Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, October 20, 2016

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

Mike Elde, Chris Allen, Kerri Cook, Kevin Loy, Elizabeth Detillion, and Tim Manns.

Community Members: Louie Requa attended the meeting to represent the application for the picnic shelter naming procedure.

Staff Members: Brian Adams

No additional items were added to the agenda. The minutes were approved as written, as per Tim's motion and Elizabeth's "second" to the motion.

Board Discussion

NSRA Veterans Park: Naming Application for Shelter
After a short discussion, Tim Manns recommended the picnic shelter be named for Vern Sims. Louie stated it should be named "the Vern Sims Memorial Shelter", as identified in the application. A discussion followed. Chris wanted to remind those that were involved in the public process that any awkwardness in the system was due to the infrequency in which we are asked to name structures after individuals. This was the first application received by the board in more than a decade. After members of the Board had a chance to weigh in, Tim made the motion to name the structure "The Vern Sims Memorial Shelter." The motion was seconded by Elizabeth and passed unanimously. Brian will write resolution for BOCC signature.

The signage was discussed as well. It was felt that the signage concerns espoused by some of the audience at the prior meeting were warranted. Mike Elde mentioned that Louie Requa should continue to pursue the option for placing the large billboard on a warehouse type building. The board members agreed that it would be better suited elsewhere. The Board values the concept in planning and developing a veterans project at an elevated standard to ensure that the veterans are honored admirably, as deserved. The large Vern Sims sign will remain for now. Once other park infrastructure is developed around it, it should be reevaluated. The sign will have a tendency to distract from the inclusive spirit of honoring all veterans on an equal plane. The issue will be reviewed again in July, 2017.

The Board shall revisit the policies for park naming currently in place.

Access WDFW: Cedar Grove
Brian is pursuing to keep the access open to the Skagit River at Cedar Grove near Concrete. This will transition to a walk-in access, rather than a drive-in access. The fish passage will need to be narrowed to accommodate a foot bridge. We will be building a new bridge via grant funds to ensure continued access at Cedar Grove. The small parcel has long been used for accessing the Skagit River and this access was being threatened by the removal of a culvert. After conferring with WDFW, RCO, the neighbors, and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, we have come up with an agreement that all parties can live with. The fish passage will be narrowed to accommodate continued access. Both Fish and recreationalists win.

Staff Update

Walberg Field
The dug-outs and drainage are completed.   The backstop and fencing will be completed in the Fall.

Pressentin Park
The grant applications have been presented, ranked, and scored. Skagit County finished fourth and will be funded so as long as the legislative cycle goes as anticipated.

Gribble Creek
We have found a solution that we believe works for the landowner, our department, and WDOT. The landowner has been using our trail for transporting heavy manure trucks from one end of his farm to the other. The new foot bridge proposed for fish passage will no longer accommodate large loads of poo. WDOT has agreed to allow for two access points so that the farmer can go around our trail the bridge and avoid our trail. A win for all!

> **Adjourn   Next Meeting: November 17, 2016**