

THURSTON COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
Development Services Conference Room
Olympia WA
March 2, 2004

PRESENT: Joel Staloch, Chair
Bernie Chaplin
Joseph Shorin
Mark Lovrien
Judy Johnson
Grant Larsen
Jon Halvorson

COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Oberquell
Commissioner Wolfe
Commissioner Macleod

STAFF: Don Krupp, CAO
Michael Welter
Chuck Groth
Kerry Hibdon
Sue Poyner
Linda Watkinson
Cheri Johnson

GUESTS: Bill and Jeannette Willis

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm

INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the January meeting were approved as written. The February meeting was cancelled.

2004-05 PARK BOARD WORK PLAN: The group reviewed the proposed Park Board Plan and each of the committees' tasks. The Board of Commissioners felt it was a good proposal and look forward to seeing the progress of each committee. Commissioner Macleod stated that he is anxious to see the work plan for the Friends of the Trail so he is able to get the word out about it. He also suggested that it would be a good idea to make contact with some of the area tribes in regard to scholarship money for the recreation division.

The question was asked how the Tenino swim program has done over the past couple of years since the City took over the administration of it. Sue reported that they have recently had a transition in staff and that she has offered her help administratively to keep the program running smoothly in the interim.

ORV PARK STATUS AND UPDATE: Don Krupp distributed a letter from Commissioner Oberquell to Laura Eckert, IAC Director, which lists several conditions and commitment by the IAC in order to properly run the ORV Park. The letter requests that Ms. Eckert share their proposal with the NOVA Advisory Committee at their March 8 meeting. The Board has been frustrated at how IAC has handled this issue.

Don stated that the County Risk Management had questions of whether the Risk Pool would fund the insurance for the park if it were to reopen. Based on worse case scenario, the cost for insurance would be a minimum of \$50,000/year and would only cover organized events. Michael stated that the master plan is

built around the goal that the park would wean itself away from organized events. Commissioner Oberquell stated that staff needs to be certain that there would not be coverage for nonevents.

Another issue surrounding the park is the legislation that may be going through that would cut funding toward ORV use in half. Several items are currently under consideration by the legislature right now that may effect a decision.

Commissioner Oberquell asked for the board's perspective of what they thought of the ORV Park closure and why it happened. The majority of the board members stated that they had no intention at the time of closing the park. They felt that the master plan, which they had recommended for approval by the Board of Commissioners, would have helped staff manage the site and turn it into a business enterprise. Commissioner Oberquell then asked them to consider what management could have done differently.

COOPER POINT PARK PROPOSAL/DISCUSSION: The Commissioner requested that there needs to be better communication between the Parks Board, staff, and the Board of Commissioners when property is being reviewed. The Parks Board stated that they were not prepared to recommend this site to the Board of Commissioners until they had time to put it through the standard park evaluation process. They had intentionally kept this to themselves until they could evaluate it and decide whether it warranted being recommended. It was a not a member of the Parks Board or staff that named the site to the media.

The Parks Board discussed the process they have in place to evaluate property that comes before them. The Commissioners requested that they be given some notification of the Parks Board intent to look at pieces of property so it doesn't come as a surprise to them later on. The Parks Board agreed and stated they would work at keeping the Commissioners informed.

It was suggested that Michael brief the Commissioners in the future on the process used by the Parks Board before property is evaluated. The Commissioners would like to see how the south county fits into the big picture plan and how county needs are balanced.

CONSERVATION FUTURES PLANNING: The Commissioners feel that just because the money is there, it doesn't need to be spent. They feel a proposed project would need to be a very viable project that would have environmental substance.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.