

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Final Minutes

Thursday, January 20, 2005
Jack Davis Parks Maintenance Shop
690 County Shop Lane
Burlington WA 98233
6:30 p.m.

6:30 – 6:35 p.m. Roll Call of General Meeting

Present

Keith Magee, Chairman
Colleen Fisher, Vice Chair
Jeri Krampetz
Kevin Loy
John Semrau
Liz McNett Crowl
Nathan Salseina

Absent

Lloyd Brown
Peter Swanson

Staff

Bob Vaux
Dennis Lind
Patrik Dylan
Brian Adams
Tawni Helms

Bob introduced Nathan Salseina as the new Board Member representing District 3. Nathan is a life long resident of Skagit County living in both Concrete and Sedro-Woolley. He has a passion for parks and civic involvement. He has some familiarity with the political process as he was elected to the Concrete School Board when he was just 18 years old. He had to step down when he moved out of the district. We're happy to have him join the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

6:35 – 6:40 November Minutes – The November minutes were reviewed and approved. Colleen motioned to approve the minutes as they were presented. That motion was seconded by Liz McNett Crowl.

6:40 – 7:10 Public Comment Period – A sign in sheet was distributed.

Present: Jim Vogelsang, John Hayes, and Art Spanski

Jim V: Jim addressed the board stating he was a not a stranger to the group. He has participated in the citizens point of view and public comment. A year ago the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive plan update was submitted and approved. This was appealed by a citizens group. The appeal was heard in August and a decision was rendered forcing a 6-month deadline.

The question Jim had for the board was whether or not the deadline would be met. He also asked who was approving the change to the plan and under what auspices. Jim also stated that he made a formal inquiry to the Growth Management Hearing Board and still has not heard back.

Bob Vaux: Bob stated that the hearing was before the Growth Management Hearing Board.

Jim V.: Jim asked how many people attended the hearing?

Bob Vaux: Bob stated that he did not recall the exact number and doesn't recall any public testimony. He remembers a handful of people in the room. The appeal made by the Citizens to Save Pilchuck Creek requested to remove language from the plan and to rule invalidity. Ruling was in reference to the language of indoor structures that was inconsistent with current County Code and in violation of Growth Management Act to take out of Forestry and put into parks. That was a result of reconveyance. DNR remove trees prior to the reconveyance.

Applications for permits are vested. Permits are completely separate. Finding on language was change two sentences and reduce to one. The exact change in the language is now available through the planning department.

The new language will go to the Planning Commission on February 9th. Updated plan should be ready by the February 15th deadline.

Jim V.: The Growth Management Hearing Board combs County policy & laws to see if there is a conflict. It is their job to look for discrepancy in policies and laws not make them. Keep that in mind and it will be easier for the public to walk through the process.

John H.: Can you change zoning if it is not compatible?

Bob Vaux: We are participating in a process. County deadlines are different than the public deadlines.

At this time Bob distributed two letters received from community members for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The letters were submitted by Dennis Katte, concerned lake Cavanaugh tax payer and Ron Carlson. The letters were received and read by the attending Board members.

7:10 – 7:45 Indoor Recreation Center –

Patrik presented a slide show was presented to the Board that outlined the preliminary development of the Indoor Recreation Center. The proposed location of the facility was described and a conceptional plan was presented.

At the close of the slide show Dennis L. described recent increases in rental fees charged to the County to pay for gym space and custodial services. If we have the opportunity to build our own recreation facilities we would have greater control over the future of our programs.

Bob Vaux: We have been asked by Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt to come up with a drawing and conceptual plan for the indoor recreation center to present to the legislation in Olympia. At this point the County is interested in the Rogers property. The County has earmarked \$1 million dollars to purchase the property.

The Conceptual Plan was presented to Commissioners Dahlstedt and Anderson (Munks was not in). Commissioner Anderson expressed concern about the college taking over. Dahlstedt approved the plan and the plan is now moving forward. A joint task force consisting of a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board subcommittee will be established to involve the public, ask questions and to identify and pursue the next steps.

Keith M.: Keith reviewed the immediate next steps:

1. Get appraisal of property (in the works)
2. Set up a meeting with State legislators to discuss capital capabilities to help fund the project.
3. Create Indoor Recreation Subcommittee
 - a. Promote public involvement
 - b. Initiate Feasibility Study process

There are two conceptual plans that have been reviewed an older plan that incorporated 37,000 square feet and the newer plan for a 65,000 square foot facility.

Kevin L.: Stated that the larger complex will require a major commitment from the community for the costs and expense associated with development of the plan. Kevin went on to say that it might be more effective to build the facility in stages.

Keith M.: There are two plans both with basically good concepts. The idea of building a Recreation Center is well supported by the community. The size and development of the facility needs discussion. He also suggested working on the feasibility study with 2 approaches: 1) Identify parks needs and 2) Identify SVC needs

Kevin L.: Again, said he is in favor of a phase in plan.

John S.: Said he was optimistic upon presenting an affordable plan a majority of people will be willing to invest.

Keith M.: More people in the community are aware of the need and are supportive of the plan.

Bob V.: The plan itself is an opportunity to create revenue.

Dennis L.: Shared a collective concern he and his staff have if the larger concept is approved there may be less opportunity to access gym space when tournaments and exhibitions, etc are scheduled by the college.

Keith M.: Proposed appointing board members to the committee. The initial committee will consist of Keith Magee, who is stepping down as chair to dedicate serious time to this effort, Kevin Loy and John Semrau. The committee will expand to include

members of the public. They will set up a meeting with Ken Dahlstedt and Gary Rowe as one of their first tasks.

7:45 – 8:05

Staff Reports -

Budget 2005: Bob stated that we survived the 2005 budget and were recognized for our efforts to be efficient and creative in finding ways to submit a “tow the line” budget.

The 2005 budget summary will be distributed at the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Department Reorganization: Bob reviewed the Department’s new 2005 reorganization chart. Notable differences included moving Brian Adams to a Lands/Operations Manager and Tawni Helms to Administrative Coordinator position. This allows for greater breadth of their former roles within the Parks Department. Other changes included creating two regional Park Leads for our East and West Parks. These roles were filled by Jim Rabenstein and Michael See.

Cardinal Cove: The lease proposal is soon to go into effect once the repairs that were requested by Risk Management are completed. Patrik reviewed the list of necessary repairs and the anticipated costs associated with them.

Highway 20 Trail: Bob read a letter that he wrote to Burlington Northern Santa Fe asking for their support. The letter was signed by each of the Board members.

Projects: Patrik reported that two weeks ago the first of four FEMA projects was approved and paid. Patrik also reported that the Custer Field project is nearing completion.

Recreation: Dennis reported on the many activities offered in the Winter Leisure guide and distributed a list of special events offered through the recreation division. He also spoke of the \$40,000. increase in revenue the recreation division brought in for 2004.

Parks: Brian reported that the staff is transitioning the reorganization and Jim Rabenstein is working in the field.

8:05 – 8:15

Election of 2005 Officers: Liz motioned to close the nominations. The voting was done by acclamation. All in favor to elect Colleen Fischer as Chairperson and Lloyd Brown as Vice-Chair.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:15
Next Meeting February 17, 2005