

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Final Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2006
Skagit County Board of Commissioners
Hearing Room
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
5:30 – 6:15 p.m.

5:30 – 5:35 p.m. Roll Call of General Meeting

Present

Colleen Fisher, Chair
Lloyd Brown, Vice Chair
Jeri Krampetz
Kevin Loy
John Semrau
Liz McNett Crawl
Peter Swanson

Absent

Nathan Salseina
Peter Swanson

Staff

Bob Vaux
Dennis Lind
Tawni Helms

6:35 – 6:40 October Minutes (Nov. 3rd) – Minutes approved with one minor change which will be incorporated before posting.

The November minutes were reviewed and approved. Liz moved to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by John and the minutes were approved.

5:40 – 6:00 **BUDGET REPORT** – Bob Reviewed the 2006 budget with the Advisory Board.

The Parks Department budget was approved as requested with exception to the \$50k reserve fund.

Bob reviewed the spending priorities approved via the Capital Facilities Project list. All priorities have been approved and all priorities are consistent with what the PRAB has discussed in the last 5 years. The Capital Facilities Projects (CFP) are funded through REET (real estate excise tax) funds. The expansion of the CFP budget is due largely to the extra ¼ percent added to REET. These REET funds can go only to parks and roads. In 2006, the Parks department is getting an increase in the funding. Currently, playfields projects such as the custer fencing are being scheduled. FEMA projects are still being navigated and Clear Lake Beach is working with Special Pathway funds to continue making the parking area safer and simpler for our customers. A Clear Lake Beach Task

Force is also reviewing the proposed upgrades for a new concession area and improved beach area. Due to the shoreline access permitting process many of the improvements will not be done prior to the June 11th opening.

Colleen inquired about the the Special Pathways fund and where it comes from.

Bob responded that it comes from a gas tax.

Liz it comes from a ½ cent tax on gas.

Jeri inquired about the possibility of using Special Pathways dollars for Montgomery-Duban Headlands Park. Liz responded that the MDHP facility would probably not qualify. Bob reiterated that special pathways is used primarily for linear non-motorized roads.

Bob reported on the NSRA projects that have been completed recently. Very nice pocket parks, parking lot development, new picnic benches and new kiosk are all recent new additions that are making the NSRA a new family destination. Additionally, the Sedro-Woolley High School Cross Country team has adopted the NSRA trail as its new home field.

Bob finished the CFP review by restating that the two highest priorities are consistent with what the Board established 5 years ago.

Colleen commented that the priorities list looks very good.

Lloyd commented that it is nice to see an outline of diverse projects on the CFP list.

Bob agreed that the list was a reflection of a lot of different needs.

John mentioned that the NSRA progress may come up through the indoor recreation and event center process.

Bob replied that SCPR has made great progress at NSRA and it has been appreciated by the users of the facility.

6:00 – 6:05 **FOUNDATION REPORT:**

Colleen requested a report from the Foundation. Bob spoke of the upcoming Starbucks volunteer party. The Starbucks Make Your Mark project has been wildly succesful. The next activity will be the 4th volunteer project. It will involve the building of a puncheon bridge on the new Montgomery-Duban Headlands Park trail.

6:05 – 6:10 **HANDOUTS FOR THE BOARD:**

A letter was distributed from Riverside Health Club. This letter spoke of the concern for the public sector to get into the business of fitness, primarily weights and machines. This letter was submitted in response to the Indoor Recreation and Event Center.

Liz stated that the concern between private and public fitness centers is the 1970 legislation that allowed for a special taxation on for profit health clubs. The primary issue is about unfair competition.

Bob commented that all concerns in the letter are valid. He will formally and publicly acknowledge the letter at the Recreation and Event Center meeting starting at the close of this meeting. He also reported that he has not received an official position from the Board of Commissioners in response to the letter.

Also distributed to the Board was a statement from Jack Cross regarding the location of the proposed gun range and alternative sites.

BOARD NOMINATIONS:

Jeri made a motion to approve the board nominations. The Board unanimously voted to re-instate Colleen Fisher as Chair of the Board and Lloyd Brown as Vice-Chair.

Goal for the next Indoor Recreation and Event Center public meeting process will be to schedule 3 District meetings requesting Board of County Commissioner participation.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 6:15
Next Meeting February 16, 2006