

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

**November 9, 2004**

**PRESENT:** Joel Staloch, Chair

Joseph Shorin  
Bernie Chaplin  
Mark Lovrien  
Judy Johnson  
Grant Larson  
Jon Halvorson

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

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

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** – Jon noted that the minutes reflect that during discussions about the labor that was donated at Frye Cove Park, he suggested that staff solicit the State Department of Ecology for donated labor. It was actually Joe who made the suggestion. With this correction noted, the minutes of the May meeting were approved as written.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS** – Commissioner McLeod was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict in his schedule.

**PARK PROJECTS** – Chuck reported that the decision was made to keep the parks open during the winter season. The maintenance crew is in the process of winterizing the all the irrigation systems. The new rails on the beach trail have been installed at Burfoot Park. The worn areas in front of the soccer goals have been resodded at Kenneydell Park. Chuck has checked into the cost of replacing the sod with artificial turf, but found that it has not been cost effective for other jurisdictions that use it. The Frye Cove beach project is complete and looks good.

**ORV PARK UPDATE** – Michael reported that he, Don Krupp, and the Prosecuting Attorney met with a representative of the IAC and their attorney to begin negotiating a settlement. Commissioner Oberquell was present also. The main issue is that IAC feels the County has breached their contract. They stated that the County needs to pay them back the full-appraised value of the land and improvements and replacement cost of all the equipment without taking into account any depreciation. The County's position, on the other hand, is it should only have to pay the market value of the land and give them back what they can get from auctioning off the equipment. Neither entity could come to an agreement. The group stated that they would take the County's proposal back to

executive staff, but would not bring it to the IAC Committee until staff has given their approval. If IAC staff does not like the County's counter offer their intent is to sue. They also informed County staff that IAC is not interested in keeping the park as an ORV Park.

**CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN UPDATE** – Michael reported that the Capital Facilities Plan has been adjusted to include an additional \$1.38 million to acquire several projects:

Gull Harbor property  
Friendly Grove property  
Deschutes Falls property  
Cooper Point property

Michael reported that the property on Cooper Point still has not been listed through the realtor as of yet.

The Thurston County Agricultural Committee has met with the Commissioners and is interested in funding a new purchase of development rights (PDR) effort to preserve county farmland. If initiated, the program would be looking to utilize Conservation Futures funding. The program is similar to what County did several years ago to preserve the Nisqually Valley. The Board of Commissioners advised the committee to fund a study that would provide the results to be achieved and define the details of the proposal.

The CFP as proposed was approved and staff will move toward acquiring the properties after the first of the year.

**2005 BUDGET** – The department's budget request was sent up to the Board of Commissioners. It appears they will not fund the department's request for \$50,000 to fund the maintenance of the Athletic Complex at this time. Staff will follow up on this at a later date. The request for funds for improvements to the park properties was approved. Continued discussion will occur with the Commissioners on the department's proposal to continue to have access to the same level of general fund support in 2005 as the department had in 2004. The discussion is around holding onto the general fund contribution that originally paid for the Director's position and using it to fund ongoing department maintenance and operation needs in 2005. Michael stated that work on the caretaker residences' would begin at the first of the year.

Allen Property Donation – The board's evaluation of the property concluded that this property should be a high priority acquisition. Judy had not turned in her evaluation at time Michael compiled them all, but she stated that she also agreed with the outcome. With this, staff will take the results to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. Staff will move forward with the acquisition after the first of the year.

The suggestion was made to change the words **direct relationship** to **proximity** in Question #19 of the property evaluation form.

**2004 WORKPLAN PROGRESS REPORT** – Joe reported that the committee has a draft of the Park Codes and would like to present them to the board at the next meeting. Several policy issues need to be discussed prior to sending them out. The board agreed to set aside a block of time to devote to this.

**REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX** – The construction project is on target and work should be complete by the end of November. The contractor is having budget problems but it has not affected the project. Bids have not gone out for phase II development at this point. Michael will share the drawings for the next phase at the December meeting. Staff has placed a high priority on keeping this site well maintained and well groomed in order to draw and keep users. It will be in full operation in 2007. The plan is to have 2 full-time employees assigned to this site with a couple of seasonal staff. Revenues from users are what will allow the park to run on its own. Jon highly suggested that Michael attend the Steering Committee of the Public Facilities District to bring needed enthusiasm about the project. At the meeting the Steering Committee meeting will be making their decision between two projects: Phase II development of the Athletic Complex and/or the Hands on Museum.

**YELM-TENINO TRAIL** – Michael reported construction of the trail from Rainier all the way to Tenino City Park would be complete by the end of the year. Thanks to the Thurston County Roads Department and their dedication to seeing the trail complete, they have agreed to pay to finish the entire trail in asphalt. Without the Roads Department's in-kind assistance to this project, the trail would not have reached Tenino.

**BRIDGE THE GAP** – Negotiations are on going with Capital Development Corporation to acquire property that is necessary in order to construct the I-5 bridge. The bridge is currently in the design stages and the plan is that the Washington State Department of Transportation will go out for bid on it by September 2005.

**MCLANE FIRE DEPARTMENT** – The land trade between the fire department and the County is moving ahead. A few issues are still be negotiated but nothing out of the ordinary. The Parks Department is no longer being considered in the space planning strategy near the courthouse.

**ROCHESTER PARK** – Staff is still continuing dialogue with the Rochester community about developing a park in their area. Staff has informed them that they will offer technical expertise but no County funds will be used on this project.

**INDIAN SUMMER HISTORICAL PARK** – An environmental impact statement was done back when development first began at Indian Summer. The Statement indicates that Indian Summer development needs to set aside the site of the old Chambers Homestead as a historical site. The Parks Department may become involved because of the ongoing relationship the department has with the Historic Commission to preserve these type of historic areas.

**NORTHWEST EQUESTRIAN TRAIL CROSSING** – Michael reported that the owners of the ranch have appealed the department’s decision to only grant them 2 crossings instead of the 5 they requested. The Board of County Commissioners will make a written decision on the appeal within the next couple of weeks. Staff is anticipating that the appeal will go in favor of the equestrian ranch.

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