



## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2018

**The meeting was called to order at 630pm with the following park board members in attendance:**

**Tim Manns, Jason Benson, Chris Allen, John Semrau, and Elizabeth Detillion.**

**Staff Members: Brian Adams**

Approved by Tim and seconded by Elizabeth. The October minutes were passed unanimously without corrections.

**Public Comments:**

The Edison Outdoor Foundation: Andrea Vallee and Renee Bourgalt were placed on the agenda.

### **Board Discussion**

**Burlington Track Presentation:**

The Edison Outdoor Foundation, made up of a group of community members interested in seeing the construction of a quarter mile athletic track at Edison Elementary School. The track is for PE classes during recess, track teams, and for the community during non-school hours. Because of the soggy nature of the facility and surrounding areas, students currently use the stairs and parking area for walking, hiking, and running. Off campus, hunting and private ownership issues with dikes limit access and safety.

The Board deliberated and asked questions about funding sources. The special pathway funds are unavailable due to RCW restrictions. Other potential funding sources, such as REET, are earmarked for other projects. It was mentioned that we have residual Foundation funds held for mutual projects within the Skagit Land Trust holdings. This will be investigated before the February meeting.

Other needs were discussed, including restroom facilities. The Edison Outdoor Foundation was encouraged to keep engaged with the Parks Plan process to promote and provide input on their other recreational needs in their community.

**Swinomish Slough Trail:**

The trail along the Swinomish Channel was discussed. SCPR is interested in a partnership with the Tribe to ensure public access to an area that is already informally being used. Skagit County would be responsible for the access road and trailhead and the Swinomish Tribe would be responsible for the trail. After the improvements are made, the Tribe may be willing to provide the maintenance. SCPR will continue to work with the Tribe until an agreement can be reached. Tim proposed the motion to *support SCPR's formal agreement the Swinomish Tribe for creating and maintaining a public access, trailhead, and trail for the benefit of the public.* Elizabeth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**2019 Comp Plan Preparation: Meetings and Surveys**

After a discussion it was determined we should have our public meetings this spring and wait to begin reviews until Fall. Staff is still investigating and weighing the value of a

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statistically valid survey. There are a couple of choices that can be discussed in February. (1) We can do a survey at a cost of \$13,000 and merge with an internet driven survey poll. Or (2) we can do an internet survey poll and combine with the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which is a statistically valid survey. It's important to remember that the survey is just one of four ways we determine public park needs. The survey is 25% of the equation, along with public meetings, level of service comparisons, and use patterns. We'll discuss and decide our survey needs at our February meeting.

### Staff Update

#### **Presentin:**

We are still working on getting the ALEA funds allocated at the anticipated level. History: In the original budget, the Governor re-allocated some of the "cash account" monies that typically go to ALEA, and then proposed \$4.3 million of bond backfill. But 2017-19 was a tough biennium to do that, given extreme bonding pressure from schools capital accounts, a lagging MTCA program, etc. The bond backfill was reallocated elsewhere and ALEA was stuck with only \$1M.

Unfortunately, that leaves us left out by the wrangling between the Governor and the Legislature on how to fund ALEA. ALEA historically receives anywhere from \$5 million to \$6.5 million a biennium.

Additionally, there has been some confusion among legislators about ALEA funding, with at least one Chair under the previous assumption that not enough money was being generated by the Aquatics Land leases (marinas that rent space at these aquatic lands) and goeyduck leases. That's not the case. Here are the revenue numbers for ALEA - Capital: 2017-19 biennium – through first 6 months of the 24-month period - \$1.498M; 2015-17 \$5.696M; 2013-15 - \$4.589M; 2011-13 -- \$4.373M. The point is that there has been enough money in this account from "cash" leases to fund several projects a biennium – and that's the case for 2017-19, too, with a projected \$6M.

#### **Concrete Confluence:**

The community has a very keen interest in the acquisition and low impact development of a day-use facility on lands at the confluence of the Baker and Skagit Rivers near the Town of Concrete. The land of our collective focus is currently owned by George Theodoratus. It is important to note that a large portion of the parcel is tangled in an ownership dispute between Theodoratus and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Other interested partners include the Upper Skagit Tribe, Puget Sound Energy, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Town of Concrete, and neighboring private landowners.

The potential uses for the property includes boat launching infrastructure, trails, salmon habitat restoration, preservation, tribal fishing, and interpretive/educational opportunities. Core participants believe that all of the proposed uses are compatible with one another. The central theme of the emerging partnership is a common desire for a cohesive plan focused primarily on recreation and restoration. As a united partnership with common goals, it's conceivable that a collaborative agreement (memorandum of understanding) can be achieved in which agency participants succeed

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in establishing recreational lands, all while achieving most of participants' desired interests.

We have reached out to the Port of Skagit and they are interested in working with Skagit County to make this property available to the public by purchasing it and allowing the Town of Concrete to maintain it. The dispute with WDNR would be dropped in order to enter into a lease agreement for the aquatic lands purported to be in their ownership.

**Recreation and Fairground Reports:**

Provided in written form.

**Adjourn**

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