

Skagit County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Minutes

Thursday, June 19, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.
Rexville Grocery Picnic Shelter
19271 Best Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

P.R.A.B. Members Present:

District 1

Colleen Fisher

Mike Elde

Liz McNett Crowl

District 2

Peter Swanson

John Semrau

District 3

Kevin Loy, Chair

Jeri Krampetz

P.R.A.B. Members Absent:

District 1

None

District 2

Lloyd Brown, Co-Chair

District 3

Nathan Salseina

Staff Present:

Bob Vaux, Pauli Mickelson, Dennis Lind, Brian Adams & Amber Kllogjeri

Roll Call of General Meeting:

6:34 p.m. Kevin Loy, 2008 Chair called the meeting to order.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Colleen Fisher, 2nd by Jeri Krampetz.

Agenda approved as written.

Approve May 15, 2008 Minutes

No additions or corrections.

Motion by Colleen Fisher, 2nd by Jeri Krampetz.

Minutes approved as written.

Public Comment Period:

There was no public comment.

Indoor Recreation Center:

Bob Vaux continues to meet with various individuals to discuss Federal and local issues as well as potential wetland issues. Briefly discussed what involvement the Army Corps of Engineers may have. John Semrau and Patrik Dylan are putting together an Application for Permit to the City of Mount Vernon. Planning is ongoing.

Skagit County Trails Coalition:

Liz McNett Crowl briefed the Board on the outcome of the meeting which took place at the Port of Skagit meeting room. About 25 people attended. Discussed the need for the variety of individuals and organizations needed to put a comprehensive plan together which should include people and organizations both for this and opposed to it. Discussed preliminary stages for this group and the future outcome it was hoping to attain. Discussed possible barriers and opportunities. It was decided to divide the group into

two. One group would focus on transportation and the other recreation. July 16th at 6:00 p.m. is the next meeting at the Port of Skagit County. The plan for the future is to work out all the details and make a comprehensive plan so that when everyone is on the same page, the coalition can move forward to complete the job.

Staff Reports:

Bob gave the following report/updates:

Bob is working with Patrik Dylan on the Memorial Field renovation grant application, set to present to the Recreation and Conservation Office the first week of August.

Brian and Bob reported that the Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team will move its permanent office from Concrete to the Skagit River Interpretive Center in Howard Miller Steelhead Park.

Bob suggested switching July's PRAB meeting to August and have July off instead of August so that the board could review the budget before it is presented to the Commissioners. It was also suggested to meet at the Clear Lake beach picnic shelter on August 21st. Motion by Jeri Krampetz to meet in August at Clear Lake picnic shelter, 2nd by Mike Elde. Motion passed.

The Dream Field Light Dedication will be July 26th at 5:30 p.m. An invitation list is being put together.

Bob passed out the updated staff organizational chart. Bob advised the PRAB of the two frozen Parks Maintenance positions. We're currently using seasonal staff to fill the void.

Dennis handed out his June Recreation Division Report. (Please see copy attached to these minutes.)

Brian handed out a report on park projects at the following parks: Clear Lake Beach, Skagit Valley Playfields, Howard Miller Steelhead Park, Young's Park, Schoolhouse Park and Donovan Park (please see copy attached to these minutes).

Projects slated for the near future:

- Concrete bollards will be replaced with a safer, more effective material at Young's Park, Schoolhouse Park, Allen Park and the Skagit Valley Playfields.
- Rockwork at HMSP shelter needs to be done.
- A new roof is needed for the Interpretive Shelter at HMSP.
- The press box will be going out to bid.
- A trench needs to be dug for the sewer at the Playfields.

Board Discussion

SITE VISIT: Rexville Park Property -all members present visited the site of the future agricultural interpretive park at the end of the meeting.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting:
August 21, 2008
6:30 p.m.
Clear Lake Beach Picnic Shelter**

**12925 South Front Street
Clear Lake, WA 98235**



Recreation Division Report June 18, 2008

Summer is upon us (even though we seemed to have missed spring) and things are getting very busy. Adult softball leagues (77 teams) have been battling weather and cancellations all spring---we have already had more cancellations than the last several years combined. We have to push the season back for make-ups, causing our Girls High School Fast Pitch league to have to start play at Janicki Fields rather than Skagit Playfields. We have 8 girls' teams playing in the league.

Skagit Valley Dream Field is very busy this summer with Babe Ruth, Senior Little League and American Legion Baseball teams playing there. We are hosting the American Legion Dream Field Tournament this weekend with teams from Yakima, Bremerton, Spokane and Tacoma along with local teams entered.

Our various youth and adult trips continue to be successful. This weekend we have our Cathedral Lakes trip which is full (B.C.). Thursday in the Park trips continue through the summer and are full. Even though the Mariners have been doing crummy, our June 14 bus was still full (and another loss for the M's...maybe they will turn things around some before our next trip). Several Kayak trips are coming up, trips to the water slides, and many more---check out the summer Recreation and Leisure Guide.

Hershey Track and Field meet May 31st at BEHS track had @ 100 kids plus many parents and spectators. Winners from our district meet advance on to the state finals later this summer in Olympia. All-comers Track meets start tonight at BEHS track and continue through July. Very popular meets that draw great numbers of participants. The Burlington Kiwanis and Rotary clubs help sponsor these meets.

Clear Lake Swim Beach opened June 14th for life-guarded swimming and beach fun. We have a young but experienced group of workers at the beach this summer and if the weather gets better should have a great season. Most of our swim lessons offered are already full. Clear Lake Community Connections also purchase 30 ten-punch card passes that they distribute to local kids.

