

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Final Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 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
Liz McNett-Crowl
Nathan Salseina
Keith Magee

Absent

John Semrau
Peter Swanson
Kevin Loy

Staff

Bob Vaux
Dennis Lind
Patrik Dylan
Brian Adams
Tawni Helms

6:30 – 6:35 **April Minutes –**

The April minutes were reviewed by the board. Motion was made by Jeri Krampetz to approve the minutes and seconded by Colleen.

6:35 – 6:35 Public Comment Period – No public in attendance

6:35 – 7:10 Indoor Recreation Center (CREC) – Planning Committee Update

Keith Magee reported on the progress of the CREC planning committee. The first meeting was held on May 16 in Ford Hall at the Skagit Valley College. 33 people were in attendance. Presently there are approximately 40 people on the CREC member list. The list is representative of city municipalities; mayors, parks directors, government officials, and recreation minded citizens. Keith mentioned that we will need to contact more of the “citizen” members currently on the list to encourage their participation at the meeting as well as add more citizens to the list.

The meeting itself was fairly quiet and the presentation was well received by the participants. There was a lot of positive feedback after the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday of the month, June 20th. More importantly, a Board of Commissioner’s hearing has been scheduled for June 27th. Keith urged all of the

members to plan on attending and to invite your friends and neighbors who are in support of the Indoor Recreation Center. We want to fill the room to demonstrate the high amount of community support we have for the project. The goal for this presentation is to get the support from all 3 commissioners to go forward with this project. Unanimous support is critical for this project to proceed.

Bob interjected that it is also very important to remember as we talk to people about this project that we encourage them to tell us what they see or envision a recreation event center to look like. It's important for people to know that we don't have a plan for the design yet.

Jeri suggested having some youth participate in the hearing.

Keith mentioned that we still need to find a chair for the committee to lead the presentation.

Keith also informed the board that there will be a celebration in July for the purchase of the Rogers property. All of the CREC members will be invited as well as our Governor, legislators and local elected officials. He asked for one or two PRAB volunteers to help with the planning of the event.

Bob said that John Semrau made a recommendation of someone he is recruiting for the Skagit Parks Foundation to lead some of the planning activities as she has had great success as an event planner. Bob also set a tentative date of July 21 for the celebration.

The next meeting site has yet to be confirmed but we are tentatively saying it will be facilitated at the 911 center.

7:10 – 7:15 **Ann Wolford Naming Resolution**

Bob distributed a memo and resolution template for the board to review. The memo proposed that the generically titled Cascade River Park east of Marblemount be named the Ann Wolford park. In the spirit of the original property donation of the Wolford parcel on the Skagit River, the Cascade River Park property is forested river front, and will eventually create added river access to the public.

A motion was made by Jeri Krampetz to adopt the recommendation to rename the Cascade River Park to the Ann Wolford park. The motion was seconded by Lloyd and unanimously approved.

Bob will create a resolution and initiate the signature process for BoCC approval.

7:15 – 7:50 **Staff Reports -**

Mike See reported on the success of the HMSP bench celebration. He reported that a few community members and campers participated. One of the bench artists, Catherine Wickman was also in attendance as well as Ted Anderson. They toured the park celebrated the addition of the two artist interpreted benches and generally had a great time exchanging stories about the area. Both benches are installed facing the water. One advantage of Ted's attendance was his observation of the road problems that need repair

around the park. Ted has already initiated some help from Public Works to get the work done. Mike also reported that the jail crew have been instrumental in cutting down hazard trees, and blocking areas where people were going off-road. Also, Sauk Park has been gradually improving it now looks much more like a park. A local resident volunteer donated his time and skills to build a kiosk for the park. It will soon attract more campers.

