

APPROVED

November 20, 2013

Kitsap County Parks Advisory Board

Minutes October 16, 2013

Welcome & Introductions:

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

PRAB Board Members Present: Jon Pearson, Anthony Otto, Alvin Andrus, Susan Cruver, Susan Smith, Stacy Geiger, Michael Arnold & Frank Stricklin

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

Public Attending: 11 members of the public were in attendance

Approval of the September 18th Agenda & Minutes: Michael Arnold made the motion to adopt the agenda with a second by Frank Stricklin, a motion was made by Frank Stricklin with a second provided by Susan Smith to adopt the minutes. Both were motions carried and both documents adopted.

Correspondence & Communication: None to report

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board: The President of the Newberry Hill Heritage Park Stewardship Group voiced his concerns with the amount of mushroom pickers out this year and the volume they are harvesting in the park. The group is worried about damage to the park environment. The Newberry Hill Heritage Park Stewardship group will draft a letter to send to the Mycological Society expressing their concerns. He thanked the County for their prompt press release citing the harvesting policy and limits but he feels we have a real need for enforcement in all our parks – a shared Park Ranger perhaps funded by the Timber Harvest. Frank Stricklin asked if Citizens on Patrol could lend a hand in monitoring the Parks. Arno Bergstrom addressed the need to distinguish between those harvesting for personal as opposed to commercial use. He also stated that though the undergrowth at NHHP has been damaged it will recover.

Colen and Joanne Corey expressed their concerns with the amount of harvesters who have trespassed on their land and ended up at their back gate because they have gone off the trails and gotten lost. Some have become aggressive when told they were on private property.

A member of the Mycological Society spoke stating her group has 169 members and when leading a foray into the forest to hunt for mushrooms they encourage not to take all in a patch, do not pick the immature, don't trample and once they cut to cover back up. The group is very concerned about the ecological make up of the forest. She will encourage the 1 gallon limit and they will be having an event at the Silverdale Community Center on October 27th beginning at noon. They will present up to 150 species of mushrooms – edible, non edible & poisonous. Their goal is to educate all about our forest environment and to be good stewards.

Directors Report: Budget is near completion with a free presentation next week. We have been tasked with increasing revenue to cover a 40% budget increase bringing the Staff to full time status.

Village Greens Golf Course: Golfers have committed to providing enough players to keep the course open weekends during the winter. We have agreed to open weekends 11-9 though 12-15-2013, to see if this is viable. We need 30 golfers on the course per day to make it work.

The recent Rolling Hills Golf Course Oversight Committee meeting enforced what a great partnership we have with them. The excess revenue is remitted to the County and the Country writes a check to an organization for funding Senior Citizen meals. This is the third season of this relationship and I am impressed with the great partnership we have as well as the quality and care they take of the golf course.

Representative from the Stewardship Groups met with Jim, Lorie, Dori and Arno to have an open discussion on land management, brush and mushroom picking.

In approximately two weeks, our last remaining County recreation program – the sailing program - will be divested to the Port of Silverdale. We will no longer have any County recreation programs as we have also found a group to take over the “Haunted Fairgrounds” in the Kingston/NK Rotary Foundation.

Parks Resources Report: Dori Leckner reported we are looking for informal bids to demolish the old Kola Kole VFW and the Wicks Lake Residence in 2014. The old Barn and house will also be looked at to demolish as they pose a liability risk to the County.

We have a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Natural Resources to remove creosote from our Parks on November 18th this year. An agreement to remove pilings etc. will follow with a partnership including the Department of Community Development and Storm Water Management.

We are currently working to resolve encroachments made by citizens onto park property at NK Heritage Park and Harper Park. Kingston library is working on an agreement with Parks to take over the management of the Kingston Community Center. The County would still pay utilities.

Operations Report: Kitsap Kids Playground has been refurbished by generous donations of play equipment by the Silverdale Rotary and concrete by Home Depot.

Bids for the Lobe Field press box and bullpen came in much higher than anticipated. We are sharpening our pencils to try and re-work this project.

Thunderbird Stadium will be completely closed to all, including Staff, to assist with run off control now through the winter.

We are looking for banner sign sponsors for the Fairgrounds and Event Center. Our website now has the ability to view availability of some of our venues with online reservations coming in the future. Facebook is up – please visit and “like” our page.

Forest Stewardship Program: The Forest Stewardship sub-committee held its first meeting and Frank Stricklin will report on that later in this meeting.

Completed inventory work and planning for the first variable density thinning at Newberry Hill Heritage Park is scheduled for 2015. Brush lease bid packets are ready and should be out in the next 2 weeks or so. The Timber Harvesting and Marketing program is being modeled after the City of Bremerton and it is currently being reviewed by the Forest Stewardship sub-committee. Our goals are slightly different than the goals of Bremerton but theirs is a good mechanism to model.

Parks Project Coordinator: Moving forward on the permeable parking lot replacement at Horseshoe Lake, Wildcat Lake, Olalla Beach and Point No Point.

Met with Illahee Preserve Stewardship group in regard to a 2014 grant (spring) which would be an RCO grant for additional acquisition.

In process of preparing a heritage grant to restore the barn roof at the Howe Farm Barn. One wing of the barn was built in the 1930's and the second in 1946. The PRAB was asked to write a letter of support to assist with the grant process. So moved by Michael Arnold with a second by Susan Smith – motion carried.

Salsbury Boat Launch (Ramp) is going through the process with construction beginning of summer of 2014.

Sub-Committee Reports: Forest Stewardship Group- Frank Stricklin reported that this group gathered for its first meeting and it is a very talented and committed committee: Bill McKinney is the Forester for the City of Bremerton; Art Schick is a retired Navy Forester; Patti Wible is a Port Orchard resident and a member of the Banner Forest Park Volunteer Stewards; and Sandra Bauer is a member of the Kitsap Forest & Bay Coalition and Indianola resident. To round out the group, Susan Cruver is a PRAB member and a Port Orchard resident. Our first assignment is to read the Commissioners Forest Management Policy and review the Newberry Hill Heritage Park Forest Management Plan prior to the next meeting – this was drafted by Stewardship groups – next step is to the BOCC and then the sub-committee will move to other stewardship groups to help them craft their management plans.

Fee and Cost Recovery Plan: Plan (as attached) was presented by Director Jim Dunwiddie. He also presented a comparison of regional facility fees to show where our County fees fall in that group for hourly rates – general rooms, picnic shelters, athletic fields both turf and grass and lights. We are one of the few departments that can generate revenue and have been asked by the BOCC to recover some of the costs of operating our facilities. We performed a year-long cost study that broke down activities to analyze both direct and indirect costs – detailed to task time and frequency. We are in the process of holding marketing meetings to come up with ways to attract groups to fill our venues both during week and on the weekends. Discounted rates could be offered during the week and for 2-3 day events. A motion was made to recommend the Fee Cost Recovery Plan to the BOCC by Michael Arnold with a second by Frank Stricklin and this passed by unanimous vote.

Director Dunwiddie suggested that due to the length of the materials in the Area Management Plan and 2014-2019 Capital Facilities Plan that these be discussed at the November PRAB meeting. This suggestion met with board approval.

A question was posed as to what the department has paid for vandalism repair. The answer is approximately \$70K this year alone. We are discussing having a study done by security professionals to review what would be the best course of action and equipment for our Parks and facilities.

New Business: None

Adjournment: Motion by Susan Cruver with second by Michael Arnold. Meeting adjourned by President Jon Pearson at 7:40 P.M.