



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm with the following park board members in attendance:

Kevin Loy, Liz McNett Crowl, Tim Manns, Chris Allen, and Ralph Rowland.

Staff Member: Brian Adams

From the Public: Jeff McGowan

Port Staff: Heather Haslip

There were no additional matters raised by the public, beyond issues already on the agenda. The agenda and minutes were passed by those present without any changes.

Board Discussion

Northern State Gateway Center Campus: Skagit Port Staff Heather Haslip addressed some of the issues pertaining to the project at NSRA. Heather went through the history of the process, starting with the County's transfer of SEPA authority to Sedro-Woolley. According to Heather, the issue of contamination has been addressed. The property is assumed to have a deficit monetary value due to the costs associated with clean-up. The State has been losing money for many years even as they lose money, the maintenance deficit is growing. In moving forward, a subarea plan is to be completed, essentially creating a 20 year plan for the property. SW and the Skagit Port will be partnering on the plan. There will be a public process associated with the plan as it moves forward. It's important to note that the State will continue to own the property. The Port will operate under a lease, at least in the interim. A transfer agreement will be a long process. SW will be annexing this area within their city limits. The SEPA process allows comments for a larger area. Most of the new buildings will be on the southern end of the property.

Access has been one of the more important needs highlighted by the public. The property is on the National Historic registry and historical preservation. The Port would like to see a vibrant and diverse business community to host a diverse clientele. A campus setting will have coffee shops, cafes, training facilities, and other supporting amenities/services.

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Presentin Hybrid Plan: The project continues to move up the priority list based on earlier available funding from the State granting agencies. Brian talked to commissioners and a meeting is planned for the Marblemount Community Hall on June 18 at 6:30pm. There could be some sensitivity about this project due to the prior master plan for the park. The prior plan had a more active recreational component, including camping, playgrounds, day-use facilities, much like HMSP. The plan was fully placed in the 100 year flood plain. Native artifacts found when the road was being built shut down the project before it got started. Federal grant funding was returned.

Tursi Trail: The trail easement is close to complete and a permitting process will begin. This project has been in the comprehensive plan for more than forty years. The trail will extend the Pass Lake link and provide a beautiful hike above an incredible valley. SCPR received two easements for the placement of the trail from two different property owners. It's was a very long process, taking several years to complete. The Skagit Land Trust and WS Parks has been involved every step of the way.

Staff Report:

Clear Lake Project Update: The bathroom is will be in place by the triathlon.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: July 16

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