

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Draft_Minutes

Thursday, March 15, 2007
Jack Davis Maintenance Shop
16802 Lake View Blvd.
Mount Vernon, WA 98274
6:30 p.m.

6:40 – 6:42 p.m. Roll Call of General Meeting

Present

Kevin Loy, Chair
Lloyd Brown, Vice Chair
Peter Swanson
Liz McNett-Crowl
John Semrau

Absent

Keith Magee
Nathan Salseina
Colleen Fisher
Jeri Krampetz

Staff

Bob Vaux
David Skrinde
Rusty Regan
Tawni Helms

6:42 – 6:45 February Minutes –

The February minutes were reviewed by the board. Motion was made by Lloyd to approve the minutes and seconded by Peter.

Board also approved agenda for March meeting.

6:45 – 6:45 Public Comment Period – No public in attendance

6:45 – 7:00 Storm Damage Update

Bob introduced staff members Rusty Regan East County Lead and David Skrinde, West County Lead, to the Advisory Board. He then asked for them to each give a report of the incurred storm damage in their respective areas.

Rusty: We still have trees down from last November that we will continue to clean up for a long time. There is lots of erosion and electrical damage from the flood. We've done a lot of the repair work at Howard Miller Steelhead Park so we could keep the park open which thankfully we've been able to do. As we have done the repairs we have included some mitigating steps to improve the site for future flood events. One step was to raise the utility boxes for each of the camp sites. Because they all needed to be repaired/replaced

we just lengthened the post by two feet which should mitigate electrical utility damage from future flood events.

Grandy has some storm damage lots of trees blown over and/or limbs broken and down.

Sauk Park received minimal damage from any of the events. That park seems to be in the right spot to escape the destruction. Presentin looks good and so does Cascade. The East end is going very well in spite of all of the clean up work.

Bob V: Are you going to have to take trees out of the Sauk Park this year?

Rusty: Yes, some have received enough damage to be considered hazardous and we're taking them out as soon as we can. We need to do the same at Grandy and HMSP. 80% of the trees at HMSP are leaning towards the river and some will not make it through another storm. We've been planting Aspens which have strong root systems. We had to remove two Cottonwood trees that were leaning very precariously.

HMSP is also improving the playground. Two new pieces of play equipment were purchased. A climbing rock and a web net which are exciting new products for kids. If the kids are busy the parents are happy. We're also booked this year for camp hosts. Most of them are returning but we are keeping a list of new interested hosts so we have resources to fall back on.

Fishermen are an integral part of the HMSP revenue stream. There are a few who just come to camp but most come to fish and they spend money in the area.

David S.: David Skrinde gave a report on the West County progress. The West side saw a lot of wind damage in the parks. Sharpe Park has many trees down and some were uprooted. Donovan has been a nightmare to maintain because once the work appears to be done another wind event happens and more trees come down. It's been a continuous cycle of repair. None of the parks were officially closed but there were times that the public couldn't access the trails because of the number of downed trees and debris. There will be a lot of work to do in the upcoming year to repair all of the damage.

Hamilton had a huge washout as a result of the flood approximately 70 ft long portion of the trail was washed out. We spent a lot of money to repair the trail just so we could get the work done and the public back on the trails.

Bob V.: There is a West/East County delineation that is marked in Hamilton. David S. covers territory as far east as Hamilton because he has most of the people and resources. Rusty manages the County as far West as Hamilton because he has most of the campers and few resources.

Kevin L.: Where does the money come from to do all of the repair work?

Tawni H.: Because there were two emergency declaration events we are eligible for resources from FEMA. A handout was distributed that covered the different FEMA project applications that were recently submitted to FEMA. Submitted applications don't guarantee reimbursement but it is the first of many steps to get funding. The following is an accounting of expenses submitted to FEMA.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Expense</u>
Pressentin	Debris	\$ 4,800.
	Mower	\$ 1,500.
Cascade Trail	Repair	\$18,816.
Howard Miller	Debris	\$ 1,935.
	Protective Measure	\$ 5,499.
	Lower Restroom	\$ 3,284.
	Electrical/Utilities	<u>\$48,696.</u>
Total:		\$84,480.

It really helps to have this financial support because it comes out of our budget directly there is no other funding to help make repairs. This makes it very important to do as much mitigation work as possible to prevent similar destruction in future floods. Raising the electrical utility boxes, adding paving to the raised campground pads and other measures that reduce future risk will help us in the long run.

Lloyd B.: On one of my many hikes on Cascade Trail I've noticed that the trail near Robinson Road is eroding from the river. There is a lot of property being washing away. Is there any discussion on how we can repair that?

David S.: That's a very big project that will require permitting and authorization. It is a project that we need to sit down and strategize how we can begin work on it.

John S.: It sounds like something Public Works can help with.

Bob V.
David S.: It's good to work with Public Works and we work with them on these types of issues as much as we can.

7:00 – 7:10 Rexville Grange

Bob V.: At our last board meeting I was reminded that it has been two years since we planned to take a field trip out to our Rexville property. As a result of that reminder I set up a meeting with Allison Aurand to discuss the potential work with them in creating an interpretive opportunity for the agricultural community. Allison was unable to make our scheduled meeting so I have nothing to report in that regard.

