

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

MINUTES

Thursday, March 15, 2001 – 6:30 p.m.

Hearing Room B

County Administration Building

1) Roll Call

Attended:

John Semrau
Lloyd Brown
Keith Magee
Colleen Fisher
Carroll Dillon

Absent

Curtis Metz

Staff

Bob Vaux Pauli Mickelson
Dennis Lind David Skrinde
Scott Green
Patrik Dylan
Lauren Woodmansee

Guests

Mike Fohn Bobby Beddome
Mike Ruthford Jim Flannery
J.H.VogelsandRandy Rabenstein

2) Meeting Called to Order by John Semrau at 6:30 p.m. There was a call for the approval of the February minutes.

John asked that an amendment be made to the February minutes. Let the record show that information entered into record under Public Comment Period is moved to Item #2) Minutes. Colleen then moved that we approve the February minutes as amended. Keith seconded the motion. All board members voted yes and the minutes were approved as amended.

3) Public Comment Period – The following statement was read into record by Mr. J. H. Vogelsang: “ To: Skagit County Parks and Recreation, Bob Vaux, Interim Director, 315 South Third Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Re: Frailey Mountain Firearms Range (FMFR). Dear Mr. Vaux: For the past ten years I have watched with interest the activities by Skagit County Parks Department personnel and the advisory committee formed to address the mandates and resolutions of the County Commissioners in 1990 to the present time. After the investigation of various proposed range sites, a conceptual plan for FMFR was prepared. An appropriate EIS Study was conducted, public comments taken, a public hearing was held, with testimony given to a duly appointed hearing examiner in July, August and September 1997. A shoreline substantial development/variance permit was awarded to the grantee, named as Skagit County Parks and Recreation, as being compliant with Section 14.01.030 of the Skagit County Code. With various appeals being heard since, either being denied, withdrawn, or addressed for final clarification by the Shorelines Hearing Examiner, the time has come for the matters to be concluded and the reconveyance of the property from the DNR to Skagit County to move forward and be completed. We would appreciate a status report on the final anticipated actions. Sincerely, J.H. Vogelsang, 1404 Second Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 cc: Skagit County Parks Advisory Board and Skagit County Commissioners. “

John commented that from the Board's perspective, there has been no recent update but he will try to have information at the next meeting. Bob replied that he will look into this project and familiarize himself with it. He indicated that he would give a more comprehensive status report at next month's meeting. (Paul Reilly is the lead on this for the county.)

Bobby Beddome stood up and made a statement in favor of the proposed shooting range. He also commented on the Parks and Recreation Code that does not allow dogs off leash in county parks. He asked the Board to consider his request to the Parks Department that open space be made available for citizen's who need to train/walk their dogs off leash.

4) Staff Reports

BOB – Bob notified the Board that an email was received from Ron Carlson, 27302 – 59th Avenue NE, Arlington, WA 98223-8649 (360) 435-4664. He requested that it be entered into the record at this meeting....."Citizen's to Save Pilchuck Creek (CSPC) wishes to make a request of the PAB. Our group would like to be sent a copy of the survey that is to be mailed out to households in Skagit County in April requesting input on peoples recreational wants and needs." Bob requested that a copy of the survey be sent to this group.

A. Department Staff Introductions –

Scott Green – (Park Manager at Howard Miller Steelhead Park and Park Ranger) Scott gave the Board a brief outline of his Park Manager and Ranger experience and a synopsis of goals and projects for Howard Miller Steelhead Park, i.e.; site improvements, volunteer projects for community involvement. Bob thanked Scott for his comprehensive approach to park management and mentioned that Scott has plugged himself into the community and it will be effective in increasing our role as a good neighbor.

David Skrinde – (Park Maintenance Worker II) David also gave the Board a brief outline of his background and experience. David will concentrate on project implementation, organizing work crews, ballfield renovations, etc. Bob thanked David for his willingness to accept responsibility in getting jobs done. Patrik mentioned that David approaches all projects with a great attitude and attention to detail.

Bob – referred to his Interim Director's report (see attached) and welcomed questions from the Board. He reported that the Director position closed yesterday and that Dennis and Patrik are the official liaisons to the department for that process. John Semrau asked if anyone from the Park Advisory Board would be included on the selection panel. Patrik will advise as that information becomes available. John asked Keith if he was available to sit on that panel. Keith said he is available.

Patrik - See attached Project Manager report. Patrik went over his report with the Board and encouraged questions or comments. Carroll seemed concerned that possibly the Northern State Task Force was inadvertently being left out of the Charrette process. Patrik respectfully disagreed. They have been involved since the start of the project. Bob reiterated that all are welcome to participate in this process and that the department is encouraging as much participation as possible.

