



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, September 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 635pm with the following park board members in attendance:

Board Members present: Tim Manns, Mike Elde, Kevin Loy, Jason Benson, John Semrau, and Elizabeth Detillion, and Chris Allen. Staff Members: Brian Adams. Public: Alex Knighton

Agenda and Minutes: The minutes and agenda were recommended for approval by Tim and seconded by Elizabeth. The March minutes passed unanimously with no corrections.

Public Comments:

Alex Knighton was introduced as someone interested in the vacant district 1 parks board position.

Board Discussion

Parks Plan Debrief:

There were four meetings across Skagit County between April 1 and June 30. Comments in Anacortes focused on trail connections, especially between the Anacortes Community Forestlands, Sharpe Park, Tursi Trail, and Deception Pass. The connection of County parklands to Rosario Beach was verbalized clearly. They also decisively wanted connections in other countywide parks, including NSRA. Participants cited their desire for connections from NSRA to Skagit Port properties and DNR lands. Open space lands for the benefit of wildlife was also heavily sought.

In MV the participants asked for regional connectivity to Little Mountain Park and shoreline access. A trail on the west side of the Twin Bridges and along the reservation dike met with enthusiasm. Access to Big Rock was demanded by one attendee at the meeting, generating a response of enthusiastic applause. Common themes were based on regional trail networks, especially at NSRA. An inclusive rather than ADA playground was asked for by one attendee.

In Marblemount there were a lot of comments focused on the desire for more recreational opportunities at Presentin Park. Viewing platforms/Viewpoints within the park and surrounding areas were requested. One participant asked for a trail connection between HMSP and Sauk Park.

In SW there were comments asking for NSRA to have an expansion of trails, both internally and to the neighboring public lands. The Veterans Plaza was very much the primary focus for the attendees. Veterans groups are very anxious to see the completion of the plaza.

2018 Budget Priorities:

*NSRA Site Amenities: we have two grants for enhancing the park for greater use.
Presentin Park Site Amenities: grants for habitat and trails, bike camp, foot bridges.
Fairgrounds Structures: Building C to be replaced.*

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HMSP: Electrical Upgrades and day-use bathroom planning/design.

Samish Park: the playground needs replaced to bring it in to compliance.

SVP: The YAF grant request will be funded if the legislature agrees to the WRPA request of 12 million.

Clear Lake Amenities: the sagging galvanized fence will be replaced by a vinyl coated black fence.

Swinomish: Although it's lower on the list John feels it should be addressed -- we may lose our breakwater infrastructure without improvements. This will need to be vetted further.

Comp Plan Survey:

Tim provided comments and corrections that were all supported by the Board. During the meeting a lot of questions and/or suggestions were vetted. Board members pondered the separation of unincorporated and incorporated. LaConner needs to be part of the incorporated areas and added to the list of cities/towns. Would a breakdown of the geographic/voter districts (so regions can be separated out by the site specific desires in the three districts of Skagit County) have value? With question number six, why do we ask? What are we trying to obtain with this question? Structure into two sentences. With question eight we should separate acquisitions and development and rank them independently. Acquisitions should be queried. Lands could be bought now for development 30 years out. Camping should be added to question number nine. Horse trails and motorcycle trails should be added to number 11. Presentin, Grandy and Sauk Parks should be added? Question twenty should acknowledge the demise of leisure services and ask if "provided the expansion of services, what classes, sports programs or enrichment activities should be offered?"

Staff Update

Recreation: The Indian Summer Softball League is finishing up (weather permitting) over this next week, which also means fall sports are ready to kick off. We've already started our popular Fall High School Basketball League with 21 girls teams and 11 boys teams, which are High School teams prepping for their winter seasons. The Girls S.W.I.S.H. Basketball League begins play on Saturday, October 27th, though teams are actively forming, hosting open gyms and even practicing already. This league will have 70+ teams participating again this fall. Adult leagues (men's basketball & COED volleyball) will also get underway the beginning of October. Much like kids going back to school, Recreation also begins anew its sports seasons, which we're very much looking forward to.

NSRA: We have a completed Cultural Report for NSRA with 70 test pits showing no significant historic properties or cultural resources in the 16 acre project area. We expanded the project area to cover the waterline expansion, septic area, trail expansion, and Veterans' plaza so that we won't have to duplicate our study next year. With the cultural report completed and the scope of work now ready for submittal, the contract with the State will be done soon and ready for your signatures. The 500k received in the state capital budget will be used for phase 1, i.e. infrastructure and utility improvements (septic, water, and parking improvements and lighting). Parking improvements, legacy walk infrastructure, solar panels, historical artifacts, a restroom, and campsites are included in phase 2, which we hope to get grant funded via RCO. There were 92 grants presented in Olympia for similar type projects. In a normal year,

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15-20 would be funded. We finished number 7 out of 92 applications and are assured funding regardless of where the funding line is drawn.

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Adjourn

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