers** - Dave let the board know that the virtual tour of area community centers is taking longer than anticipated. Not all of the agencies are providing information in a timely manner. He will have photos available at the February meeting.

**Ann Wolford** – Dave talked with Jim Chu from the Forest Service. The appraisal on Ann Wolford Park will not be available until April/May and possibly as late as August.

## **BOB**

He introduced himself and gave details of his background and experience and mentioned that he is currently learning all about the department and the county.

## **PATRIK**

**HMSP** – Started construction last week on playground. Should finish up in 6-8 weeks. Will be getting the community involved with playground equipment installation.

**SVP** – Update on roadway and parking lot improvements. Phase 1 is complete. There will be ongoing staff support of this project. The renovation of the ball field with IAC grant funds is scheduled for August.

**SWINOMISH BOAT LAUNCH** – National Marine Fisheries lost our application but located in on day 135 (federal agencies have 135 days from receipt of application to respond). They indicated that they would put it at the top of their list. As an added note, there are only certain periods of time that the Fish & Wildlife dept will allow open water construction and that is not available again until late spring.

**DENNIS** – See attached report.

## **5) Current Business**

### **A. NSRA – Community Assistance Partnership**

We are in the process of hiring a consultant to do economic and feasibility study for multi-use facility. They will be looking at potential uses in Skagit County and what the market can support. There is a wide range of experience among the consultants interested in this project. Our desired outcome of this feasibility study would be to get a program outlined of the specific uses of this multi-use center.

There has been discussion on the different levels of involvement of the community assistance partnership. There will be a core planning group and an advisory committee. The core group will consist of Parks Dept, Park Advisory Board, NS Task Force and the National Park Service. Invitations were mailed out in December to community members to attend a meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> to procure potential members for the advisory committee. The advisory board will be the sounding board of the whole planning process. These members will be asked to manage specific tasks. Patrik reviewed the

agenda of the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting with the board. Carroll Dillon requested that Patrik spend a few minutes at this meeting explaining the Charrette.

## **B. Community Needs Survey**

Dave handed out a copy of the last parks department survey. There was board discussion on the different methods of doing a new survey and whether specific questions versus more general questions should be asked. Dave asked board members to look over this survey and get back to him by next week with any comments, concerns, questions or ideas. He wants information that can be used as a planning tool. Colleen thought one survey should cover both general and specific information and include information on the person returning the survey, i.e., where they live. Curtis mentioned that general surveys reap general information and if you need more specific information on a project area, the survey should be skewed towards that project. Lloyd made a comment that we need to be very clear in our survey questions so individuals aren't making their own interpretations.

Bob commented that one element of this process that has been discussed is the consideration of whether we should be less statistical and more open-ended in our questions and what would benefit the planning process more. He believes that regionally, this information could be covered with one set of questions.

**6) New Business**

**NONE**

**7) Miscellaneous Business**

**NONE**

**8) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Discussion Period**

Colleen asked if we had talked to the new commissioners regarding filling the vacant board member positions. We are currently in need of one member in each district. Dave said he has not talked to the commissioners yet.

**9) Adjournment = 8:30 p.m.**