Dennis – See attached Recreation Report. Dennis asked Board for questions and comments. Keith requested that Dennis include comparison data in his reports showing participation totals and revenue from prior year. Lauren Woodmansee reported to the Board that there was a recent newspaper article on our snowmobile grooming program and that Howard Miller Steelhead Park was chosen as the “Hike of the Week”.

5) Current Business

A. Recreation Center – Fohn Proposal

Mike Fohn, local accountant, presented proposal to Board on proposed Recreation Center. Size of structure would be approximately 46,000 sq. ft. Property location is directly east of K-Mart shopping center on Burlington Boulevard. He shared information with the Board and discussed all aspects of making this center a reality. Mike requested that the Board make a decision to support this proposal. The Board declined stating that they needed more time to gather information. Bob mentioned that we are looking for the Board’s endorsement of this proposal before presentation to the Commissioners. John said that more time is needed for discussion. Board agreed. Board decided to entertain a motion for continuance of this meeting for the sole purpose of discussion on the proposed recreation center. Colleen made a motion to continue meeting for this purpose. Carroll seconded the motion. Motion carried to continue this meeting Thursday, March 22, 2001 at 6:30 p.m., Hearing Room B. Mike Fohn invited Board members to call him if they have any questions regarding this proposed project.

B. Northern State Recreation Area – Survey

John handed out copies of the proposed survey to the Board. There are plans to try for newspaper coverage prior to mail out of survey. John mentioned that he is looking for consensus or approval tonight on content and format. This survey is specific to Northern State Recreation Area. It will be mailed out to every household in the county by bulk mail. It will be color-coded to make it easier to tabulate results by individual areas. Jim Flannery requested that the survey include an item for citizen’s to check if they are interested in an off-leash dog training area. There was Board discussion on all aspects of the Northern State Recreation Area Survey. Jim Flannery reported that the committee’s ultimate objective was to develop a survey as broad as possible but would take the least amount of time to complete. He briefly explained the rationale used to determine survey outline and content. After considerable discussion, it was determined that all revisions will be completed via email. The Board entertained a motion for this step. Colleen made a motion to complete the survey format and content by convening a email meeting for one week, March 19-25th and at the end of that week at noon on Monday, March 25th, a revised survey draft is to be completed and ready for any additional comments by the Board. Keith seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

6) New Business

None

7) Miscellaneous Business

A. Non-Motorized Trail Plan

John reported that the Non-Motorized Trail Plan will be coming up for final review. He suggested that as a Board, we should look in the future to giving some attention to recreation trail plans for the county or we may not be open to certain types of trail funding. Keith made a motion to ask John to put on the record at the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan’s public meeting that there be more emphasis on recreation trails. Lloyd seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

8) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Discussion Period

None

9) Adjournment for tonight = 9:23 P.M. (Meeting to be continued on Thursday, March 22, 2001 at 6:30, Hearing Room B.

**Continuation of March 15th PAB Meeting
3/22/01**

Board Members present:

John Semrau
Carroll Dillon
Colleen Fisher
Keith Magee

Staff present:

Bob Vaux
Dennis Lind
Lauren Woodmansee
Mary Ann Dodge

Guests:

Liz McNett Crowl
Mike Fohn

Discussion regarding Recreation Center:

Those in attendance were in agreement about the need for this facility in Skagit County. It was also brought out that other groups will help in the support of this venture including service clubs such as Rotary (mainly Burlington, Mount Vernon and Sedro Woolley) and the YMCA. Because of the need, the feeling is that a Skagit Valley Recreation Center

would be utilized and supported enough to pay the cost of usage and operation. Plans to help with building costs include support by businesses and individuals in the selling of "Boards".

After discussion and input from each person attending, the following three motions were made and passed:

- 1) Carroll Dillon moved that the Parks Advisory Board recommend that the Skagit County Board of Commissioners take a hard look at this proposal. Keith Magee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- 2) Keith Magee moved that Colleen Fisher and John Semrau be appointed to represent the Parks Advisory Board on a subcommittee of ten to 15 individuals to work with staff and others to accomplish said objectives. * This motion passed.
- 3) A third motion was made by Keith Magee and seconded by Carroll Dillon that John Semrau send a letter and summary of arguments for a recreation center to the Commissioners as soon as possible. The motion was passed.

*Objectives:

- 1) Work with staff to develop equipment and fixture requirements for current and anticipated program needs. Develop capital expenditure budget and prioritize these needs.
- 2) Evaluate the feasibility of licensing revenues for capital budget.
- 3) Work with staff to develop 2002, 2003 and 2004 operating budgets, and
- 4) work with staff and developer on final proposal for building and lease arrangement.