John S.: If we could establish a tulip trail it would be a great site/destination.

7:10 – 7:15 Indoor Recreation Center Update

Bob V.: Last week we got word from our lobbyist, Ryan Pennington that our request of 5 million was too much for the State Legislature. They asked what we could accomplish with 3.5 million. This is positive news as it sounds like funding may come to fruition. We also received a work plan from Sink, Combs, and Dethlefs (SCD). They have put together a nice aggressive timeline. Please mark your calendars for April 11 and 12. The evening of

the 11th will be the date for our first public meeting. This will be our kick-off meeting. During the day they will be doing Stake holders meetings to include the YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, the College and possibly the City of Mount Vernon. Bob stated he was on the phone with Andy Barnard from SCD ironing out the work plan. Official notification of the kick off event will go out on Monday, March 19th. Other good news is that the work proposal contract came in under the \$300,000 threshold.

Tawni H.: Tawni gave a Federal report on her trip to Washington D.C. where she met with 4 of our legislators. These meetings were largely successful. A report was distributed highlighting the specific points by each legislator. Meetings were scheduled with Cathy McMorris, Jaime Shimek from Patty Murray's office, Rick Larsen and Jami Burgess from Norm Dicks' office. There was broad support for the project and all 4 offices expressed favorable views of our efforts. There was also caution regarding the elimination of earmarks. Having looked at our handouts all 4 offices said we had a developed a strategic plan to request funding. There was also recommendation to emphasize the economic development opportunities in the project.

They were also pleased to know that we were making a request to the state and that a formal request had been sponsored by Jeff Morris. He received bi-partisan support for his request by Quall, Bailey, Strow, Pearson, Linville, Dunshee and Sells who all signed on to the request before submitting.

Additionally, formal funding requests were submitted by Tawni to Murray, Larson and Dicks. We will learn more about the Capitol Budget on Monday March 19, 2007.

Liz MC: Liz stated how important she believed it was for the YMCA to partner in this project. It really demonstrates multi-age use and responds to the needs of our aging community. With a growing number of seniors in our community they are seeking low impact physical activity opportunities such as swimming and walking/hiking. These are activities that the YMCA currently provides.

Bob V.: There are great opportunities for services in working with the YMCA.

John S.: I really understand the need for the fitness element and I don't believe it should impact the private health club memberships.

Kevin L.: Government is supposed to take care of the public. Providing access to services is one way to do that.

John S.: We have to make sure it's financially viable as possible.

Bob V.: Bob reported that he met with the City of Mount Vernon to discuss the rec center and the larger picture of the future of Parks and Recreation our shared community. The question at the center of this discussion was how are going to continue providing the services we provide?

**7:15 – 7:50 Staff Reports –
Parks:**

- Rusty: Rusty reported that we have the nicest parks around. People tell him all the time how wonderful Skagit County Parks are and he's pleased to hear it as frequently as he does.
- David S.: We're doing a lot of good things in the parks. Many improvements are being completed that will really be stand out and be noticed by the public. It's a great way to demonstrate good work. The playfields have been a real focal point form improvements with the new dugouts for Poppe Field being completed as well as the new roofing on the maintenance building and the picnic shelter. We want to continue to do the best we can and to continue maintaining the parks that we have.
- Bob V.: Reported that the next Starbucks project will take place on Saturday, March 24th at the Conway ball field.
- David S.: There will also be a number of little league baseball teams there to help with painting the dugouts and cleaning the fields. They will also be contributing some of the necessary materials. It will be a great community project.
- John S.: Reported that on his many visits to the County Planning/Permit department he often sees the public reading the Leisure Guide. It is easily recognized as the most popular reading material in the lobby.
- Recreation: In Dennis's absence a handout was provided to update the board on the variety of recreational activities and opportunities currently taking place in the recreation division.

7:50 – 8:00 Board Discussion Period-

- Lloyd B.: Hiking the Cascade Trail 3 or 4 times a week Lloyd has lots of opportunity to see the surrounding area. There is a piece of property, a 12.4 acre strip along the trail for sale. It's an interesting piece that could be useful serving as a trailhead and parking area. It's near the Robinson Road area and is one of the most beautiful sections of the trail. Lloyd researched the purchase price and learned that the 12.4 acres is only a piece of a larger section that is for sale. At this time the owners are not interested in dividing up the 9 parcels which they have for sale at 1.4 million. As a result of this potential opportunity Lloyd made a suggestion for the Board to introduce a resolution for the BoCC that encourages them to consider purchasing property that may come available for river access since it is extremely limited between Sedro Woolley and Lyman/Hamilton.
- Everyone agreed that a resolution to pursue river access land acquisitions would be a prudent thing to do.
- Liz MC: Reported that the SCPAC is facilitating a workshop and discussion on connectivity between cities and counties. She would very much like to have Parks staff participate and believes this to be a springboard for the trails coalition.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:00

**Next Meeting May