

**Kitsap County Parks Advisory Board
Minutes April 21, 2021**

**REMARKS FOR THE BEGINNING OF REMOTE ADVISORY BOARD GROUP MEETING
READ BY CHAIR JON PEARSON**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 by Chair Jon Pearson

PRAB Members Present: **Jon Pearson, Linda Berry Maraist, Josh Hopp, Joanne Clark, Larry Walker, & Emily Kleiner**

Staff Present: Alex Wisniewski, Alexandra Hardy, Arno Bergstrom, Jackson Lee, Aaron Bartleson, & Leigh Snyder

Members of the Public: 3

Adoption of the March 17, 2021 Minutes

Motion: Joanne Clark	Second: Linda Berry Maraist
Discussion: None	
Action: Approved	

Public Comment:

Joe L – Voiced concerns and disappointment over the lack of response the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship group has received for the past year from the Parks Department, DCD, and Kitsap County surrounding plans for the Arborwood Project.

Alex Wisniewski, Parks Director, stated that the concerns Joe and the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship group have been shared directly with DCD and the responses from DCD have been shared with Joe and the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewards. The Parks Department has provided all of the necessary support and if Joe and the stewards have further concerns, they need to reach out to DCD directly.

Port Gamble Masterplan- David McBride-overview of masterplan process for Port Gamble- the overall outline starts with the programming effort -reviewed historical documentation first meeting 3-17 140+ to introduce to public. Outlined challenges and limitations so we a get better public input. Broke in to break out groups to better allow for public input and feedback on general questions. Zoom meeting went well -we are in the process of finalizing the meeting and will be posted to the website Port Gamble Forest Park.com. Develop targeted outreach plan-met with a couple folks to start that process with focus groups. Focus on specifics on topics and goals we have established -this will help develop the draft plan and then we will go back to the public for input. Next meeting for the public will be in mid-June to show the draft program to the community. There will be an extra bonus meeting to focus on restoration and conservation piece because of feedback received. Will continue to meet with focus groups during this time. -LBM will PRAB be included? David -I encourage everyone to sign up to the mailing list. No dates yet secured but mid-end of May for the bonus meeting. Update Ride Park Project -docs submitted to DCD waiting for final response to permit for Phase 1 trail system. Next phase parking lot under design. Proposing next steps -land survey and geotechnical survey for the parking lots. Environmental consultants have performed preliminary review all positive. Next finalize schematic design and then permit and bid

for contractor. Stottlemeyer parking lot is moving forward quicker and then on to the ride park parking lot. Jon asked if we have an answer on the property owner who had concerns -no answer on that yet but we have documented concerns and are looking at the impacts. Linda stated the Parks Stewards 24 volunteers were out on Saturday improving the trail Aaron B. concurred.

Events & Facilities-Alexander Hardy -presented the current events plan. Tier 1-Athletic facilities opened -numbers will go up with the addition of the fall schedule. Picnic shelters SWF park is under construction water is off rest room closed. Parks outdoor events have been taken over Alex and her team rather than Park Maintenance. Limiting rentals for community buildings and giving staff time for COVID cleaning. Still operating under COVID capacity rules. Bookings for large venues at the Fairgrounds -targeting June 1st re-opening. State recently updated guidelines specifically for fairs -we will re-evaluate and monitor how that will impact the fair etc. Regular monthly meetings held with Fair manager and in process of finalizing the white house and T-Bird lease to the Fair. To open they need to operate at 70% capacity -group is looking at options. Pavilion-Kitsap Rescue Mission has finalized agreement to move to Olympic Center off mile hill in Port Orchard. Inspections must be passed, and occupancy permits issues. We have no timeline for move out yet. For scheduled events we do have alternative options. We have asked for a 5-15-21 update on the move out. We have communicated with all customers and are working with the BoCC to make every effort to provide alternatives. The county is looking for an interim location for the Kitsap Rescue Mission per Alex W.

