

Kitsap County Park Advisory Board

Minutes 11-20-19

PRAB Members Present: Larry Walker, Brian Higgins, Josh Hopp, Kathryn Thompson, Jenise Bauman and Jon Pearson.

Staff: Jim Dunwiddie, Travis Buell & Leigh Snyder

Members of the public 13

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Larry Walker

Adoption of the October 16, 2019 minutes

Motion: Jenise Bauman

Second: Jon Pearson

Discussion: None

Action: Minutes approved

Public Comment – Petition presented signed by the property owners in the Sawdust Hill area of Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park supporting the restoration of the property clear cut by Pope Resources with native trees and to restore the forestland. Jim Dunwiddie suggested that the petition be presented by the group to the Board of County Commissioners.

NKHP Stewards would like increased communication from Parks directly. (Volunteer Coordinator) Rachael Fleck tasked with providing and improving communication with the various stewardship groups in the North end. Janise Bauman and Josh Hopp are working on a plan with the Volunteer Coordinators to improve communication as part of the Community Outreach subcommittee.

Susan Anderson – update on the Ridgetop/DNR 27-acre property continued concern – desires it be designated open space. Jon Pearson mentioned the Clear Creek Task Force does take care of the lower part of the property and Brian Higgins has spoken to Commissioner Gelder on this topic and advises the group to find a vision and prepare a presentation to the Commissioner for the property.

Concern expressed over access to Coulter Creek Park – Lake Flora Road is the only easy access. Per Jim Dunwiddie funding has been identified for parking and work with a steering committee to discuss will begin in January. The management plan is underway at present this is not open as a “Park” yet. Calvinwood may not open for 18-24 months.

Property Owner (Sawdust Hill area) inquired on the possibility of purchasing a strip of Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park directly adjoining her property to plant an arboretum. Jim Dunwiddie is familiar with the request and asked that she seek further information from Commissioner Gelder as the inquiry is being handled by his office.

Directors Report – see attached-

Millihana gate damage done by vehicle. No estimate yet for repairs/replacement

REET funding is not available to Parks resulting in an approximate 75% reduction in Capital Budget. This will move back projects for example – Norman Road parking lot -4 years. REET

may not be used for maintenance. If any BR&R funding left from 2019 may be designated for Parks to use toward repairs/replacement in 2020. No funding is currently set aside. Banner Forest -Forest Management plan process to start in January with a 6-8-month process anticipated. Event Center Sustainability Study -results should be ready to present to Visitor Services Subcommittee in January.

Sub Committee Reports –

- Community Outreach-Submitted for a national Science Foundation Grant up to \$300,000 for outreach to students for environmental studies, develop opportunities for engagement geared to youth and environmental study. Steward/youth mentor training coming in 2020. Volunteer Coordinators working with Wild Society to develop summer service work and there will be a Fall Discover Parks Event in 2020 – 2019 event was held at Howe Farm.
- Parks & Property – no report
- Visitor Services – no report

Park Stewardship Reports –

- Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park – Trail plan -taking a measured look at the current plan.
- Banner Forest – Interest in the Forest Management Plan has created more volunteers. Recent work parties cleared brush and Holly from trails. Boy Scouts installed 2 new benches in the Forest.

Old Business – Kathryn Thompson inquired as to the process and for a General Stewardship Plan. JRD – plan is in process with a presentation to the BoCC anticipated in Jan/Feb of 2020.

Fair Transition – more complicated than anticipated. Travis Buell and Jim Dunwiddie are working on a plan with the BoCC appointed transition team. We are striving to have work completed to hand off to the non-profit group in January.

New Business-

Nominating Committed -Kathryn Thompson and Josh Hopp. Elections in February for Chair & Vice Chair.

Meeting Schedule – 2020 reviewed and accepted. Jim Dunwiddie requested PRAB members consider when to have the annual planning retreat -late January or early February.

Brian Higgins thanked the PRAB -enjoyed his time on the board-suggested that the stewardship groups unify to come up with a clear communication with one voice and common needs for all groups in their communication to the commissioners.

Adjournment:

Motion: Josh Hopp **Second:** Kathryn Thompson
Discussion: None
Action: Approved meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM

