

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Draft January, 2013 Minutes

In Attendance

Mike Elde, Kevin Loy, Liz McNett Crowl, Mark Dobie, John Semrau, and Lloyd Brown.

Board Discussion

Officers: The Board voted on and elected a new chairperson for 2013. John Semrau was elected as Chairperson. Mike Elde remains as the vice chair for the coming year. The vote was 5-0 with Kevin Loy abstaining. Mark Dobie volunteered his willingness to take the reins in 2014.

NSRA History: Patrik Dylan of Eccos Design presented the history of the NSRA master plan for the park. The plan was put together after 6 months of information gathering, a county wide survey, a cultural history study, and a full three day Charette process. The land available for development at NSRA will potentially limit the scope of the original master plan. Although most components can be accommodated, it's possible that there are fewer acres for the size of the campground and other park elements.

NSRA Proposal: The NSRA proposal was discussed and deliberated on. The Parks Board felt that it wasn't in their interest to make any specific recommendation at this point because there isn't yet an adequate proposal to respond to. Additionally the board recognizes their role doesn't go beyond park and recreation stewardship/oversight. This, in many ways, is a larger and more complex project.

Regardless, the board thought it would be good to be proactive in the process so that they stayed informed and prepared to respond to aspects of the proposal, as it potentially evolves.

The board was of the opinion that additional specific information about how NSRA would be utilized as a destination type resort will be necessary. The Board was unanimous in their position that the project proponents *"should be required to bring a detailed plan to the public, the Parks Advisory Board, and the Board of County Commissioners; so that a thoughtful, reliable and sensible response can be obtained and considered."* The Board said this could be done *"by the development of a schematic plan which would include the preliminary program elements and their proposed location within the boundaries of NSRA park property."* As responsible stewards of Skagit County parklands, the Parks Board feels it wouldn't be in their best interest to endorse and/or censure the proposal until a preliminary environmental review and schematic plan is made available for review and comment.