Volunteer Program Update -Jackson Lee & Aaron Bartleson -Volunteers 2020 logged 17000 hours in parks. 13,000 hours in Heritage Parks. Thank you, letters, going out to Volunteers. Quite an accomplishment in a COVID year. Equates to 10 full time employees. Jackson -resilience and dedication describes our volunteers. WA Trails Association worked at NHHP, GC etc. in collaboration with our Stewards. Youth engagement pieces are being worked on we have utilized Youth Build especially at some smaller parks-Harper, Chico Salmon. Working with students at SKHS to implement of the masterplan at Howe farm. ADA path and garden is planned.

Forestry Update -Arno-Square Lake-ecological thinning started. The area is spectacular, especially the shoreline. Encourage PRAB members to schedule time with me for a visit.

Parks M & O-Alex Wisniewski -hired three summer help positions beginning May 1st. we will be busy with the COVIS guidelines relaxing a bit.

Parks project updates -Harper Park Bridge – Public Works Grant -managing the placement and installation of the bridge. We have an RFP out for bids for the installation. We are evaluating the 8 bids we received. Target timeline is the end of July.

Parks Administration – April discussion with the BoCC conceptual plan for how the department takes next and bigger strides over the next several years with projects and moves forward. Staffing will need to be addressed first. We have 5 vacancies of budgeted positions -we will move forward over the next year to fill those. Four positions are frozen due to COVID and we hope moving forward we can bring those back. We will be doing some internal evaluation to see how that will look. Reposition the department to move forward. Planning vacant, Project Management vacant, some administrative holes as well.

Staff transitions -Jackson Lee and Ashley Dupler are leaving us. Jackson is accepting a position out of state and Ashley is relocating. Thank you to both for your service, especially this past year. Budget request to

hire two additional summer seasonal staff for events to help support -anticipate finding out next week with a target start date of June 1st.

Joanne thanked Jackson, Linda Berry Maraist also thanked him for his dedication to the stewards and parks. Jon Pearson echoed those sentiments.

Alex brought up the annual work plan for the PRAB-items crafted for consideration-Park Code is old and needs to be updated, operational policies -events policy , Park Board By-Laws need to be updated to match the code, continue participation, review and input on the PG Masterplan and any other planning efforts for parks. Board to take up as item(s) for review.

Subcommittee Reports –

Community Outreach-Josh Hopp-strategic push additional youth engagement working with organizations and connecting with the High Schools. Continue to look for opportunities to engage with youth.

Parks & Property-Jon Pearson-Park code will be the focus for this committee. Need help from the legal representative for Parks.

Visitor Services-none-Jon talked about the Olympic Discovery Trail communication that had been out. Alex W. -it is a transportation project with public works who has received a grant for design work. Alex offered to reach out to David Forte to present on the STO trail which is our portion.

District Representative Reports:

Port Gamble Stewards -Linda Berry Marist - -we have covered some of it. Lot of interest in Forest regeneration to create a natural landscape. Ongoing timber harvest expected to be complete by early June. We will need to re-establish some paths. Aaron did receive the go-ahead from the director to do so. Working on the ranger trail management. Focus on removal of invasive species and scotch broom. Question is the DNR parking lot going to be open this summer as it is now. Commissioner Gelder is in discussion with them.

Banner Forest – Larry Walker -small work projects, gravel added to trails

Harper Park – shout out to Park Maintenance for keeping the parks garbage emptied by Jim H.

Old Business: none

New Business: There is interest in disk golf at with the loss of a private course. The course at the Fairgrounds is up and running the stewardship group will be meeting here with us next week. Joanne asked if maintenance could look at the ramp at the Olalla boat launch.

Code updates, PG Masterplan, Youth Engagement, Operational updates, Park Board By-Laws, Review of PROS plan to identify gaps.

Motion: none

Second: none

Discussion: The above identified projects to look at for the work plan

All in favor without motion or second

Adjournment

Motion: Larry W.

Second: Josh Hopp

Discussion: none

Action: Approve