

Skagit County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

MINUTES

Thursday, October 23, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.
Fidalgo Elementary School Library
13590 Gibraltar Road
Anacortes, WA 98221

P.R.A.B. Members Present

District 1

Liz McNett Crowl
Colleen Fisher

District 2

Peter Swanson
Lloyd Brown
John Semrau

District 3

Kevin Loy
Jeri Krampetz

P.R.A.B. Members Absent

District 1

Mike Elde

District 2

None

District 3

Nathan Salseina

Staff Present

Bob Vaux, Pauli Mickelson, Dennis Lind, Brian Adams, Skye Dunn & Amber Klllogjeri

Roll Call of General Meeting

6:33 p.m. Kevin Loy, 2008 Chair called the meeting to order.

Approve Agenda

All present approved agenda.
Agenda approved as written.

Approve August 21, 2008 Minutes

No additions or corrections.
All present approved minutes.
Minutes approved as written.

Introduction of New Parks & Recreation Staff

Dennis Lind introduced Skye Dunn, Recreation Specialist, to the Board. Skye was hired March 2008. Skye addressed the Board and gave them some background information about himself. Bob and Dennis explained that Skagit County Parks & Recreation is happy to have Skye on board.

Public Comment Period

Leonard Bainter and Larry Linde were present to discuss flying remote controlled airplanes at Northern State Recreation Area. Leonard Bainter briefed the Board on his discussions with various individuals over the years and requested that the Parks and

Recreation Advisory Board have Skagit County Parks & Recreation mow an extra acre of land (approximately 150' x 300') at Northern State Recreation Area so that he can land his plane without worrying about damaging it.

Larry Linde discussed the success they had in King County in getting space to fly remote planes.

Jeri Krampetz wondered if extra mowing at Northern State Recreation Area would be possible right now with the extra budget cutting. She also suggested an alternate site nearby in the meantime which is continually mowed.

Bob Vaux briefed the Board on discussions with Leonard Bainter. Bob has made it clear to Mr. Bainter that he can fly at Northern State Recreation Area. However, the specific acre of land that Mr. Bainter is requesting be mowed is still under a hay cutting contract/lease. Skagit County Parks & Recreation cannot take an acre of productive land out of production, especially one that is still under a Lease Agreement. Also, if we are able to set aside mowed space for this, we will need to make an addendum to the Master Plan for Northern State Recreation Area. There are many steps involved in having an official landing space set up.

Leonard Bainter then offered to mow the space himself or pay to have it mowed.

Bob Vaux has not yet received anything in writing from Mr. Bainter regarding self-mowing or paying for extra mowing which we would need to forward to Skagit County Risk Management for review and possible approval.

Kevin Loy suggested that Mr. Bainter prepare a proposal or agreement document for Skagit County Parks & Recreation to forward on to Risk Management. Jeri Krampetz agreed that this should probably be the next step regarding this issue.

Mr. Bainter was expecting some finalized decisive action from tonight's meeting and will instead go back to the Commissioners' regarding this and/or talk to his lawyer. He will not "play nice" anymore. He doesn't see the problem with mowing another acre.

Lloyd Brown wanted to know if the planes would interfere with the disc golf. (No, they are in separate areas.)

Bob Vaux said once again that it is okay to fly model planes at Northern State Recreation Area, but we can not take out a productive acre of hay right now specifically for this activity.

2009 Budget

Skagit County Fair made a REET request. Someone from their department meant to be at PRAB tonight to discuss it, but, other issues tonight detained them. Bob passed out a copy of their request. PRAB felt they couldn't take any action on the request yet. REET is frozen and the budget is an unknown right now. Kevin Loy motioned to table the

decision until more concrete information regarding funding was known. Jeri Krampetz 2nd the motion.

Bob stated we have been asked to make more cuts. 5 – 10% more. We're trying to make it work without having to loose *people*. We're doing our best, we've made many cuts over the last eight years. We've had to cut out big things (Best SELF). We're trying to be creative. The current financial predicament, the current murder trial, and the election season will make these next few weeks interesting. We will be meeting with the County Commissioners on October 29th to review our new budget proposals. We've got to take care of what we've got and hang onto our staff. We've got a dedicated team.

Indoor Recreation Center

This project is ongoing. Bob spoke to Skagit Valley College regarding possible site plan reconfiguration. Colleen Fisher suggested a memo/letter be sent to Skagit Valley College Board of Trustees regarding our plans/ideas. Bob thinks this is a great idea, but, he would also like to make sure everyone is behind it first. Some local health clubs and the YMCA have various concerns that need to be addressed first.

Skagit County Trails Coalition

The transportation part of the group is working on connecting each main corridor. Gaps will need to be filled in. The County Commissioners want to see a prioritized master plan. \$200,000 will go to non-motorized trails.

The recreation part of the group is working on advocacy and support. A work party is being planned. It was voted on in August that the Parks Foundation would help with the fiscal part of the coalition. Some small grants have been written.

The next meeting is November 18th. Location is being worked on.

Staff Reports

Dennis handed out his October Recreation Division Report. (Please see copy attached to these minutes.) We're excited to have a women's basketball league again. Skye Dunn is handling volleyball activities now. The Winter Recreation & Leisure Guide will be out early December.

