

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Final Minutes

Thursday, April 21, 2005  
Jack Davis Maintenance Shop  
16802 Lake View Blvd.  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274  
6:30 p.m.

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

**Present**

Colleen Fisher, Chair  
Lloyd Brown, Vice Chair  
Jeri Krampetz  
Kevin Loy  
Nathan Salseina  
John Semrau

**Absent**

Keith Magee  
Peter Swanson  
Liz McNett Crowl

**Staff**

Bob Vaux  
Dennis Lind  
Tawni Helms  
Brian Adams

6:35 – 6:45 **March Minutes –**

The March minutes were reviewed and some minor changes were requested. Colleen motioned to approve the minutes with the changes. That motion was seconded by Lloyd Brown.

6:40 – 6:41 Public Comment Period – No public in attendance

6:41 – 7:15 Cardinal Cove –

Bob Vaux shared his recent discussion with Ken Dahlstedt regarding the Cardinal Cove project. Bob asked the Board of County Commissioners for direction on how to proceed.

Jeri interjected that the project involves more than what we need to get into right now. We need to prioritize our projects.

Colleen agreed with Liz's emailed comments regarding the need for more water access projects. However, Colleen said this particular project requires too much money for the limited use it would ultimately provide. She added that the property is a challenge due to the location and proximity to the roadway.

John also agreed with Liz's desire to seek out more water access projects. John also suggested we continue to explore options for a limited use site on the property and focus on potential program use.

Lloyd agreed with the staff recommendation to cease the effort on Cardinal Cove and focus on the Indoor Recreation Center project. Lloyd also stated that he would like to see a similar small water craft facility investigated in an area that has more land and potential use. As an example the south end of Big Lake is a swamp and likely not developable but may be able to be used for small water craft access.

Jeri again reiterated that the property costs too much for the size and the limited use.

Kevin echoed that the cost of the land and facility far outweighs the benefits. It's a small lake with lots of use and liability issues. The size of the facility is too small to serve a large number of folks.

Dennis reminded the group that the Parks department has a lake property and has been struggling for a number of years to develop Clear Lake with limited funds and resources. For a fraction of the cost of the Cardinal Cove property SCPR could create revenue building opportunities on Clear Lake.

John stated that Big Lake would not be anything like Clear Lake as it would only be program based. It's still not clear that this can't be a revenue builder. It could reach a different portion of the community. John stated that he wasn't convinced that we have looked at all the issues to know what the potential is.

Dennis disagreed that there really wasn't anything that we haven't learned about the potential use of the Cardinal Cove property.

Bob agreed that we can look more deeply at the site. But, stated that the County's Risk Manager thinks there are numerous liability issues present on site. The costs for minimal repair are \$25,000 – 35,000, our cost. He also said that Dennis, Tony, and Lauren investigated programming scenarios. We owe the public the opportunity to be in places like this. Bob also agreed that this opportunity is here now and will ultimately go away if we don't proceed. However, it is hard to justify when only 7 cars can park on site.

Lloyd stated that he is not a land expert and wanted to know if the land must stay public property and afford public access because of the long history of public use?

John responded that you cannot vacate an easement or public right of way.

Jeri made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to stop exploration of Cardinal Cove Project. Kevin seconded the motion to accept staff

recommendation. All in favor except for John who opposed the motion and recommendation.

7:15 – 7:45 **Indoor Recreation Center**

Bob informed the board with great news that the purchase and sales agreement for the Rogers property was signed by the Board of County Commissioner's on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. All closing documents are now in the hands of the Title Company.

John inquired if the property was paid for in lump sum or payments?

Bob responded that the property was paid for in lump sum.

John stated that we need to be prepared to respond to questions about where the money came from to make the purchase.

Bob said the funds came from the County's capital budget.

John also said that it is a very smart planning decision to work with the County and the College to purchase any adjacent land to the College in effort to expand on existing facilities.

Colleen said she appreciated Bob keeping everyone posted on the progress of this project. It's important that everyone continues to be updated and informed, especially when things aren't progressing.

Jeri stated the Sedro-Woolley City Council opposition was clearly stated by Mayor Dillon. They would prefer to see efforts be placed on creating an RV park and equestrian center at NSRA.

Bob responded that there are a lot things happening in Sedro-Woolley with trails and programs. People are willing to drive to the new facility because they are already doing it for gym programs. The Sedro-Woolley School District also continues to be one of our most important recreation and Best SELF partners.

Jeri is continuing to work on getting indoor recreation committee members from Sedro-Woolley to participate in the process.

John stated that the project will come out on top from its own merits. The location is sound for providing the designated services. College Way will soon be 6 lanes. People can and will use that road to get to many destinations. It's good and accessible.

Lloyd mentioned that years ago he was questioned by members of the Sedro-Woolley Lions Club about not providing services for Sedro-Woolley. In response he looked at the list of projects and learned that more money was

spent on Sedro-Woolley Parks and Recreation than the other districts combined.

John suggested having a speaker by the name of Kevin Johnston come in and talk to the Committee about taxes and leveraging dollars for the project.

Colleen stated that Keith is meeting with core committee folks to gear up for the broader committee meeting scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Bob said the big news now is that the property is being purchased. It's time now to go forward and build community support.

7:45 – 8:15 **Staff Reports -**

Parks: Bob pinch hit for Brian and shared the progress of the Art in the Parks project. With the upcoming Bench project and celebration staff were busy installing a total of seven benches in four of our parks. To celebrate the first art in the parks project there will be a "ribbon cutting" event hosted at each of the four parks at various times on May 14, 2005.

Arriving after another engagement Brian echoed the success of the project and the care the crew was taking in working with the various artists. Brian also mentioned that there may be some lake front property available for purchase on the west end of Campbell Lake.

Recreation: Dennis reported that 87 teams registered for the Tulip Basketball tournament. Indoor spring games were all full. Enrichment trips were going well. Revenue up by \$6,000- \$7,000 this year. Clear Lake will open June 12<sup>th</sup>. Lifeguard applications are being accepted right now.

Projects: In Patrik's absence Bob gave a brief update on FEMA and the HMSP septic system projects.

Best SELF: Tawni reported on the hiring status of the Best SELF summer staff. All but one site has completed its hiring process. Planning has gone exceptionally smooth thus far and we have been fortunate in hiring bilingual seasonal office staff to help with the translation needs for Best SELF registration.

8:15 – 8:25 **Board Discussion Period-**

Colleen: Brick project is close to launching.

Jeri: Promoted the Walk N' Roll program scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. People are encouraged to walk or ride their bike to work.

Colleen: Suggested the possibility of a ribbon cutting ceremony for the recently purchased Rogers property.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:30  
Next Meeting May 19, 2005