July will be packed with large events, including Washington Amateur Softball Association Girls 12/Under Fast Pitch State Tournament at SVP and Janicki Fields, Clear Lake Triathlon July 12, American Legion Baseball AA District Championship, Concert-In-The-Park series and more. Sports camps, including baseball, softball, golf and bowling have good signups already, and Young Explorers and other camps are looking popular.

Summer Mobile Playground Program (S.T.O.M.P.) will start next week at Allen, Conway, Skagit Playfields and Sedro Woolley. S.T.R.I.V.E. will start in July.

And we are still indoors some---we have a Girls Mount Vernon Invite basketball tournament this weekend with 31 teams, and the "Tiger Classic" tournament two weekends ago had 28 teams. Our High School Summer Basketball leagues play weeknights and we have a combined 33 teams in the boys and girls divisions.

There are things I missed, but you get the picture---very busy summer again.

Dennis Lind
Recreation Manager

Brian Adams
Operations and Lands Manager
Skagit County Parks and Recreation

The second quarter of 2008

Clear Lake Beach: The new picnic shelter at Clear Lake Beach was completed in April. The shelter will provide some much needed shade to children, parents, and grandparents who are looking to escape the harmful rays of the sun.

The shelter will provide a layer of health and convenience for the visiting public. The picnic shelter was placed just west of the four square court. The Clear Lake Swim Beach brings in more than 20,000 users during the course of a year. It is the only local lifeguarded beaches north of Snohomish County. The picnic shelter will bring a level of health and safety to the park by providing some much needed shade and protection. The shelter will increase the level of service we can provide visiting families. It will provide a comfortable place to eat picnic lunches and will offer a reprieve from the sun's intense summer rays. The shelter was meticulously built with post and beam construction.

Signage has been upgraded and placed at the park as well. This work was required after a meeting with our risk management department.

The parking, terrace and drainage plan are close to completion. The drawings are 90% complete and will go out to bid in the fall. The plan will add terraced bistro areas for food consumption and will separate pedestrians from traffic. The flow through drop off area will lead to less congestion. The plan will lead to better safety, increased effectiveness, and be much "greener" in design. Impervious cobble pathways and picnic pads will help alleviate turbidity and allow for better drainage.

Skagit Valley Playfields:

The theft of underground wiring at Custer Field forced our crew to spend extra time and money making repairs.

Our hybrid sewer/septic vault system failed us in June. Both pumps that grind solids from our sewer vault ceased. The costs to repair will be just over \$10,000. The upgrades will bring the system to current state code. The system was installed in 1981 and the repairs have been minimal up to this point. The system should only have to get us by for another 18 months. We are currently engineering and surveying a route to 30th Street. Once the engineering is done it will be going out to bid for a gravity sewer system. The new system will allow for future upgrades to the concession and restroom facilities.

We spent time sprucing up the concession stand façade.

We moved the fill yard away from the walkway and poured a concrete pad for the bunkers.

We upgraded the playground by replacing a slide and refurbishing some of the structure in the kiddy area.

We made upgrades to the electrical system at the central concession and bathroom complex.

HMSP

We ran 50 amp breakers throughout ten sites on the RV pinwheel. This allows us to serve our customers with a higher level of service. The demand for electricity has increased with the way RV's are currently being equipped.

We increased water hook-ups to ten new sites at HMSP.

We finished with the phase three asphalt project. The campground now has asphalt within all of the RV circles. This should allow for better armoring when future high water events strike.

We tiled the bathroom shower floors for better aesthetic and function.

Our revenue projections are ahead of pace. We have increased revenues in each of the past three years and expect to achieve that objective again this year.

Young's Park

Our staff worked with the Yadira Young, Tracy Powell, The Samish Tribe, The Skagit Leadership Group, The Guemes Resort, and the Guemes Community Association in making some upgrades to Young's Park on Guemes Island.

Over twenty Douglas Fir trees died over the winter. We removed the trees and will be replacing them with saline tolerant varieties in the fall. The work has opened up the park and made the picnic area more accommodating for larger gatherings. The new trees will be planted creatively along the edges of the property. This will allow for the new "open" design to remain, which guests have been enjoying.

A meditation garden and peace trail was placed at the park. Thirty or forty people showed up for the ribbon cutting.

Schoolhouse Park



New soccer goals have been placed at the park. A new ingress archway has been built at the west entrance off Eden's Road. The parking lot on the north side of the park is in the process of getting expanded to the east and pulled back to the north. This will allow for more turf area within the park without compromising the parking area.

Pomona Park

We placed a memorial at Pomona Park for Dick Knight. Dick was instrumental in articulating the importance of balancing the needs of wildlife with the needs of recreationalists. He was a promoter of trails and open spaces. He also advocated for salmon recovery efforts.

Donovan

A new vault toilet was placed at the park. The building is 99% concrete and is designed to look like an old CCC building. It has the new “sweet smelling” technology and is up to ADA code.

Upcoming Changes

We are replacing all concrete bollards with aggregate pier blocks with log horizontal rails. They are safer, more effective, and have wider aesthetic appeal. They are slated for Young’s Park, Schoolhouse Park, Allen Park and the Skagit Valley Playfields.

Press Box

The Press Box is ready to go out to bid. It is number three on our current list. The rockwork at the HMSP shelter is first on the list. The new roof at the interpretive Center is listed at number 3, and the press box will go out to bid soon after. All three projects will be completed by March 31 of ’09.