It was decided that Commissioners would be contacted individually by Board Members from their perspective districts and Curtis Metz will be asked to help.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Interim Director's Report
Skagit County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
March 2001**

Action List

- **I have been working as our department's liaison with the NSRA Survey Task Group. We have been working at putting together the survey the Parks Board will be reviewing at this month's meeting.**
- **Our second meeting of the NSRA Advisory Committee was not as well attended as the first, but effectively served the purpose of bringing the various task groups together and providing feedback to one another. The various quarters of the County are being represented fairly well, though not much interest from Mount Vernon in general at this point. We are sticking to our proposed timeline and will continue to do our best to stimulate community interest and participation in this long range planning process.**
- **I have been working with Dennis on getting us moved out of the 12th Street facility as the lease expires and the County will not be renewing. Also, we are creating some interest in the Recreation Center proposed by Mike Fohn.**

- Ranger Lou Petersen is busy with various projects along the Cascade Trail. He has been taking the lead on trail improvement issues in both Lyman and Birdsvew, and is developing some good and what are looking to be long-term partnerships.
- On 2/23, Commissioner Ted Anderson, several County Public Works staff, myself and the private sector folks associated with Northwest Forest Fiber met on site in Birdsvew to map out a plan for trail and drainage improvements adjacent to the Russell Road. Most of the work is now complete, with all sides contributing and working well together.
- The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and Ducks Unlimited have responded favorably to our comments on their proposed Hansen and Brickyard Creek restoration and enhancement projects. Patrik is now in the midst of working with their developing plans.
- Patrik, Mike Elde and I visited the NSRA on 2/21 to specifically recon for grazing access. I am currently fine-tuning a proposal - with the help of Hilary Thomas and Roger Howard - to lease for grazing on approximately 56 acres just south of the old milking parlors. More land may come available in the future.
- I have been meeting weekly with Fair Staff Tony Rees and Lori Anderson, learning about the Fair and the many facets of the grounds, facilities and events. I have asked that the Fair Board minutes be forwarded monthly to John Semrau, and visa versa to Nick Bates, so that the two boards may be aware of each other's work and challenges.
- We now have an approved bid to clean up the flood debris on our bridge pilings just east of the Hwy 9 bridge over the Skagit. Roger Howard has been helping me put the contract together. In a recent development, I met yesterday with Public Works and WDFW personnel. I believe we are on track to be able to permit our maintenance needs along with Public Works, thus coordinating our County's comprehensive bridge management plan. This should simplify the process for everybody, and help us more efficiently manage County \$'s.

Events of Note

- Our department conducted a Rockport community meeting on 2/22. Myself, Patrik, Scott Green, Lou Petersen and Lauren Woodmansee all presented various aspects of our operation and answered several questions. Commissioner Ted Anderson was also in attendance. It was a very productive interface that we will be able to build on in our continued efforts to reach out to the up-river communities.
- Ranger Petersen staffed our TrailsFest booth on 3/2 and 3/3. Much interest was shown in our trail systems, and Lou was able to network with several trail professionals.

Faithfully Submitted,

Robert W. Vaux
March 14, 2001

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT

March 14, 2001

We are in the middle of a lot of program activity right now, with winter programs just ending and spring programs beginning. We have had a very busy and successful winter season in terms of program participation. Our only (and constant) problem has been dealing with facility conflicts that are out of our control.

Highlighting a couple programs:

A very successful youth basketball season is culminating with our Boys SWISH league championship tournaments the last three weekends. This 56-team program continues to get great accolades from the many participants, coaches and parents.

Snow shoeing trips have in some cases been beyond capacity, and we had to add several new trips. We are still operating in the “gray area” because of a lack of proper permits (which are no longer being issued), but have been told that we should be able to be “grand fathered” in a permit because of our trips many years back.

Skagit Valley High School Senior Basketball Games will be March 24th at Skagit Valley College. This is being sponsored by us along with the Skagit Valley Herald, and is for the top senior class boys and girls players in the area. We are getting a good response for this first year event that should be a fun and entertaining evening. Proceeds from the night will go towards our Youth Scholarship Fund, for need kids to get in our camps, leagues etc.

Project/Other:

I have ordered grandstand/bleachers from Southern Bleacher, for the Skagit Valley Dream Field. This will be installed in July, just in time for the American Legion Boys Baseball State Championships. We will be putting the scoreboards up soon also, even though we do not have power to the site yet.

We are in the process of lining up staff for this summer at Clear Lake Swim Beach. More lifeguards are needed. Two more water circulators will be installed before we open.

Skagit Valley Recreation Center: Mike Fohn will be coming to the PAB meeting with further information. We hope to bring this before the county commissioners for consideration.

