

# Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

## Minutes

Thursday, May 17, 2001 – 6:30 p.m.

Hearing Room B

County Administration Building

### 1) Roll Call

#### Attended:

John Semrau

Keith Magee

Carroll Dillon

#### Absent

Curtis Metz

Colleen Fisher

Lloyd Brown

#### Staff

Bob Vaux

Dennis Lind

Patrik Dylan

Pauli Mickelson

#### Guests

None

**2) Meeting Called to Order by John Semrau at 6:37 p.m.** It was decided that this was a public information meeting as there was not a quorum available to approve April, 2001 minutes. The approval of April minutes will be moved to June meeting.

**3) Public Comment Period** – No public in attendance.

### 4) Staff Reports

**Bob – See Director Report Attached.**

**A. Recreation Center** - This proposal is now in review with the prosecuting attorney's office. Bob mentioned that one of the many positive things that have come out of this proposal is the dialogue that has opened between he and Randy Rabenstein, Executive Director of

the Mount Vernon Y.M.C.A. and the opportunity to further a recreation partnership between our two organizations.

Carroll asked about a current count on returned surveys....Bob said of the 45,000 that were mailed out, approximately 3,300 have been returned to date. Carroll commented that this survey could possibly further support the need for a recreation center.

**B. Assistant Director Hiring** – The posting closed on May 16, 2001. We received 46 applications. Bob would like to have a P.A.B. member participate in the hiring process. He will contact absent board members to see if they are interested. No dates have been set up for interviews.

**C. Northern State Recreation Area** – Bob announced that he will contact Skagit County Planning and Permit Department to inquire if a staff member could participate in the charrette in October. Bob informed board that Dennis Lind will represent the recreation staff.

**Patrik - See Project Manager Report Attached.**

**A. Northern State Recreation Area** - Patrik reported that there will be an Open House on Saturday, June 16, 2001 at Northern State Recreation Area from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Carroll voiced concerns regarding liability issues for groups on site in areas that are not safe. Patrik responded that we will keep the public access limited to safe areas. The parking area and the wetland buffers will be mowed. Keith asked if the group from Western Washington University will do any partial analysis of survey prior to this open house? Bob responded that was his hope. Patrik handed out a copy of the marketing information newsletter. He reported that there have been over 300 requests of this newsletter from surveys returned. This newsletter will be included on the county website and in our recreation department Summer Leisure Guide. It was discussed that Mayor Sharon Dillon of Sedro Woolley will help get the marketing

information to state and other elected officials. Patrik explained the timeline of task force meetings and events between now and the charrette in October. Bob announced that there are a few staff members in our department who have still not received their survey form. He will check with the post offices to inquire as to why there seemed to be this high of a percentage of those who have not received a survey to date. Patrik reported on all the many ways that we have promoted public involvement in this process. Bob mentioned that at the end of this process, our department will have made a comprehensive and dedicated effort to bring the public into this process.

**B. Howard Miller Steelhead Park** – Patrik reported that there was a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> for the newly finished playground. There were 30-40 people in attendance including Commissioner Ted Anderson and family members of Howard Miller. The ribbon was cut by Mrs. Howard Miller. Bob will bring the photos next month to share with board members. He said that this dedication was one of the most positive events he has attended.

**Dennis – See Recreation Manager Report Attached.**

Dennis reported to board members that due to extra funding this year...the Summer Leisure Guide will be a 16-24 page insert in the Skagit Valley Herald on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and will be going to over 21,000 households.

**5) New Business**

**A. Board of County Commissioners Presentation - John** reported that there will be a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners by the

Skagit County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. He distributed information, to board members, from the last two meetings in 1999. Project priorities and department priorities were outlined for the presentation to the Commissioners. There was board discussion on this topic.

## **B.) National Trails Day – Pomona Grange Park**

Bob reported that Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Trails Day. There will be an event at Pomona Grange Park dedicating the new interpretive signs. We will be offering free tours as a way to bring the public out to enjoy the park.

## **C.) Skagit County Fair – Department Booth Staffing/Message**

It was decided that the Parks and Recreation department will have a booth at the Skagit County Fair in August. This will be staffed by the department with possibly some Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members stopping by to spend a couple of hours. This is one way the department and advisory board can continue their open communication with the public.

## **6.) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Discussion Period -**

It was decided to move the June Advisory Board meeting to Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m., Hearing Room B. We will email notice to board members not in attendance this evening to advise them of this change and to inform them of the upcoming presentation on June 19<sup>th</sup> with the Skagit Board of County Commissioners.

## **7.) Adjournment - 8:44 P.M**

**Director's Report  
Skagit County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
May 2001**

Ø **NSRA Survey**

**This should already have arrived in your and all your neighbors' mailboxes. I am very pleased with how the survey turned out, and am looking forward to the direction the results help provide. I want to thank the Board – especially John and Keith – for being so involved with this project.**

Ø **State Audit Underway**

**I have been involved in several meetings with State Auditor's staff, working out some of the kinks in our remote site cash handling. I am pleased with the progress we are making, and the staff is really coming through with the changes the department has been asked to make.**

Ø **Fohn Recreation Center Proposal**

**This proposal is now in the County's Prosecuting Attorney's office for**

**further legal review. I will update the Board when appropriate. Dennis Lind and I have been reviewing the finances necessary to meet the proposal, and have some more real concerns about the amount of revenue our Rec Staff would be able to generate. Again, as we hear more from a legal standpoint, we will pursue conversation with the Board.**

**Ø Annual WRPA Conference**

**A few of us here attended this annual conference 4/24 – 27. My focus was on the Parks Resources Section. I am now the Chair of this section, thus a member of the 2001 WRPA Executive Board. It is my hope to put more Parks back into the WRPA, creating more professional enhancement opportunities for park resource managers and staff.**

**Ø SCPR Assistant Director Hiring**

**The posting for this position closes 5/16. I have had a couple of meetings with both Personnel and Parks & Rec staff regarding hiring strategy. It is my intention to have the Board represented in this process, but I have not yet formalized my own plan for the hiring.**

**Ø May Agenda**

**John, Keith and I have not yet had the chance to meet to formalize. We will be getting together the first part of next week, and the agenda will be distributed accordingly.**

**Faithfully Submitted,**

**Robert W. Vaux**

May 2001

Recreation Division Report

**We are in a scramble mode trying to get our activity schedule together for summer for printing and insertion in the Skagit Valley Herald. We will be going out to 21,000 households as per SVH distribution. We are looking at a 24-page “flexie” that will include parks and fair, as well as recreation program information. We were fortunate to have some extra funds appropriated into our budget for this in 2001.**

**Our involvement with 12<sup>th</sup> Street Activity Center is *almost* officially done with—the owner was not satisfied with the cleaning that our crews did, so insisted upon hiring a private floor cleaner to come in and clean the rugs again and re-buff the wood floors. This final bill will be around \$500 for this. We are very anxious to be done with this site, as the arrangement that was forced upon us with Best PLACE did not work out (limiting our use). We have since re-allocated grant funds and started Youth Open Gym activities in Concrete. This looks to be a good partnership so far (with the Concrete School District). We still also have open gyms going in Conway, Burlington and special events with Anacortes Parks & Recreation, through this Juvenile Justice Grant.**

**I am over seeing the Grandstand project and installation of the new scoreboard at Skagit Valley Dream Field. Southern Bleacher’s contractor is scheduled to start construction on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Our crew, along with PFS Construction will be installing the grade beam foundation for the grandstands the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>. We will install scoreboard sometime in June. We still have to find a way to get power to the scoreboards.**

**With Clear Lake Swim Beach scheduled for opening on June 16<sup>th</sup>, we are in the process of hiring summer staff (life guards and gate/concession workers). We are installing one more water circulator on the south dock, which will make a total of 4 (2 on each dock). We hope this will be the final remedy to assure good water**