Tawni reported on the bench celebration at Skagit Valley Playfields. The SVP ceremony went off very smoothly. There was a small but spirited gathering that attended approximate 12-15 in all. Bud Norris, our Mount Vernon Mayor was there as well as Don Wick, the Director of EDASC. Of course, there were fans of both Art and Parks as well as a vocalist who sang the national anthem and "take me out to the ballgame". Lots of photos of the benches were taken with the artists and attendees. It was really fun touring the park winding through groups of athletes in softball uniforms and between family picnics and moms with babies in strollers. It was an incredible snapshot of a park being used exactly for what's intended for. It was a great day! Starbucks donated coffee and safeway donated cookies so there were plenty of refreshments for everyone. The theme of the day was collaboration and celebration. It was incredible to see the results of a year long effort (short time in government terms!) come to fruition. A very positive experience for everyone that attended. It was a splendid day and there were fabulous connections made as a result. We are eagerly looking forward to the next project!

Bob reported on the Guemes Island celebration. The celebration began at Young's Park where Bob was pleased to learn the wife of the war hero, Mr Clark, was his high school Spanish Teacher. She was in attendance as well as the artists and community members. The celebration moved over to Schoolhouse Park where a local resident orchestrated a myriad of entertainment that included a poet, a tournament trampolinist(?) and a guitarist. Their were children and community members who came to join in the celebration. It was a very successful event.

Recreation: Dennis distributed the new Summer Events Calendar. There are literally hundreds of activities to participate in ranging from simming lessons and hikes to waterslide field trips and baseball camps. Dennis invited everyone to jump in on some activities or just come out to spectate.

Keith shared his Mariner trip experience. He enjoyed going on the bus and appreciated Lauren's organization and entertainment on the way down.

Parks: Brian reported that ClearLake is the current priority right now to prep it for summer. The building will be painted. It will no longer be crimson and gray. Colors will change to coffee, taupe and blue. The paint is free surplus. In addition to the paint and general maintenance the lake will again be herbicided. The lake residents are talking about forming a lake district whereby there will be a tax imposed on the residents to care for the lake and treat it for millfoil. As this process begins Brian stressed the important of his participation to ensure that the County is fairly represented in the decision making process.

Brian also reported that the snowgrooming season has officially closed. There were very few snowgrooming hours used this year due to record low snow falls. Mike See and

Brian are working on the new grant application and will pitch it together when the grant application is due.

Brian and his staff have also been involved with the re-development of the WDFW property on Big Lake. The WDFW has been appreciative of the staff's involvement.

Liz said the redevelopment plans are essentially eliminating the beach area that were used for small watercraft access. Launching small boats will no longer be available at that site.

Projects: Patrik reported that the Custer Field Lighting Project is in full swing. Inception began two weeks ago and the project has a 45 day window to completion. Currently the lights are being manufactured off site once installed the fencing will go up and there will be a little paving work. The field is fully operational during this project.

The septic bid was awarded for HMSP and that project should commence soon.

The NSRA parking lot is being prepped. 60 yards of rubbish was taken away from the outbuildings as they were cleaned up. They are working on creating a pocket park for day use; picnics, etc.

A kiosk for Sharpe Park is an upcoming project. The kiosk will include the names of all of the donors who contributed to the Montgomery-Duban Headlands Park project. Once that kiosk is completed they will begin work on a kiosk for NSRA.

FEMA projects continue to drag on.

Keith added that there is a low wetland at the beginning of the MDHP park trailhead. He volunteered his time and labor to help fix the problem. He and Lloyd will set up a work party in the near future.

Liz informed the group that there was money approved in the state budget to study the feasibility of converting the rails to trails back to railway.

Bob spoke of his luncheon with Nathan Salseina and encouraged the board members to seek him out as a resource for Eastside connections.

Nathan reported on the recent City Council meeting where the golf course owner presented the impending closure of the course. They are looking to the City of Sedro-Woolley to purchase the golf course and revitalize it. As a Parks employee Nathan is excited about the potential to make such a purchase if they were successful in passing a bond that would allow the purchase and the addition of a parks department for the city. He also spoke of his interest in working with Skagit County to help develop the NSRA property as well as reenergizing the SW Parks Advisory Board.

7:50 – 8:00 Board Discussion Period-

Colleen: distributed the official adopt a trail/park form for board members

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:00

**Next Meeting June 20, 2005 (scheduled as a CREC meeting at the 911 facility)