2001 Spring Activity Guide is out in the mail. We are a little late this year because of everything that has been going on. Because the number of pages has increased, this has become a lot bigger chore to get out.

12th Street Activity Center will be closed March 31st. We have been sharing this facility with Best Place, which has not worked out well. We have not been able to utilize the facility, other than for Friday and Saturday evenings for open kids activities, because of Best Place being in there weeknights. They have had a very limited number of kids attend their events. Continued vandalism in that area, lack of parking etc have been negatives. We have until April 30th to vacate.

**Dennis Lind
Recreation Manager**

Project Manager's Report

March 2001

Patrik Dylan

Although I have not had the opportunity to submit a staff report at this time, it is my desire to do so to provide board members a more efficient means of being updated on project status as well as give you the background need to get clarification on projects during our monthly meetings. I hope you find this report helpful.

SKAGIT PLAYFIELDS PARKING LOT

To date: Project is 90 percent complete. Our final space count indicates we have 72 parking spaces and a turn/drop off area where we used to park about 50 cars. Our crew did a great job installing the curbs and drain systems. If you have a chance, please stop by and see it.

Upcoming:

- Mulch around landscaping
- Final grading
- Parking line striping

HOWARD MILLER PLAYGROUND

To date:

- Our exterior sidewalk and fish concrete is poured
- Drain system installed
- Playground equipment was delivered today
- 80% of plant material has been purchased

Upcoming: - Large playground to be completed in March, smaller one by mid April

- Contractor scheduled to install large playground next week, Tuesday-Thursday
- Playground surfacing schedule to be installed March 27th
- Landscaping to be done by our crew and should be done by end of month
- Community work party scheduled for April 14th to install the smaller playground in the day use area. The board is welcome to attend.
- Ribbon cutting and news release upon completion

POPPE FIELD RENOVATION

To date: Research on construction techniques complete and a 4-stage drain system will be designed for and installed to address the severe surface and sub surface water collection issues. The Skagit Softball Association has offered to fund the preliminary survey of the field, which will be complete in 3 weeks. This survey will provide the base information for construction documents.

Upcoming:

- Preparation of Construction drawings, specs, and bid packages
- Construction will be scheduled to begin in August after the Fair

SWINOMISH CHANNEL BOAT LAUNCH

To date: In the last two weeks I have received notice from the Nat Marine Fishers (NMFS) that comment is ‘shortly coming’ or ‘at the top of our pile, we should see it this week’. I am embarrassed to even offer this as it looks like we are the ones skirting the issue. The rumor is that there are minor comments coming our way such as ‘*destroy existing treated timber piling by cutting into 18 inch lengths and disposing off site*’. My positive thought is that being as close or not close as we are today, we should have permits in hand in enough time to start June 15th.

We did receive the standard, “If you don’t spend it we are going to take it away” letter from IAC this week. I called Darrell Jennings our Project manager to clarify and discuss. The thrust of this situation is that the Swin channel money has been out there for over 4 years and we have to spend a chunk of dollars by the end of the fiscal year, June 30th, to stay in the pile of projects they are monitoring versus closing out. If we do not have a permit in hand and are ready to go when the fish window opens on June 15th we will break up the project into IN and OUT of water components. This will require having to go out to bid twice and we’ll lose any savings in mobilizing once, but I see little options.

Upcoming:

- • Continued monitoring and solicitation of permit
- • Construction is prohibited until June 15th by regulatory agencies. It is our intention to begin construction as soon as possible, even in the light of inconveniencing summer boaters, due to the pressure from our funding sources.

NORTHERN STATE RECREATION AREA

Planning Process

To date: We had our second advisory committee meeting on March 13th. The meeting was positive and productive with each of the five different task groups offering substantive updates on progress that was made. A slide show presentation was made by the National Park Service illustrating past charettes as background for the planning of

ours. Attendance was smaller than the first meeting with 23 people in attendance by it appeared that all major stakeholders had an active voice at the table.

Upcoming - Look for continued progress from each of the task groups with the following forthcoming:

- Newsletter containing project and planning information
- Advertisement for day long, on site open house, June 16th
- Survey – *to be discussed tonight*
- Reports from resource summary groups (recreation, cultural, and natural resources)
- Charette date selected and tasks outlined

It is the goal of our staff to stay as on top of this process as possible. With the larger advisory committee and 7 sub-committees this presents a real challenge, but to keep the momentum going toward successful implementation and out of respect to the people volunteering it is a high priority.

Brickyard Creek

To Date: We have agreed to work with Ducks Unlimited and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement on the Brickyard Creek work discussed last month. Our response letter outlined several conditions to insure that this work is mutually beneficial.