

**THURSTON COUNTY**  
**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**  
Parks Department Conference Room  
Olympia WA

**October 5, 2004**

**PRESENT:** Joel Staloch  
Joseph Shorin  
Bernie Chaplin  
Mark Lovrien  
Judy Johnson  
Jon Halvorson

**ABSENT:** Grant Larsen

**GUESTS:** Bill Willis

**STAFF:** Michael Welter  
Chuck Groth  
Sue Poyner  
Cheri Johnson

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

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** – Jon noted that in the Recreation Report he and Bernie had suggested staff make their requests to the *Kiwanis Clubs*, not the Rotary Clubs. With this correction noted, the minutes of the August meeting were approved as written.

**RECREATION REPORT** – Sue reported that fall programming is in full swing. The annual Christmas Cruise is set to take place December 5 at the Olympia Yacht Club. The 28th Annual Tenino Halloween Festival will take place on October 30 along with the annual Ghostmuster Fun Run. Staff has scheduled their retreat for next week. They will focus on marketing ideas for next year, staffing levels for Special Service programs, and programs geared to adults. Sue stated that with the new responsibilities the Regional Athletic Fields are giving Wendi along with her other job duties is proving to be challenging. This will be part of their discussion also.

Mark suggested staff consider going on TCTV to talk about scholarships and donations for recreation programs. He said the department's website is not real clear about what and how to donate. Staff will look at trying to improve on this. Jon recommended the department link to the Kiwanis and Chamber of Commerce web sites.

**PARKS REPORT** – Chuck reported that the parks would remain open during the winter season. After evaluation, staff concluded that the benefit to the community by keeping them open far outweighs the amount of money saved.

Frye Cove Park – A citizen has donated his time and labor to construct steps down to the water. Jon suggested staff solicit the State Department of Ecology to provide labor for environmental projects within the parks.

Burfoot Park – The crew is reconstructing new rails along the trails to the beach at Burfoot Park. They are using materials that will help reduce the amount of maintenance and make them as permanent as possible. Staff is spending more time and money doing it this way, but it will pay off in the long run.

Trails – In an effort to reduce the amount of vandalism that is being done to the signs on the trail, the crew is replacing them with more secure and heavy duty ones. Security improvements are also being made to the kiosks. Signs have been posted stating that motorized scooters are not allowed on the trails per County Park Ordinance.

Griffin Athletic Fields – The grass has finally taken off and looks good. Goal posts and picnic tables are in place. A trail is being constructed around the fields with assistance from the Boy Scouts.

Kenneydell Park – A new entry sign has been installed to replace the one that was stolen. Staff is working on doing some field improvements during the off-season such as resodding around the goal posts. Approximately \$12,000 was generated from field use this last spring and summer.

Glacial Heritage – Chuck reported that the second burn was postponed due to the weather. The logging restoration project went real well. Staff is getting estimates for replacing the roof on the caretaker's house.

ORV Park – The IAC has written the County Commissioners stating that they are willing to meet only if the discussion focuses on reopening the park. The Commissioners are not interested in revisiting that issue, but would like to talk about resolving the issue of the property. If the park does not operate as an off-road vehicle park by November 2005, the special use permit for operating such a facility at that site would terminate and a new permit would have to be applied for.

**CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN 2005** - Two potential land acquisitions were discussed at this time. A 50-acre donation was also discussed. Michael encouraged those members who have been unable to visit the site to do so in order to get all acquisition evaluation forms completed for discussion purposes at the next meeting. Michael reported that the Gull Harbor property acquisition was pulled from the Capital Facilities Plan because it was anticipated that the acquisition would be complete by 2004. Therefore it needs to be added back in as a 2005 project. Mark moved, Jon seconded, that staff recommend to the Commissioners that the Cooper Point, Deschutes Falls, Allen, and Gull Harbor acquisition projects be added to the 2005-2010 Capital Facilities Plan at the public hearing on November 8.

**2005 BUDGET** – Michael reported that the budget calls for no new adds for 2005, and no new general fund additions. Michael has proposed that salary and benefit savings accrued to the department because the director position was abolished remain with the department and be used to offset increased operation, maintenance and interfund costs passed on to the department. This would insure that the goal of keeping the same general fund allocation in 2005 as received in 2004 is met. Otherwise, the department will incur a significant reduction, most likely in staff positions, in 2005 when no other county department is facing a reduction.

Staff will be requesting a \$50,000 general fund contribution to be used to get the Regional Athletic Complex up and running in 2005. It is the hope that the revenues from the fields' use will reduce the cost to operate the park in the future. The park will be different from the other County park facilities, as it will run as a self-contained operation similar to the ORV Park, using both Lacey and Thurston County employees and funding to manage it.

Staff also has requested \$70,000 in real estate excise tax funds for a new roof on the caretaker's residence at the Glacial heritage Preserve, to replace the road to the caretaker residence at Burfoot, and repair the siding on the caretaker residence at Kenneydell Park.

**REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX** – Amidst all the financial troubles the contractor is having, work is continuing and the project should be complete by the end of this year, and within budget.

### **2004 BOARD WORK PLAN PROGRESS**

Park Code – Joe has completed a red line draft of the codes and he, Judy, and Mark will review before bringing to the board for discussion. He used Skagit County's park codes as a sample.

**YELM-TENINO TRAIL** – Michael reported that it is likely that the trail will be paved all the way to Tenino before the end of the year, but he will report more on this at a later date. Because of the lack of funds, it was beginning to look as if the project would end halfway to Yelm.

**BRIDGE THE GAP PROJECT** – Negotiations with the Capital Development Corp. (CDC), owner of the South Sound Mall, have been going on for a right-of-way across their property. The South Sound Center right-of-way acquisition is complex because of CDC plans to enlarge the mall. Michael will keep the board apprised. The bridge over I-5 is funded from money allocated to WSDOT by the State Legislature. Federal funds are intended to pay for the bridges over Martin Way and Pacific Avenue.

**MCLANE FIRE DEPARTMENT** – The Fire Department bond passed and the County is moving forward with the proposed property trade. This should be finalized within a two-year period. The County is anticipating installing a traffic signal at the Delphi Road entrance as part of the negotiations.

**TRAIL ISSUES** – The Northwest Equestrian Center has requested 5 crossings on the Chehalis Western Trail. They currently have 3 approved crossings. Their goal is to make an Olympic-type facility and they need more. The Department does not agree that the requested crossings are to the best interest of trail users and have denied their request. They are appealing the decision to the Board of Commissioners and contend they have the right to cross. Staff will keep the board apprized of this issue.

Because of elections, the next meeting was moved to the second Tuesday in October.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm