

Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

MEETING NOTES- DRAFT

April 18, 2012

6:00 p.m.

Port Blakely Room

Kitsap County Administrative Building

614 Division Street

Port Orchard, WA 98366

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Welcome & Introductions: Mr. Otto welcomed the board and called the meeting to order at 5:57pm

Members Present: Tony Otto, Beth Leone Mullins, Nancy Frank, Stacy Geiger, Mike Arnold, Jennifer Gerstel

Staff in attendance: Jim Dunwiddie, Billie Schmidt, Tarrah Dofelmier

Public in attendance: Nelson Lanchester, Barbara Lanchester, Frank Strickland, Pat Strickland, Dan Smallwood, and Tom Coleman

Approval of February 29, 2012 Minutes - No vote taken.

Correspondence

Director Dunwiddie handed out copies of the 2012 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan. The plan has been accepted by the RCO and will be eligible for grants this funding cycle.

Public Comment

Mr. Otto, Mr. Lanchester, and Mrs. Lanchester discussed the Kitsap Live Steamers train at SK Regional Park. Mrs. Lanchester stated the trains began running on Easter weekend. They had 670 riders for the Easter Egg Run. Last weekend they had 752 riders in attendance. Mr. Otto asked about vandalism at SK Regional Park. Director Dunwiddie stated minor vandalism has occurred in the restrooms.

Presentation – Forest Stewardship Program

Mr. Frank Strickland gave a presentation on the Forest Stewardship Program. Mr. Strickland thanked everyone involved with this program, and stated that the NHHP is a fantastic piece of property.

- Ecosystem management is an approach that doesn't destroy or degrade the forest for future generations. It encourages the restoration of natural processes that were disrupted by historic commercial timber harvesting. It is based on conservation science that enhances and protects: *Forest and Riparian Habitats; Soil & Water; Wildlife; People; and Natural Beauty & Recreational Opportunities.*

Presentation – Forest Stewardship Program- Continued

Fire Risk - Fire is a natural process in the forest. You can not draw a line around the park and leave it alone. This is due to the presence of people, and homes at the urban forest interface. Construct fuel breaks as part of commercial and pre-commercial thinning, to reduce biomass, and fire intensity. If you ignore fire you will get something, but not what you want.

Disease - There are several areas in the park where wind-thrown trees have resulted from Root Rot. Thinning and planting rot resistant tree species can manage the severity of this disease. Diseases are part of the natural forest ecosystem

Safety Options with people in the mix

- Move trail
- Best for habitat and safety
- Remove hazard
- Worst for habitat
- Reduce hazard
- Better for habitat than removal
- Removal causes loss of habitat
- Habitat can be artificially restored to some extent
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When Managing for Biodiversity, Include these Key Elements

- Repeated thinning
- Gap creation
- Promote specie diversity
- Maintain hardwood patches
- Promote mast production
- Protect Riparian areas
- Under planting in thinned “plantations”

Good Planning is Critical

- Don't thin around Wildlife trees
- Leave the most vigorous trees
- Create Areas of light, heavy and no thinning.

Ecosystem management leads to late seral stage with:

- A wide variety of tree sizes - LWD, Decadence
- Improved age distribution - Young and old tree
- Healthier wildlife habitat - Complexity
- More carbon storage - BIG trees make big logs that can persist for a 1000 years
- More options for adaptive management - Suppose we are wrong?

Presentation – Forest Stewardship Program- Continued

No Traditional Timber Harvest Rotation - Commercial forest lands are harvested about every 50 -70 years to maximize profits. Kitsap County parks are not commercial forest. It is public land that needs to be managed for forest health, habitat diversity and complexity. Logging will be limited to thinning, salvage and hazard tree removal.

Mr. Strickland stated he would like to see the revenue from this plan go into parks, not the general fund.

Ms. Gerstel inquired about work parties and resources from replanting. Mr. Strickland has recruited the churches, schools and other volunteer groups. He is very pleased with the community's involvement. Mr. Strickland explained that volunteers are steered to the appropriate park project. Some groups still volunteer without coordinating with the county. At NHHP we require a signed approval. Mr. Strickland explained the trail maintenance and standards. Mr. Otto asked about who does the tree removal, cutting. Mr. Strickland said there are volunteers that are chainsaw certified. The County is required to keep culverts clear.

Director Dunwiddie thanked everyone involved with the management plan. This presentation will go on the road and on the web. If the plan is adopted by BOCC, the program will fall under the parks department as a new and separate division. He said that it is envisioned that any access revenue would go into a separate fund and go toward steward projects. The plan will possibly be adopted by August and the new division in place by October 1st. There is a potential grant which may fund the start-up period for the program.

Staff Report

Director Dunwiddie reported on the following:

- The parks department is now eligible to submit RCO grants.
- Island Lake Community Center, which has been closed due to vandalism, will open to the public June 1st. Anticipated loss of revenue from the Island Lake fire is \$20,000. We are looking into adding a deck, which will provide a nice attraction for the renters.
- Thanks to Commissioner Garrido, meeting with Key Pen and Pen Met Parks was held to discuss a partnership to open Horseshoe Lake Park 7 days a week.
- Interviews for the Park Project Coordinator are scheduled April 19..
- The Parks and Recreation office is now open on Friday's, 9am to 2pm, through September 30.
- The Point No Point lighthouse dedication scheduled for May 12 at 10am.

Mrs. Schmidt, Park Operations Superintendent, reported on the following:

- A new contractor was hired and the roof leaks have been repaired.
- Expecting contractor bids for seal coating.
- Annual "Doo for You" event took place at the fairgrounds; 140 yards of compost material were given away to the community.
- We are in the process of hiring a maintenance worker.

Staff Report Continued

- A new marketing campaign has generated a number of new callers inquiring about rental facilities. The marketing key line is "Kitsap County Parks, more than you know". We are partnering with Kitsap Sun newspaper, and West Sound magazine.
- The commercial kitchen equipment in the Eagles Nest will go up for reverse bid.
- Revenue is on target, with the exception of the decrease from the roller derby. Village Greens Golf Course revenue continues as anticipated.
- Gordon turf field is doing great. The grass field is closed through May for maintenance.

South Kitsap Regional Park Stewardship Group

Director Dunwiddie reported that the County should be in a position to create a stewardship group in SK regional Park. Help is needed in facility programming units i.e. Skateboard, BMX, Live Steamers and this is the time to put formal group together. Director Dunwiddie will work with commissioner Garrido and the four South Kitsap board members to come up with a plan, in hopes that a framework is in place by next meeting. Ms. Raymaker will provide a draft.

Mr. Otto stated the sooner we can get stewards in there the sooner vandalism will improve. He suggested advertising in the Port Orchard independent. Director Dunwiddie discussed the possibility of camp hosts at SKRP by this summer. Ms. Leone-Mullins stated that in her experience, camp hosts help maintain the parks. Ms. Gerstel suggested reaching out to schools/Eagle Scouts for community service.

Director Dunwiddie reported that he visited the SKRP BMX trails with the risk manager. There was a great concern for safety which prompted the Board to remove all obstacles built in the area. . Since then, the hazards have been removed, and there is less concern for the obstacles.

Stewardship Reports

Ms. Frank announced there will be a Geo-cache event in August.

Ms. Gerstel reported on the Illahee stewardship group. Several big projects are in the works. Volunteers are building a new kiosk and a new meadow. Illegal brush picking and homeless population continue to be issues.

Ms. Leone Mullins discussed her visit to the Hansville Greenway. She would like to see this property marketed to community. Mrs. Schmidt is working with Ms. Lecker to determine which parks to highlight in their marketing campaign.

Ms. Leone Mullins stated July in National Parks and Recreation month. She suggested working with the Thunderbirds and mountaineers and outdoor reporting in the Kitsap Sun. Mr. Otto offered to assist in contacting the newspaper.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by Mr. Arnold

Second: Beth Leone Mullins

Vote: Unanimous

Vice Chairman Otto adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm