

THURSTON COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
Development Services Conference Room
June 1, 2004

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

GUESTS: Bill Willis

STAFF Michael Welter
Chuck Groth
Cheri Johnson
Sue Poyner

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – The minutes of the May meeting were approved as written.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – Commissioner Macleod stated he came to the conclusion that it would not be wise for the County to reopen the ORV Park. He explained how he came to his conclusion. He stated that he felt there were too many uncertain variables, including the unknown cost to the County for insurance, the cost for funding the noise mitigation, and uncertain funding from IAC in the future for operation costs. IAC has recommended that the County reopen the park and resolve the issues over a period of time. Commissioner Macleod does not agree with their idea. He envisions the park being operated by the State. Members of the board thanked Commissioner Macleod for his thoroughness in investigating this issue.

The Commissioner reported that the Rochester community has approached the County with interest in opening a community park in their area. He explained to them that the County does not have the financial means to help them construct a park, but told them it is doable depending on what they can spend.

RECREATION REPORT - Sue reported that the recreation division has received \$1200 in donations to date. This will enable staff to bring a lunch/playground program to the Rainier area this summer. Together! has also donated \$600 toward south county programs.

Sue reported that Bob Jacobsen from PARC has contacted her with interest in donating money to the four parks departments. Each department's budgeted recreation revenues for 2004 would determine the amount they would receive.

Puget Sound Energy Donation – Commissioner Macleod recommends coordinating with other departments who may be seeking contributions from the company. He stated that he would try to get firm figures from others as well.

PARKS REPORT – Chuck reported that the bacterial counts are very high on the beach at Burfoot Park. The pump station was checked at the caretaker residence but there was no sign of leakage. The Department of Ecology will be checking the water again today and may have to close the beach if it is still high.

PRAIRIE APPRECIATION DAY – The event this year was very successful with over 300 people attending. Volunteers have already begun planning for next year. John encouraged staff to take pictures of these events to put on the department's web page and to contact TCTV for media coverage.

Chuck talked about the need for playground equipment in the County parks. The Burfoot playground has deteriorated over the years and most of it needs replacing. Since the park is so popular with families, he is looking for the board's assistance in finding funding to acquire a new one and possibly a playground in all the parks. He estimates it will cost at least \$20,000 to replace the Burfoot structure.

Judy reported that while she was at the Prairie Appreciate Days, she was made aware of the water leakage issues at the caretaker residence. Black tarp covers the roof to keep the rain out. Staff stated that they have been aware of the issue and have had estimates of what it would cost to replace the roof. A couple of years ago the estimates came in at over \$40,000. The department has not had funding available to do the fix. Judy strongly recommended this become a high priority for the department. Michael stated that this has been on the Capital Facilities Plan as a \$50,000 repair. The board recommended staff get new estimates and include the costs to repair other damage caused by the leakage. Michael stated that staff will review the site and make a determination of whether it is worth repairing and will bring back their recommendation back to the board. The board advised staff to make their determination prior to winter.

ORV PARK UPDATE- The IAC Committee met May 21 and approved moving ahead with a judicial settlement with the County. Commissioner Macleod is hopeful that this will not go to court, that a settlement will be determined prior to it reaching that level.

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN 2005-2010 – As a follow-up to the previous meeting, Michael prepared for each member a diagram that outlines how Conservation Futures ideas becomes projects and the agencies and departments involved. He pointed out all the areas in which the public is able to comment on projects during the process. The board made suggestions as to how the diagram could be made easier to read for others. Michael noted this was developed to be used as a tool for staff and the board. Michael will work to clean it up so it is presentable to the public.

Michael distributed a draft of the Capital Facilities Plan and pointed out what changes have been proposed. The priorities of projects have not been changed only the year of completion. The ORV Park was removed from the plan.

Bernie suggested adding to the Priorities page that the Deschutes Fall Park is subject to a voter approved bond.

From this the board discussed a bond and what it would take to being moving this ahead. The board approved the draft plan and recommended staff move it ahead.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – The committee recommended maintaining the current Chair and Vice-Chair, Joel and Joe. The board approved the nominations and the two were elected back into their respective offices.

REGIONAL SPORTS PARK – The project is moving ahead quickly. The fields are near completion and will be ready for planting in approximately a month. Phase 2 will go out for bid this fall.

GRIFFIN FIELDS – There has been some rain which has helped germinate the grass, but much more is needed.

TCTV – The department will be featured on a TCTV segment on June 15. Staff will talk about the trails, parks and recreation programs. Joel will be present to represent the Parks Board. The board encouraged

staff to talk about the board's fundraising efforts, and the Friends of the Trails program that will be unveiled this fall.

COMMISSIONER'S BRIEFING – The board is invited to attend the briefing on July 28. This meeting is to hopefully get Board of Commissioners approval on the Deschutes Falls property and the Cooper Point projects.

ROCHESTER PARK PROPOSAL – The community has interest in developing a park in their community. Michael has spoken to them about the realities of the costs involved. He has not offered funding or administration help at this point.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.