

Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

MINUTES

October 17, 2012

Long Lake Community Center, Bob Oke Room

Port Orchard, WA

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Welcome and Introductions: Chairman Pearson welcomed the Board and called the meeting to order at 6:10.

Members Present: Jon Pearson, Jennifer Gerstel, Sandra Bauer, Ed Donahue, Stacey Geiger, Tony Otto, Chad Krepps, Mike Arnold, and Wayne Chapin

Staff in attendance: Jim Dunwiddie, Dori Leckner, Billie Schmidt, Ric Catron, Terri Lyman

Public in attendance: Nelson and Barbara Lanchester, Robin Waite, Doug and Linda Janachek, Ron Heber, Robert Huff, Rex (Last name unknown)

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Ms. Gerstel moved for the approval of the meeting agenda

Second: Mr. Otto

All in favor

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Otto moved for the approval of the September 19, 2012 meeting minutes

Second: Mr. Krepps

All in favor

Opportunity for Public to Address the Board

Mr. Robin Waite, representing the Kitsap Pumas soccer team, is interested in using Gordon Field for home games and practices. This would be an income generator for Kitsap County with field rental for 65 practice days and 16 league games. Practices would follow current use during the weekday mornings. Improvements such as a score board, would be needed to turn Gordon Field into a significant complex. This type of complex could attract premier soccer leagues, as well as, high school championship games.

Mr. Waite assured the Board that scheduling conflicts are minimal and the game schedule would be known far in advance. The average attendance is 850 per game. The audience pays to watch the matches. Restrooms are already available next to the field.

The soccer season starts in May, practices start in April. Players come from all over the world to try out and play for The Pumas. Players are very accessible to the fans and it is fun for the players to be home-town heroes.

Mr. Dunwiddie suggested that partnerships or grants could pay for the field improvements, and the negotiated agreement and fee schedule may be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

Presentation: The Salsbury Point Park Coalition

Mr. Robert Huff, Mr. Doug Janachek and Mr. Ron Heber, members of the newly- formed Salsbury Point Park Coalition, spoke about the non-recreational use of the Salsbury Boat Launch and how this affects their neighborhood and the park.

Mr. Huff spoke to the commercial fishermen blocking the boat launch with refrigerator trucks and tying commercial boats to the dock leaving no room for recreational use. Mr. Huff wonders why the Park Code is not being enforced by law enforcement.

Mr. Dunwiddie interjected that Parks Staff met with all the agencies involved – tribes, DNR, Fish & Wildlife, Law Enforcement – and received assurances from the tribes that they would police the action. Kitsap County will continue to work on this.

Mr. Janachek thanked Dori Leckner for being so responsive to signage requests. He said that he helped form the coalition of 34 citizens, and growing. The Salsbury Boat Launch is not for commercial business. It is not a commercial wharf. He asked why does the County allow this to happen? Mr. Janachek said that there is illegal trespass on private property daily and the noise from 24-hour refrigerator trucks and fishing boats tied up to the dock all times during the night and day allows for little sleep. He told the Board that this park is an attractive nuisance and if this park was in your backyard, you would not be agreeable to this. This is a beginning point.

Mr. Janachek asked what Ordinance 10.12 means and asked why it is not being enforced.

Mr. Ron Heber spoke about the commercial use of the park being a long-standing problem and it's not just about one park and that this is a county-wide issue and will affect the whole park system if Kitsap County does not enforce the County Code. Mr. Heber suggests: 1) The Park Board recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to revise and strengthen the code for credible enforcement; 2) Issue citations, prosecute violators in order to provide a real deterrent; and 3) Improve signage – be clear that there is NO commercial activity allowed in the Park. Mr. Heber's said that public parks are held in trust by Kitsap County and it is wrong to allow any group to monopolize a public park. This sends the wrong signal and sets the wrong precedence.

Several board members offered the advice to call 911; state that your call is not an emergency; and ask for a case number. Don't be afraid to call 911. Establish a record of complaints.

