

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
MINUTES**

Thursday, February 15, 2001 – 6:30 p.m.
Hearing Room B
County Administration Building

1) 1) Roll Call

Attended:

John Semrau
Keith Magee
Curtis Metz
Carroll Dillon

Absent

Lloyd Brown
Colleen Fisher

Staff

Dave Fair
Bob Vaux
Patrik Dylan
Pauli Mickelson

Lauren Woodmansee
Tony Tewalt
Dennis Lind

Guests

Mike Ruthford

2) 2) Meeting Called to Order by John Semrau at 6:33 p.m. There was a call for the approval of the January minutes.

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

3) 3) Public Comment Period – No public in attendance. John Semrau requested that last month's minutes on Public Comment Period be amended as follows: Letter from Citizens to Save Pilchuck Creek regarding the proposed gun range was entered into record as they requested.

4) 4) Staff Reports

BOB – Introduced Lauren Woodmansee to the Board and told of her background...she will be in charge of recreational programs, trips, classes and one of her goals is to reach out to the upriver community.

There will be a Rockport Community Meeting on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at HMSP clubhouse to talk about HMSP upgrades and to introduce new staff.

Bob mentioned that Scott Green, Manager, wasn't able to come tonight to address board but we will reschedule him for next month.

Sharpe Park – It was decided to invite Mr. Shea to next month's board meeting to discuss land issue. Keith asked that large maps be available to help identify the parcel(s) for discussion.

Bob reported that Allison Studley, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, and Lorna Ellestad, Duck's Unlimited, received approx. \$80,000.00 grant for the enhancement of Brickyard Creek, eastern portion of Northern State

property. He discussed their project briefly with the board. John recommended finding a way to make this work within delineated wetlands so we wouldn't lose any more usable property by enhancing this stream. Before negotiating with them, Bob and Patrik met with John Semrau and Louis Requa. There is a potential for both sides. More discussion will take place with Lorna and Allison. Bob mentioned that partnerships like this will help us down the road. Keith asked for track record information on other re-routed streams and their success rate.

DENNIS – See attached report. Keith commented that this is a great report and in the future would like to see added ...how revenues relate to costs in prior years as a reference point for new programs.....how we are doing compared to last year at this time.

5) 5) Current Business

A. A. Survey/NSRA- John Semrau

The task group met Feb. 8th to go over the kick off. Summarized group goals.

Timeline: 2/08/01	First Meeting
Board	2/15/01 Progress Report to Parks Advisory
	3/05/01 Second Meeting
	3/06/01 Report to State Holders Group
	3/12/01 Third Meeting
Board	3/15/01 Present questionnaire to Parks Adv.
	April Mail out surveys
	May Tabulate results
	June Report to committee

It was decided to send surveys to all households in Skagit County. They will use colorcoded bulk mailings. John went over the suggested format to be used in survey. They will be sent postage paid for return. The mailing will be coordinated by Parks and Recreation staff and Board Members. It will go to approx. 30,000-35,000 households. It was discussed to use a P.O. Box as a return address. To encourage returns, prizes will be offered that fit all ages. Possibly free trips/activities out of spring brochure. Curtis suggested a map on survey....it was decided that a map would be included showing where Northern State Recreation Area is in the county. Keith added that the purpose of this survey is to find out what residents of Skagit County want to see at N.S. and would they utilize it. John asked should we focus on general recreation needs in the county and locate them at

N.S. or find out what citizens would like to see at N.S. There was discussion on manual tabulation versus mechanical tabulation. Patrik will research different methods. John suggested that if someone wants to provide further comment, they can respond by email...possibly set up NSRA email address. John mentioned that one of the key things is Park Advisory Board input and asked that they get suggestions, ideas, comments, general input back to he or Bob by 3/5/01.

B. B. Recreation Center – Dave Fair and Tony Tewalt

Dave went over some of the key functions of a recreation center:

- ❖ ❖ As a focal point for community
- ❖ ❖ To reduce juvenile crime
- ❖ ❖ To attract business
- ❖ ❖ To address urban blight (a way to build up down town area)
- ❖ ❖ To improve quality of life

He mentioned that there is no set profile for recreation centers....they are all over small towns and large cities. Dave did a presentation on several recreation centers in the Pacific Northwest area. Important issues for a recreation center are:

- ❖ ❖ Community desires and needs
- ❖ ❖ Has to be multi-use
- ❖ ❖ Good location with site easy to find
- ❖ ❖ Room for expansion
- ❖ ❖ Security
- ❖ ❖ Ease of maintenance
- ❖ ❖ Cost

Tony made presentation to the Board of proposed Recreation Center by private developer/local businessman Mike Fohn. The idea was created out of a desperate need in this community. Mike Fohn has secured the property and financing for this project. It will be privately built and it is proposed that it be leased to the county. The location is centrally located with easy access. This recreation center building would be 125 ft. x 300 ft. It has endless possibilities for all sports and areas for programs/activities.. It would be a multi-purpose site. The shell would be constructed and inside areas could be put together in whatever configuration is decided. It would cost approximately \$30,000/month. It was discussed that local corporate sponsors could be used to defer the monthly costs through advertisements. It would take approx. 6-7 months to build. Mike Fohn would like to address the Parks and Recreation board at their next meeting in March to discuss this venture.

C. C. National Park Service Partnership – Patrik Dylan

Patrik handed out three lists: 1) Northern State Planning and Advisory Committees; 2) Task Groups and 3) Project Timeline. Patrik summarized the task groups and their ongoing tasks. There was board discussion.

6) 6) New Business

NONE

7) 7) Miscellaneous Business

A. Dave's Thoughts –

Bob Vaux has been appointed as Interim Director. My last day will be tomorrow, Feb. 16th. Advertisement for my position should go out this week. Stephanie Wood, Personnel Director will be the lead in this search. The Park Maintenance Staff will be in the new Park Maintenance Building in Burlington by this June.

Personal thoughts on department: Communication is the key. I suggest that you move these meetings around the county to make them more accessible to general public. Host meetings for all park boards in the county, including Burlington, Anacortes and Mount Vernon. You all face the same issues and challenges. As elections come up, challenge the elected officials and proposed elected officials at town hall meetings. When I started, I wasn't aware of the level of uncertain feelings towards the county and the department. I worked hard to change that. There is a definite need for positive press and we were seeing more of it in the past months. Be open and honest with what is going on....there is an excellent staff in place in the department.....listen to them for guidance...they are valuable people with good ideas....continue to simplify process, broaden base of support and offer more activities....our role as a department is to offer and provide services to the citizens of this county...without the support of the public, we won't survive. Remember we are here for the people....don't lose sight of open spaces but make people your priority...this is where you will get your support.... Help partnership with local cities to upgrade/maintain their facilities...lend them our experience. Keith wished Dave well on behalf of the Board....He said Dave is leaving us with two important things.....1) improved group of people and 2)processes in place.

8) 8) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Discussion Period

NONE

9) **Adjournment = 9:20 P.M.**