

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
Thursday, December 20, 2001
11:30 am – Regular Meeting
Alfy's Meeting Room
1060 S. Burlington Blvd., Burlington, WA

11:30 – 11:35 a.m.

Roll Call – 11:50 call to order

Attended:

Absent:

Curtis Metz

Keith Magee

Lloyd Brown

Carroll Dillon

Colleen Fisher

John Semrau

Staff: Bob Vaux, Patrik Dylan, Earl Dierking, Dennis Lind, Mary Ann Dodge

11:35 – 11:40 a.m.

Approval of Minutes for November Meeting after corrections from John. Colleen Fisher made a motion to accept minutes as corrected, Curtis Metz seconded the motion.

11:40 – 11:50 a.m. Public Comment Period – None.

11:50 – 12:05 p.m.

Staff Reports – Bob/Earl/Dennis/Patrik

Bob offered to answer any questions on his report. After two days of interviews – he is in the process of checking references and hopes to make an offer tomorrow for the position of Office Assistant I. Many people are looking for work, and we had a lot of good applicants.

Patrik passed out a map of the Northern State Recreation Area site plan and poster for the upcoming meeting. He is working on

a plan for sharing the finalized map with the public. The site plan will be presented to the NSRA Advisory Committee and N.S. Task Force Thursday, January 10, 2002, 7:30PM, at the Burlington Community Center. On January 17th at 6PM, just before the Parks Advisory Board meeting there will be a one-hour open house, with the regular Park Board meeting afterwards.

The site plan is also being displayed in various libraries and other public gathering points around the County.

Discussion followed regarding whether the \$3 million set aside for Northern State over ten years is for ballfields only.

Bob assured that Board that the intent for the \$3 million is to go towards ball fields and the permitting and approval of the site plan. Public Works is very interested in incorporating Helmick and Hanson into one.

John – the public needs to be extremely aware that the money is going toward the ball fields. The public wants to see a park, but not ball fields.

12:05 – 1:25 p.m.

Current Business

A. Dept. Project Priorities – Bob: this last year was taken up mostly with NS as the main administrative project focus. Our crew has worked with Earl, Patrik and Dennis, between Poppe and playgrounds, boat launch, Dreamfield and the parking lot. In reflecting on what was taken to the Board of Commissioners on June 19, there continue to be needs with existing items (not changing the list of priorities from John's presentation). The boat launch is nearly finished, Skagit Playfields has had significant progress, including lighting and is currently working with the

college on naming and scoreboard/dedication ceremony. In addition, Clear Lake Beach had circulation with no shutdowns and a successful season. In regards to an indoor recreation center – there hasn't been the money to move forward.

John – shouldn't we concentrate on projects that will return revenue rather than start new projects? Building new ball fields won't help unless they increase the funding from the general fund. Would it be helpful if the Parks Advisory Board gave a recommendation to the Commissioners to that effect? If you think you should have a different direction, you should prepare something that seems best for you, then come out with a statement. What will make you continue to move forward and grow over the next few years? You are now staffed to what we asked for twelve years ago, and we don't want to see cuts.

Patrik – we need to offer the June list expanded with the explanation at the top that Northern State is *as directed by resolution*. The Parks Advisory Board needs to react – agree or disagree. Then talk to the Commissioners about it.

John – use this to help you be stronger. If you want us to review something, prepare a statement and plan. We can then put our effort in.

There was further discussion about how to best use our manpower and other resources: 1) expand HMSP first to make it revenue generating; then expand Pressentin, Sauk and Grandy, 2) go back and look at Pressentin in detail, 3) improve the Skagit Playfields and HMSP where there is already revenue producing capability, 4) start with the June list, 5) comp plan also needs to be revisited and 6) Bob would like to see county REET money spent on county projects. There hopefully will be **more** than the

\$300,000.

The discussion led to the list of priorities, which will include the results of the survey, sitting with the Commissioners, the June 2001 list for REET requests and comparisons of price tag versus revenue expected.

Colleen asked about the need for an indoor recreation center. Dennis explained the need is also for meeting rooms, aerobic class rooms, etc. Colleen wondered if we should try to get in on the Mount Vernon and Burlington school bonds in a partnership to help build a bigger building – and get use of the gym?

Bob reported that a copy of a letter from the Softball Association will be coming like the one in September – updated. This is one of the things we want from the board – matching money for specific project. John would like to put together a response to them letting them know we'll be reviewing their request and thanking them for their support. The Board will review the softball issue next month.

B. Review ERA Report: Multi-Use Event Center

Based on Keith's written comments, Earl drafted a letter for the Board to read which expresses our dissatisfaction with the work that was done by ERA. John asked if we should now review applicants we had and select a new one or start over? We've spent \$20'000 of the original \$25,000 that had been set aside for the consultant.

There was a motion made by Curtis to send the letter as is, terminate the contract with ERA and use the funds more constructively. Lloyd seconded the motion. Discussion and vote; all in favor, no one opposed.

C. Other nominations – keep it open or close nominations?
Lloyd moved and Curtis seconded that nominations be closed (John as Chairman and Keith as Vice Chair). All approved. Curtis moved that each accept the position as so appointed. Lloyd seconded this motion.

1:25 – 1:35 p.m. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Discussion Period

Lloyd asked about the specifications for educational purposes in the deed for Northern State. Patrik stated that the deed says “may be used” and the interpretive center can be considered as education. Bob also assured Lloyd that we’re working with IAC to make sure we clarify the exact parameters on this.

John asked if we received the Ann Wollford money, and was told by Earl that it is on its way. Closing documents have to be signed by one of the Commissioners. They’re paying all closing costs and anything relative to completion of the transaction.

John asked where this amount will go; Bob wants to talk about it in January. According to the resolution, it needs to be spent toward another park.

1:37 p.m.

Adjournment