Mr. Dunwiddie suggests that this is an enforcement issue, and thanked the Salsbury Point Park Coalition for speaking to the Board.

2013 Operating Budget

Mr. Dunwiddie reported that the department is receiving a 3.2 percent increase in the amount of \$106,000, but is \$44,000 short of bringing employees up to full-time status. The 2013 revenue is projected reflects a \$64,000 increase. The Parks Office will be closed on Fridays during January, November and December due to reduced work hours.

A new brush-picking contract will be negotiated bringing in approximately \$25-30,000 instead of the current \$6-7000. This revenue will offset \$20,000 to be used for stewardship projects.

The budget is crafted by program – Park Resource, Operations and Fair & Stampede. Although the department will never be self-sustaining, taxpayers will see most of their money spent in the parks – as it should be.

The budget is scheduled for introduction and Public Hearing by the Board of County Commissioners on December 3, 2012 and adopted December 10, 2012 .

Draft 2013-2018 Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Dunwiddie presented the draft 2013-2018 Capital Improvement Plan: a more realistic plan utilizing the remaining capital project fund for current projects and looking for partnerships to fund the balance. The department staff are creating a legacy with getting things done without taxpayer's dollars.

Staff Reports

Mr. Dunwiddie:

The Forest Stewardship Policy is scheduled for Board of County Commissioner approval on October 22, 2012. A revised draft will be available on the Parks website October 18, 2012.

Mr. Ric Catron:

Skate park construction is scheduled to begin at the end of October. A timber harvest permit is being processed for 105 trees being removed. The construction will take 24 weeks.

The Banner Forest Watch Group hosted an open house October 15 to present their draft management plan. The new plan will accommodate resources at the park with recreationalists – a balance plan. The Watch Group will present the plan to the BOCC in early December, recommending approval by the end of 2012. The next step will be to form a stewardship group to implement the plan - decommissioning trails, boardwalks, cutting back trees for site clearance.

Director Dunwiddie added that the Board of County Commissioners may choose to broaden the public process. They might want to conduct a public hearing and adoption will then be in 2013. The Watch Group will not choose the stewards – there are many people passionate about the Forest.

Ms. Billie Schmidt:

The Haunted Fairgrounds received a favorable review from the newspaper, The Stranger. Hopefully this review will generate more business.

The Fairgrounds LID grant is on-going with a water retention design in progress for the VanZee Building and the Thunderbird Stadium.

The Event Center is short on staff Monday – Wednesday, instead focusing on weekend events. A Maintenance Worker position has been filled and the vacant Event Assistant position will be posted soon.

Ms. Dori Leckner:

A 27-year Maintenance Worker, Larry Petersen, has resigned. This position will be filled in January 2013.

Work continues at Salsbury Point Park to replace restroom doors/locks; overhaul irrigation system; landscaping around shelter; repair playground; re-roof lower pump house; install big belly sensors to track use; and the floating dock to be removed October 29.

Energy efficiencies are in progress at Point No Point to include restroom improvement. The Department of Fish & Wildlife will be monitoring the beach from November through January.

There is now a webcam at the park. See the website.

Veterans Park – Staff closer to negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the local water department for reclaimed water to six fields as a demonstration project.

A meeting is being scheduled with facility users request assistance for improving the Anderson Park fields.

Silverdale Waterfront Park – The gazebo is undergoing improvements.

Mr. Dunwiddie:

The County is discussing establishing a Building Repair & Replacement Fund for county facilities. Parks will submit a list for structures and system improvements; for example, the Kitsap Sun Pavilion roof and a re-surfacing project at the Event Center.

Subcommittees

Vandalism Deterrent/Containment:

Mr. Otto reminded us to call 911 to report Vandalism to establish the record.

Vandalism reported vandalism in the covered area at the horseshoe area at South Kitsap Regional Park. The number of vandalism incidents is reduced, but graffiti is still a problem.

Park Management: No report

Partnerships: No report

Public Use: No report

Stewardship Report: No report

Adjournment

Being no further business, Mr. Pierson adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm