



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, November 15, 2018

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

Board Members present: Jason Benson, John Semrau, Tim Manns, and Kevin Loy.
Staff Members: Brian Adams

Agenda and Minutes: John added 'Padilla Bay Shore Trailhead' to the discussion portion of the agenda. The minutes will be reviewed for approval at the December meeting.

Board Discussion

NSRA Veterans Park and Trailhead: Next Steps:

It's essential to get buy in from the Veteran community but we need to be sensitive to the fact there are factions within the Veteran community that don't see eye to eye on all matters. A lot of potential leaders in the Veteran community were floated whom could provide the Parks Board with support as we seek comments on the plan. It was decided that the parks board would help present the plan and the invitation should be broadcast widely. John felt it was also important to make sure the Tribe had a chance to review and comment on the plan. The board felt it was important that they are kept apprised of the progress. Brian let the Board know that we have met with the Tribe on several occasions and have their full support. In addition, they are partners with the waterline project. The Veterans Park project will be presented to the Commissioners during business hours so that the presentation will be broadcast and recorded. Veterans will be invited to this meeting for review and comments.

Habitat Chapter / Goals and Objectives

We have had a good discussion between the Parks Board and Staff on how we want to put together the habitat chapter in 2019. The goals and objectives chapter will expand and the stand alone habitat chapter will be purged. Tim is willing to work on habitat language for Board review. We need to make sure there is enough language to support partner plans and grants. The Board is interested in knowing the outcome of the planning and development Open Space Plan and whether it is going to be picked back up and completed. The Board is interested in ensuring the access to natural areas for photography, hiking, and birding. The public has to see habitat to gain a value system for it. The Land Trust has access to all or most of their lands. Most of their Board believe and promote public access. Advocacy is dependent on it.

Padilla Bay Shore Trail Parking:

A landowner that bought the old grain building property where the PBST south parking lot is located is willing to relinquish the property for County use. We will need a title report and PSA to move forward. The property value is nominal and the value to the Parks Department is significant. John and I will meet with our elected officials to make sure they are supportive. It's important that we don't lose this area for parking. Brian will be running the title report.

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Staff Update

Survey:

The results of the initial survey results indicate higher returns and similar trends than in '13. A full review will be distributed at the December meeting.

Projects / Grants:

NSRA: The contract for the 500k we received for infrastructure and utility improvements (septic, water, and parking improvements and lighting) has been signed by the County Commissioners. Coffman Engineering is working on the engineered drawings which we are hoping can be done by December 31. We met with Coffman to make sure we are ready for the transition for permitting and bid documents. . Phase 1 should be completed by June 30, 2019 and phase 2 will be completed a year later. Parking improvements, legacy walk infrastructure, solar panels, historical artifacts, a restroom, and campsites are included in phase 2, funded via RCO. We continue to meet with the Port to finalize the plans for the reconnection of the hospital and the park.

Skagit Playfields: SVC has reviewed and signed the interlocal agreement, aligning our goals for permitting and developing our adjacent properties. The JARPA has been submitted so the soccer fields can evolve as a part of the 2020 YAF grant cycle. We are working with the college -- It's important both parties work together to utilize the properties for their greatest potential. We presented our YAF grant for synthetic infields and will be funded if WRPA's proposed budget of 12 million makes it through the State budget cycle. If it's trimmed to 10 million, we'll still be north of the funding line.

Presentin:

The 2.3 million dollar RCO contract is signed and we received our JARPA permit. We are hiring an engineer for finishing all the site work, including the Parks project. Still a lot of work to do before breaking ground but we'll get there.

Adjourn : Next Meeting December 20 at Max Dales

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