



## Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday June 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm with the following park board members in attendance:

**Board Members present:** Tim Manns, Jason Benson, Jose Riefkohl, and Greg Francioch and Jon Semrau

**Staff Members and Representatives:** Brian Adams

### Board Discussion

Trail Committee: the trail committee nominations are as follows: Jim Taylor, Terry Gifford, Greg Francioch, Tim Manns, and Jason Benson. We have added John Semrau. Brian will reach out to those nominated to get started on the formal trails plan. The primary objective will be to determine specific uses for various trails throughout the Skagit County Trails system. After the plan is complete, electronic bikes will be provided opportunities to utilize a number of trails in the SCPR trail system. The DNR and other agencies are actively putting together their plans, which should be helpful.

### **Park Board Recruitment:**

We are still working on this. We may have a new recruit from District #2. We have a couple of letters of interest but PRAB would like to see more candidates so that we can possibly expand our demographic. Brian will talk to other folks who have connections with the Latinx community.

### **Comprehensive Plan Docketing:**

The docketing process is being led by Peter Gill of the Planning and Permitting Department. Peter would like to make sure the park designations are conducive to creating the necessary infrastructure and facilities in our parks. The current code doesn't outright allow for normal parks facilities and infrastructure we have proposed for some of our park improvements. This was first triggered by the picnic shelter proposed for Lake Campbell. We had to wait a year to finish the project due to the extra process required to go through a hearing examiner process. John said that our parks should be 'pre-existing' and be exempt from the codes created later. If we were to change the park designations, it would change our LOS data and not be consistent with NRPA park type definitions. It would be best to change the code or language to ensure we can continue to build park facilities effectively and efficiently.

We also may need to address the open space concerns and change some of the language in the plan to ensure the open space plan.

### **Sharpe Park Trail:**

Our new trail at Sharpe Park has been officially sanctioned by staff and PRAB. The trail will be named the Fern Forest Trail. Greg made a motion to sanction the trail and the new name. Jose and Kevin seconded the motion. The new trail has been placed on the maps by Jose and signs will go up this fall.

**Staff Report:** A report was provided and discussed.



**Skagit Playfields:**

*Soccer fields:* The DOE, MV and Corps have signed/approved our plans and now we are awaiting the approval on the fill and grade permit. We expect approval soon. The agreement for the mitigation credits has been signed and the payment has been submitted. We hope to mow and finish some of the field preparation this year with additional fill and grading next year.

*Softball fields:* The project is 90% complete and should be completed by July 4. We will need until July 15 to button up. The service roads will need to be brought to safe standards prior to renting the fields. Upon completion, the seasonal window for the fields use will increase and the youth softball/hardball leagues will be expanded.

**Pressentin Park:** We have been very comfortable with our contractor and project manager. The project is scheduled for completion in September. We have posted signs for educating the public on what to expect upon completion. The good weather has helped keep the project on schedule.

**NSRA:** The design has been completed and the permits have been submitted. The park is extremely busy and the trails continue to grow in popularity.

We continue to collaborate with The Skagit Trail Builders as we plan the next 18 months of trail projects along Goat Creek. We have a meeting this week with the Port of Skagit and the City of Sedro-Woolley as we strategize the trail / campus plans. An agreement with the Port and SW is currently under review.

**Guemes Island Trail:** We secured all the easements between the Ferry Landing and Schoolhouse Park. The Guemes Island Association will secure the permits.

**Lake Erie/Campbell:** We have posted the signage on lake rules and provided brochures to Lake Erie Store and Harold's Market.

**Guemes Island:** We will be resurfacing the tennis courts and painting pickle ball lines in the second week of July. An MOU between Skagit County and the Guemes Island Community Association is being drafted for your review.

**Adjourn.**