



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, October 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 630pm with the following park board members in attendance:

Mike Elde, Tim Manns, Jason Benson, Chris Allen, John Semrau, Kevin Loy, and Elizabeth Detillion.

Staff Members: Brian Adams

Approved by Mike and seconded by Chris. The September minutes were passed unanimously without corrections.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments were provided

Board Discussion

2018 Grants / Capital Improvements:

Priorities: Working with partners on getting trails reinforced at NSRA; Working with Partners on Rock to Lake Trail; Grants for SVP; Similk Bay Access; Veterans Park; Big Rock Access; and Rexville Outlook. The grant application requests for 2018 will be due in March. We will need to firm up our specific plans as we get into January so we can be further along with our plans prior to sending in our letter of intent. We are also looking towards establishing a dedicated funding source for acquisition. John asked about CF Funds—there may be an opportunity to transition there but in the interim, we may be able to tap into our surplus fund balance of our general funds.

3 Grants Under Consideration:

Skagit Playfields: although I have some mixed feelings regarding synthetic turf, we are prepared to turf the four infields at Skagit Playfields. According to Tony, our rainouts are due to infield wetness -- we had to cancel several games on sunny days due to the inability to get the infields ready prior to the start of softball games. The college will be responsible for 150k, we'll be responsible for 150k, and the YAF grant will pay 300k. The work will reduce the amount of lining, grading, treating, conditioning, and otherwise maintaining the infields. The letter of intent for the grants will be due this spring, applications will be due by June, and presentations due by mid-July. We'll be ranked by August and know whether we are north of the funding line soon-after. Work can commence between leagues and be finished within a three week window (August 2019). We will continue to advocate for shared use with more youth baseball tournaments and camps.

There is more conversation going with the College, 911 Center, and Roger's property. With any cooperative project, and as I've heard John say, it's important to keep our interests whole, which means ensuring we end up with 10 acres of recreational use. PW and SCPR are working towards a plan for mitigation so that the land can be developed. Discussions are commencing to talk about other uses/community needs. It's important to make sure the board expresses their opinion for the land and the mitigation work. We don't want to lose our investment and make sure the intentions for the land are kept intact.

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We are working on protecting our investment on the Rogers Property by getting our project vested with the Corp of Engineers. The College would like to work with us as well by mitigating offsite for their adjacent land. If both parties work together it helps protect our own property, as well as each other's property. If we don't mitigate off site as partners, our properties would require buffer buy downs, affecting the use of our own property, as well as our partners. There is a possibility of saving funds by mitigating and/or placing a conservation easement on wetland property the County already owns.

Kevin made the motion to "support moving forward with mitigation at the Roger's Property in order to develop 10 acres of soccer fields, at least in the interim. The primary goal is to ensure the lands are developed and kept in a recreational capacity in perpetuity." The motion was seconded by Elizabeth and passed unanimously.

NSRA: although we anticipate getting 500k in 2018 once the capital budget is passed, we still have some projects to complete to make the Veterans Park a place we can all be proud of. Parking improvements, legacy walk infrastructure, solar panels, historical artifacts, a restroom, and campsites are included in the next scope of work. The 500k of infrastructural improvements (septic, water, and lighting) should be able to be used as matching funds.

Presentin: Due to the lack of a capital budget, we have begun to move forward with the acquisition component, at a cost of \$115k for the parking lot. This will be done with a waiver of retroactivity. The waiver allows us to recover funds once they become available. We plan on submitting a new grant in 2018 to recover acquisition funds and construct the recreational components of the overall project.

Comp Plan:

A discussion ensued about surveys. How do we get the best and all-inclusive data sets? Do we get a good cross section of demographics? What questions should be asked? Kevin thought surveys should be distributed at Walmart. Others thought phone data or email distributed data seems to work in the modern era. Fortunately, we measure needs through a four pronged approach, which helps make up for any weakness in any given subset. Measurements are done via LOS, Surveys, Public Meetings/Input and Use Patterns. We'll need to reach out to the survey experts to determine how surveys should best be completed. The timelines for public meetings will be further vetted at our next meeting. The plan is due in '19 in order to stay eligible for ongoing grants. Elizabeth felt polling other local recreation providers on the data they are seeking would be helpful. John asked me to talk with the commissioners about weighing the value of statistically valid surveys with on-line surveys. PW recently used AR with a price tag of 23k. The board talked about chapter 5 and the need to make the chapter more concise. Brian will bring the RCO requirement checklist to the November meeting.

Staff Update

Recreation Report:

Summer has ended and kids are back in school. We just ended our Indian Summer Softball League with over fifty teams participating. Fall sports began September 17th with Boys & Girls High School Basketball Leagues, which are preparatory leagues for the upcoming High School winter season. We have 30+ total teams for this league with teams coming from as far away as Sultan and British Columbia. We'll also kick off our youth girls basketball season October 21st w/ the MV Girls Pre-Season Jamboree (October 21st) and then the Girls S.W.I.S.H. Basketball League, which will play games

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from October 28th through December 16th. We'll also start back up adult basketball (October 9th) and adult volleyball (October 11th/13th). All of our fall sports seasons finish up right before Christmas, where we'll then switch over to our Boys S.W.I.S.H. Basketball League and start up new winter adult seasons.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: November, 2017

DRAFT

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