



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, April 17, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm with the following park board members in attendance:

Ralph Rowland, John Semrau, Chris Allen, Tim Manns, Liz McNett Crowl, and Elizabeth Detillion.

Staff Members included Brian Adams and Rusty Regan

No additions were made to the agenda. The March minutes were passed unanimously.

There were no additional matters raised by the public, beyond issues already on the agenda.

Board Discussion

Duck Hunting/Trapping at Grandy Lake

The current hunting policies will remain as they are. Access can be gained to the hunting areas from the park as long as the hunters are in compliance with State and Federal regulations. Hunting is not allowed on Skagit County Parks and Recreation property. The trapping of beavers at Grandy Lake has changed the lake levels and reduced the "reservoir effect". The reservoir effect increases lush vegetation growth around the edge of the lake, especially as summer approaches and lake levels drop. The lush soils propagate plants that provide food and habitat opportunities for a wide variety of fish and wildlife. Rusty Regan would like to put up better signage against trapping and re-introduce native beavers. Tim Manns said he would talk to WDFW regional biologist Chris Danilson about the prospects of relocating beavers. (note: Tim can update us on the discussion at the May meeting).

HMSP Commercial Rafters:

We are reviewing our current policies and will be making a few changes as we move into next year. Rafting season is to be reduced to winter months (November through February) and adherence to policies is going to be strictly enforced. Non-compliance will result in the loss of privileges. Permits won't be capped at a certain number but may be downsized based on compliance issues.

315 South Third Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360.336.9414 phone
360.336.9493 facsimile

<http://skagitcounty.net/offices/parks/index.htm>



Neighbor Driveway Letter/Response

A response to neighbor concerns went out on March 26. We are going to follow up by establishing surveyed boundaries and talking with our County attorney about protocol about County Road access/easement violations.

The neighbor would like to see park trees come down, maintenance activity/noise eliminated, the dump station moved, organic means of maintaining weeds abolished and other changes made at HMSP. We can ensure this neighbor that any maintenance activities that require motorized equipment will be done between the hours of 8am and 5pm. Mowers will not be used after 7pm. As far as trees are concerned, we would like to keep as many trees standing as possible, especially in areas that buffer the park from the homes in the area. The dump station cannot be moved. It's currently in the only place it can be. To move it would also require shoreline permits, a long, costly, inefficient and cumbersome process. We will continue to use propane blowers to eliminate noxious weeds, rather than using pesticides.

Earth Day

We had two work parties on Earth Day. One was at Sharpe Park and the other was at the County Administration Building.

Centennial Trail

An update was given in regards to progress. Another property has been purchased and another is in negotiation.

Tournament

Tony had one of his larger Tulip Tournaments to date. Kevin Loy coordinated a very successful cheerleader competition, a competition builder leading up to the Youth Day at the County Fair.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 15, 2014

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