



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
April 2013 Minutes**

In Attendance

Ralph Rowland, Mike Elde, Lloyd Brown, John Semrau, Liz McNett Crowl, Kevin Loy, Chris Allen, and Elizabeth Detillion

Public Comment Period

No comments came from the public

Board Discussion

YMCA Proposal: The discussion centered on the intent of the sale during the Rodger's acquisition. Lloyd asked about the conditions that were agreed upon when the sale was implemented. The research shows that the property was sold under the condition that any change in use would have to be approved by the Rodgers. Lloyd was also troubled by the fact that the YMCA was opposed to our original project and now, four years later, is interested in a project that looks very close to what SCPR was proposing. Kevin strongly agreed with Lloyd, which prompted Lloyd to exclaim "even a blind pig finds an acorn every so often." John Semrau talked about the value of the property, asserting that the wetland studies are added value. There seemed to be general consensus that a partnership would have to be just that: each partner should get close to equal value in the exchange.

Comp Plan Docketing/Hearing Process:

- *Commissioners make docketing decision (not yet scheduled). We hope to be docketed.*
- *All docketed items, including our Comp Plan, will undergo SEPA review including threshold determination and related comment period.*
- *Once docketed, our comp plan will be made available for agency and public review and comment.*
- *A Public hearing is held before Skagit County planning commission.*
- *Planning Commission deliberates and makes recommendations to approve, deny, or modify and approve the plan.*
- *We make a list of any recommended modifications from the planning commission, meet with our Parks Board to discuss/deliberate on the list and make all realistic adjustments.*
- *PC Recommendations forwarded to BCC with Department recommendation.*
- *BCC considers, and takes final action. BCC may decide not to hold its own public hearing but instead rely on public comments made before the Planning Commission.*

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The parks board was unwavering in their support for the plan, knowing it has already gone through a thorough and inclusive process. They saw no reason for adjustments for the plan, except for very minor adjustments that may come from PC at the next public hearing. Kevin reiterated his support by making the comment “there is nothing sinister in the plan and it took almost four years of process to get to where it is today.”

Nysether Property: I shared the map prompting a lively discussion about the potential partnership being pursued. Under the agreement, the Skagit Land Trust would purchase the property, SCPR would own the property, and the Wildcat Steelhead Club would maintain/ otherwise manage the property. Because our comprehensive plan prioritizes water access proprieties, there was general support for the arrangement, so as long as it doesn't affect SCPR's ability to manage other park properties. Liz wanted to make sure of the property conditions. Brian assured her that recreational access (for fishing and hiking), parking, and portable potties would all be allowed under the agreement. Brian said he would do a site visit in the coming days to walk the property.

Centennial Trail: Liz led the discussion, showing where the trail is almost connected in the phase 1 section. Current negotiations are ensuing on one of the last connecting parcels. The DOT crossings are of concern and need to be negotiated early.

Staff Report

Clear Lake site plan update: Brian told the Board that the shoreline permitting process has begun. John thought this may take as long as a year to complete.

NSRA Update: Brian talked about the new steering committee that's being developed to oversee and review the feasibility plan. The Skagit Port is part of the process. The State Lands are still yet to be acquired and the emphasis by developers is with the State Hospital Lands. The difference between offer and asking price is still very wide.

Adjourn : 8:05pm

Next Meeting: May 16, 2013