**quality for beach swimmers this summer.**

**The proposed Skagit Valley Recreation Center (Mike Fohn) has hit some legal snags concerning RCW bid laws. We also have concerns about the amount of revenue we would have to create to subsidize the lease agreement. We will be meeting again with Fohn and county legal counsel. If nothing else comes out of this proposal, at least we got the interest of the commissioners and other county officials in the idea of building a county Recreation Center. We will keep emphasizing the need for such an “indoor park facility” for our community. Some day it will happen!**

**Adult softball leagues are off and running, and going . We have only had a couple rainout nights thus far. With the number of adult softball teams (82) and only three fields to currently use, scheduling is tough for rainouts. We hope to get Custer Field re-opened by June 4<sup>th</sup>, but it does not have lights, which limits use.**

**Spring indoor leagues (girls basketball, adult volleyball, men’s basketball) continue into June, with most leagues scheduled at SVC gym. We had an adult softball tournament we sponsored last weekend at Skagit Playfields, with 12 teams. Some rain on Saturday morning delayed the start, but finished with nice weather. Our Mariner trip on April 21<sup>st</sup> was not a full trip, but was successful, with everyone having a great time, and the M’s getting another win! Lauren is planning two more Mariner trips this summer. Spring classes currently going include Yoga, Weight Conditioning, Sign Language, Dance, and “Dad and Me”.**

**Lauren, Bob, Mike and myself attended the annual Washington Recreation Parks Association conference in Ocean Shores. April 24-27. It has been a few years since I have been able to attend, so it was good to go. Nice to see Dave Towne get an award for his work and support for the Cascade Trail.**

**As we move into summer, things of course getting even busier and busier with programs, summer staff training; tournaments and of course 2002 budget calls are just around the corner. Would just like to add that currently, our over all staff moral seems to be very high, and Bob has done a good job in this transition period of leading the department.**



**Recreation Division Revenue comparisons (from program fees):**

**Through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000:     \$92,052.50**

**Through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001:     \$98,485.50**

**Dennis Lind  
Recreation Manager**



**Memo**

**DATE:**                    May 24, 2001  
**TO:**                       Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
**FROM:**                   Patrik Dylan  
**RE:**                       Project Managers Report, May 2001

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**Howard Miller Playground**

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- Open House/Ribbon Cutting occurred on May 12<sup>th</sup>. 60 invitations were sent.
- Work party to install small playground occurred same day

- Still need to Finish seeding/landscaping and clean-up on site.

## Poppe Field Renovation

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- Preparation of Construction drawings, specs, and bid packages
- Construction will be scheduled to begin in August after the Fair.

## Swinomish Channel Boat Launch

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I have sent a letter to the Corp of Engineers indicating out willingness to accept the modifications that were requested. We are awaiting their response. The window of construction will be reduced so as to not be open until August 15<sup>th</sup> which hopefully will be our start of construction

## Northern State Recreation Area

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### Planning Process

*To date* – The fourth advisory committee meeting is scheduled for June in Sedro Woolley. The main purpose of this meeting will be to finalize the vision statement and plans for the open house on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Guided site tours will be provided and an area will be established where tables (or stations) will be set up containing information on the following topics:

- Overall Project Review and Orientation
- Draft Vision Statement
- Preliminary Survey Results
- Recreation Inventory and Needs Assessment
- Natural Resources Information
- Cultural Resources Information
- Charette Planning

Each station will be designed, organized and staffed by representatives from

the committee working on that topic. This will give the public the opportunity to interact with advisory committee members on various topics of interest. In addition, vans and walking tours will leave the open house on a regular schedule throughout the day. All PAB members are encouraged to attend and participate in the public open house. Even if you don't have a specific assignment we could use the help!

In addition:

- Both the survey and newsletter have been mailed
- I have attached a draft copy of the one page 'Prospectus' for your information.
- As a reminder, the charette date has been chosen; the weekend of October 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.