

Parks, Recreation and Fair Board Minutes

Thursday, February 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm with the following Park Board members in attendance:

Board Members Present: Tim Manns, Elizabeth Detillion, Chris Allen, John Semrau, and Kevin Loy

Staff Members and Representatives: Brian Adams

Members from the Public: None

A motion was made to approve the November minutes and January agenda. The motion to approve the agenda as written was approved and passed unanimously. John asked to include the trust land language to the November minutes.

Board Discussion:

Schoolhouse Trail Update:

The engineering and design work is being completed. Fred Buckemmyer is almost done with the survey work. Once the survey work is complete, it will be passed on to Jeff Jenks of Reid Middleton. A preapplication meeting is scheduled for March and this meeting will provide a better understanding of the permit requirements.

Studley Acquisition:

We believe we have a path forward now that we have a better understanding of what the Studley Family is requiring. We are very appreciative of their generosity and are grateful for their patience. We will have twenty years to complete a trailhead, trail, and parking lot to fulfil the terms of the reversionary clause.

Filippini Waterfall:

The wetlands have been delineated and a trailhead design is in the works. A preapplication meeting is scheduled for March. There is a question of whether we need to rezone to OSPI. The Filippini Family has the design work 90% complete. Some of the trails bisect wetland buffers. The greatest hurdle may be the WSDOT access permit. The surface water permit is dependent on the amount of gravel needed to complete the access and parking lot. We anticipate the need for six vehicles, including one ADA.

Frailey Mountain Reconveyance

John Semrau: The Frailey Mountain site was Skagit County trust land before it was conveyed to County for Park purposes as a firearms range. I think the RCW says it needs to return back to County trust land. It was not traded for other County trust land. It was already County trust land; County land that had been deeded to DNR to hold in trust for timber revenue to County. The conveyance from the DNR took it out of trust and gave back to the County for operation as a range.

I would like the DNR to propose an alternative range site that has access or for the DNR to grant access over current DNR road to Frailey Mountain so it can continue to be used as a park site.

Update on Rec/Current Projects:

Skagit Playfields: Soccer fields: We have designs for the playground replacement and are waiting to see if funding comes through for a community Lowes grant. They will help with some of the equipment, including special disability playground equipment. The portable mounds for youth baseball are in production. We have met with some Cal Ripken representatives about expanding league play this spring/summer. We have sponsorships for two scoreboards and are seeking funding for the other two fields.

HMSP: The review process is progressing for the new restrooms. The notice of development notice was posted in early February and we hope to have a hearing very soon. If we can get the permits in 2024, we will most likely schedule the new building for early 2025. Our research with software vendors for online reservations has been fruitful and we are working with IS to create the RFP. This will reduce the time answering calls and manually entering reservations. The interpretive center has an active season of bird watchers and will close on February 29.

Recreation: As the winter sports season is beginning to wind down, there is a lot of activity on the Recreation side. We have the Boys SWISH Basketball League end of season League Tournaments that will be held the first two Saturdays of March, which kicks off our own version of March Madness. Our 118 Boys SWISH teams will play a combined 140 games in 19 different divisions. Both Adult COED Volleyball and Men's Basketball will be holding end of season league tournaments in March, and we'll start a Girls High School Basketball League in mid-March, as well. March will conclude with our popular Boys & Girls Tulip Basketball Tournament (4th-8th Grades; March 22nd-24th), which draws teams from all over Western Washington and British Columbia. March will also see youth baseball and softball teams beginning weeknight practices and games at the Skagit Valley Playfields, as well as adult and youth softball tournaments on the weekends. Much like the seasonal calendar, March will see the conclusion of Recreation winter programs and the start of many spring programs that we're already busy preparing for.

Acquisitions:

Filipini Falls: March 7 Pre-App

Studley Community Park: The family would like to see conditions added to the transfer agreement. These matters are being resolved and the attorneys are sorting out the details.

Adjourn: 7:15 pm