Brian reported on activities and work at various parks:

Northern State Recreation Area: Trees were planted. We hosted three cross country meets and a bike race will be held November 15th.

Skagit Valley Playfields: The playground has been updated and it is now NPSI certified. The bids for the press box have been pulled and we are not able to award it to the apparent low bidder. The sewer issue also cannot move forward at this point (all due to budget issues).

Howard Miller Steelhead Park: The new roof was put on the Interpretive Center. We're finishing an ADA path. Small open "cabin like" structures are in demand from campers who want to pack lighter into smaller vehicles to save gas.

Young's Park & Schoolhouse Park: Looking good. Put some barricades at Schoolhouse Park between the parking lot and park area. We have a good partnership with the local community who have helped organically maintain Schoolhouse Park.

Revenue generated from the Swinomish Boat Launch, Grandy Lake Campground, Sauk Campground and Howard Miller Steelhead Park is up this year from last again.

We have acquired a piece of property to go towards connecting the Centennial Trail.

Bob passed on a newspaper article regarding lead levels at gun ranges for everyone's information. The was done as a result of a request from Mr. Ron Carlson, Citizen's to Save Pilchuck Creek.

Board Discussion

Lloyd Brown understands the importance of connecting trails. He shared that Clear Lake Historical Society and Skagit Land Trust has property near Mud Lake – not sure if that would be an area that Skagit County Parks and Recreation or Skagit County Physical Activity Coalition would need for connect-ability.

Liz reported that Skagit County Physical Activity Coalition is working on getting more trail counters. Discussion about possible placement at various trails.

End of Open Meeting: finalize volunteer recognition nominations

From parks it was decided to nominate Chuck Mell. From recreation, it was decided to nominate Dottie Moe. After discussions, Jeri Krampetz motioned that they be this year's nominees. Liz McNett Crowl 2nd the motion. None opposed. Discussed how they would be honored/awarded. Discussed possible locations for the meeting and event. It was brought up that there should be a press release regarding the event. The Farmhouse Restaurant is being looked at as our possible location.

Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting:
November 20, 2008
6:00 p.m.
Farmhouse Restaurant
13724 La Conner-Whitney Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273**

October 2008 Recreation Division Report

As the fall weather slowly gets colder, wetter and darker...we moved mostly indoors for programs.

Our adult Indian Summer Softball leagues wrapped up the first of October with make up games from earlier cancellations---but we finally got all games in at Skagit Playfields---60 teams playing a total of 360 games. Restroom improvements continue to be the number 1 need at Skagit Playfields.

Our High School Basketball Leagues continue play at SVC on Sundays. We have 39 teams (21 girl's and 18 boy's) playing total of 156 games through mid-November. Generally things have been going very well, with only a few "challenging" parents. We have a good nucleus of experienced referees in the fall.

Our adult indoor leagues started last week---coed volleyball playing Wednesday and Friday nights at Mt Baker Middle School and some games at SVC. Total of 36 volleyball teams participating. Men's Basketball League started last week also, with 14 teams playing Monday and Tuesday evenings at SVC gym. It looks to be a very competitive league with many ex-college players participating.

Persistence paid off in our offering a Women's Basketball League, as we have 6 women's teams playing in our fall program at SVC on Thursday evenings. There is a good mix of young and "mature" ladies playing. Players were very appreciative of the opportunity to play in an organized league again. We had a strong women's league many years ago, but for different reasons have not had success in getting teams to sign up recently, so nice to see this get going again.

"Shooting Stars" basketball camp concluded last Saturday at Skagit Valley College after 3 Saturdays of camp. We had 38 boys and girls ages 8-12 in this popular camp and lots of compliments and appreciation for the camp from parents. Our winter basketball camps start in January.

A couple of classes---Retirement Planning, held at Mt Baker Middle School, and Weight Conditioning at Skagit Valley College continues through the fall. Lauren has had several trips---Mariners Fan Appreciation game, Seahawks home opener, and some private trips. Also, the Penticton Wine tasting trip was October 17, 18, 19 with two full vans of wine enthusiasts enjoying a nice weekend in B.C.

The Thursday-In-The Park group continues to meet on Thursdays, with a full van of mostly ladies and a couple of car loads also. Cheryl Willis, though she has a full time job now with Whatcom, has been able to continue to lead most of the trips, with Skye, Lauren and myself picking up when she cannot make it.

Our Girls S.W.I.S.H. basketball leagues (grades 4-8) starts this Saturday. We are at our all-time high of 62 teams, with teams from Snohomish, Whatcom, Island and San Juan counties as well as our own Skagit County teams. We will be running a variety of school gyms on Saturdays to accommodate all the teams. This schedule is a challenge, and Tony does a great job figuring gym space out and locating officials.

"Gobblers Classic" volleyball tournament is November 15th at Mt Baker Middle School.
Pink Cheeks Fun Run---this year being the 30th running of the event, will be December 20th from Allen.

Winter 2008-09 Recreation and Leisure Guide is now being planned, with distribution dates of December 3, 4 in Anacortes American and Skagit Valley Herald.

Dennis Lind
Recreation Manager