

APPROVED
October 16, 2013

Kitsap County Parks Advisory Board

Minutes September 18, 2013

Welcome and Introductions:

Chairman Jon Pearson welcomed the board, staff and public. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Jon Pearson, Alvin Andrus, Anthony Otto, Frank Strickland, Stacy Geiger, Jennifer Gerstel and Susan Cruver.

Staff Present: Jim Dunwiddie, Dori Leckner, Arno Bergstrom, Ric Catron, Leigh Snyder

Public Attending: 16 members of the public were in attendance.

Approval of the July 17th agenda and minutes – Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Anthony Otto with a second by Frank Strickland. Motion carried. Frank Strickland made the motion to adopt the minutes from July and Anthony Otto provided the second. That motion was also carried.

Correspondence and Communication: None to report

Opportunity for Public to Address the Board: Keyport Improvement Club provided information on their Keyport Fest being held Saturday September 21st from 9:00 to 4:30 PM. Concern was also expressed over recent articles appearing in the Kitsap Sun regarding their parks. Jim Dunwiddie addressed those concerns by saying that parcels under review must fit certain criteria to be considered for divestiture. One very important point is if they have water access they are off the consideration list for review. Keyport Saltwater Park is off the list because it has a water access; Keyport Central Park belongs to Public Works not Kitsap County Parks. The Keyport Improvement Club will be provided with contact information for that Department. Jim thanked the group for coming to the meeting so these issues could be discussed and information given. Mr. Dunwiddie explained that in all the parcels under review only three have been identified that may be surplus thus far –Erlands Point a .10 acre unimproved lot in a housing area, Tracyton Creek a .44 acre open space in a Manufactured Home Park, and Southworth a 2.2 acre piece.

Another member of the public inquired if the Southworth property is sold could the funds be used for Harper Park or the estuary there. Jim Dunwiddie explained that we are only in the preliminary stages of the discussion and no decisions have been made for property disposition. If any properties are sold the funds would go into the Parks Capital Account. Information on this process will be made available on the Parks website. Anthony Otto asked for clarification on the Harper Park and Boat launch. Ric Catron advised that there is state funding coming for the estuary and reminded the group that the Harper pier is owned by the Port of Bremerton. A field inspection trip for the PRAB members is being planned so each site under discussion can be seen and inspected.

Another community member wanted to discuss the private gate that went up at Anderson Point Park. What is happening to allow for the reopening of this park and public access to be granted once again? Dori went to the property with the County Risk Manager – his report/assessment is not yet available, we are looking to bring in a geologist to assess the area and report. The slide caused major damage to the road access. The study can cost up to \$20K the Department does not have those funds available. We are actively looking for grants to fund this assessment. Neighbors got together and paid for the gate. There will be public meetings held to discuss the situation – the first will be held in October at the Olalla Grange. FEMA information will be discussed along with the damage done to the hillside, road and culvert

that were lost due to the slide. Vandalism to the area will also be discussed. The meeting information will be posted on the Parks website and the Olla Facebook Page.

Directors Report: We have been working on an agreement for the Kitsap Live Steamers (KLS) for 3 years. At last review by the Commissioners we have now gone from a 5 year term with renewals at each year and a master plan for removal of the storage units and expansion to a 2 year lease agreement with no renewal and no provision for expansion or improvements. The lease will be offered at \$1,200 per year with a certified financial report due at year end.

Cash flow from the Village Greens Golf Course is not supported from the General Fund or any others. Surplus funds from the VGGC fund have gone into improvements at the course. The staff has done a great job in this task and the course has received accolades from golfers and the PGA inspections. We were hoping that this would result in an increase in patronage. This has not been the case and players have remained static. The decision has been made to close the course on November 4th and reopen April 1st. The grounds will continue to be maintained during the closure and this will result in a net savings of over \$63,000.

We had a great meeting with the North Kitsap Trails Association last night. It was 2 full hours of give and take. The group is enthused about the possibility of getting an additional 4-550 acres for the expansion of the North Kitsap Regional Parks and this area may be ready for the formation of a formal stewardship group.

There is a link on the County website where you can see the full budget presentation. I have asked for a 3.7% increase to bring the Department to a full 40 hour week all year and to pay for the increase in the fixed cost of benefits for 2014. I will know something by mid November. The BOCC has directed the department to restructure fees for field use etc. to generate an increase in revenue for the department. The Area Management Plan draft has been sent out to the PRAB which is the first step in our restructure. Please review and send back with your comments or bring to the October PRAB meeting.

Dori asked for any questions regarding the Parks Resource Superintendent Report. None were asked.

Jim Dunwiddie filled in for the Superintendent of Operations Billie Schmidt and reported that for the first time the Kitsap Fair and Stampede recouped all of its cost to operate! The event went very smoothly this year with 77K attending and 294K in food concessions sold. Billie will continue to work hard to keep events coming in to the buildings and facilities at the fairgrounds during the year.

Forestry report presented by Arno Bergstrom – highlights – worked with a great local intern Jeremy Felty this summer. Together we completed a lot of field work. Today was his last day and we are hoping he can return next year. There will be a Forest Stewardship Subcommittee meeting in October. Please let Arno know if you are interested in serving on this group. Frank Strickland and Susan Cruver are on board. We will be working on a template for a County Forest Stewardship Plan- we will look at the North Kitsap Heritage Park plan in that process and will come to the PRAB with a recommendation once complete. I have been certified in CPR and First Aid this past week. Arno handed out a pamphlet that he prepared for the Fair about the program. We are in the final stages of working through the forms and policy for brush leases to allow for park land to be leased by individuals for brush picking. These folks are great stewards of the parks and are our eyes and ears out there. Volunteers in our forests have helped cut down on the fire danger but there is still more fuel on the ground than volunteers. The Forestry program will help in this area also. Frank Strickland feels the word needs to get out to the community at large in regard to the Forestry program to assure folks we are not planning to clear cut any forestlands.

Ric Catron reported that he has been working on a Banner Forest Management Plan with Commissioner Garrido, some encroachment issues at North Kitsap Heritage Park and the Permeable Parking lot replacement at Point No Point, Wildcat Lake, Horseshoe Lake and Olalla Boat Launch. These will occur in 2014 with Point No Point being first. The eelgrass study has been completed required for the replacement of the boat launch at Salsbury Point. Further improvements at SKRP to trails, road and parking along with expanding the skate park are in the works. DCD approval will take 120 days. Ric is also working on a grant to restore the barn at Howe Farm.

Subcommittee Reports:

Parcel Review – working to set next meeting date

Permit Policy Review – will ask for volunteers once the Management Plan has been reviewed and settled. The staff has 20 permit policies ready for review.

Forest Stewardship Committee – first meeting will be held in October

Park Code – Jim is working on a new park code and this process will call for a new subcommittee to be formed when code is ready for review.

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned by Jon Pearson at 7:16PM.