

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

December 7, 2004

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

ABSENT: Grant Larson

STAFF: Michael Welter
Chuck Groth
Cheri Johnson

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes were approved as written.

PARKS REPORT – Chuck showed some conceptual drawings of playgrounds for Kenneydell Park . Chuck has been working with the Kiwanis along with the area high school Key Clubs to begin fundraising for the equipment. He stated that he will also be contacting the area neighborhood associations to solicit their support. The goal is to raise between \$10,000 and \$20,000 toward the project. Mark suggested mentioning this on the department's website. Chuck stated that Burfoot Park will also eventually need a new playground structure to replace the existing old one.

Friends of the Trails – Chuck will be bringing a packet of information he has ready to present to the board at the next meeting. Bernie and Jon have already met with Chuck to review the information gathered. Since their meeting he came upon several new ideas that he is considering.

Jon reported that a member of the tandem club has talked to him about removing the gates on the trails to allow easier access for their bikes. Chuck stated that to date he has not been contacted by the club. Staff is well aware of the difficulty people have passing through the gates on bikes because of the design, and it is the department's intent is to eventually replace the gates as funds are available with revised ones that would allow bikes to pass through them more readily. They will be installed on the new section of the Yelm-Tenino Trail.

RECREATION REPORT – The annual Special Peoples' Christmas Cruise took place Sunday and more than 130 participants were served. The Olympia Yacht Club provides the boats and volunteers. It was a huge success.

Registration for the winter Specialized Recreation programs took place 2 weeks ago and already most of the activities are full.

Sports – On behalf of Wendi, Sue reported that the Thurston County Softball Association has disbanded and teams are looking to the area parks departments to run their leagues. Their games were all played at Bucknell Fields. Wendi has been communicating with the other parks departments to discuss how they can help fill this void. At this point Thurston County is considering picking up the slack in adult-competitive and youth leagues, which could mean a big jump in the amount of teams the department already serves in the summer. Staff has been researching the possibility of starting a softball league in the fall of 2005. Staff will be weighing the potential for more revenue against the impacts on staff.

Sue reported that the recreation division is moving into offering outdoor recreation and contracting out for services. Olympia Parks already offers programs in this area with much success. The department will be joining forces with Olympia Parks to offer kayaking classes this winter and spring. Staff is already looking into contracting for services in other areas of recreation as well.

The department has elected to begin drug testing on all part-time staff throughout the year rather than just summer staff. Currently, the only staff required to have drug testing are those with Commercial Driver's License.

ORV PARK UPDATE – The board's packet included a copy of the IAC's lawsuit against Thurston County. Michael stated that he would be meeting with the Prosecuting Attorney tomorrow to go over their claims. The IAC is asking the County to pay back the appraised value of the land and the current costs of all equipment without considering depreciation. Michael is aware that there is currently work going on at the legislative level to deal with park closures that have been IAC funded. The ORV Parks special use permit for off-road vehicles runs out in November of 2005. There would be many obstacles and issues to deal with if anyone ever tried to operate the facility as an ORV Park after the permit terminates. There is no interest by State Parks to take over running the park.

PARK CODE REVISIONS – The board had the following comments to the draft that the committee presented:

- Non-profit definition was discussed. The group will take that back for consideration.
- Trail – Use corridor in place of track.

10:76:050

- How is speed limit determined prudent? The surrounding circumstances need to be considered

10:76:060

- Change parking hours to park hours.
- Park Board – if the word is not used don't define it.

10:76:090

- Something needs to be mentioned about docking or loading boats for commercial use. Also, distance of motor boats to docks for swimmer safety.

The topic that will need to be addressed is the use of alcohol in swim areas and near athletic fields. This would allow staff to enforce users to acquire a banquet permit from the State Liquor Board.

Also address:

- Firearms

- Insert parts of the County ordinance. Chuck was asked to send the committee members a copy of the shelter reservation form and how it talks about amplified music.

The board was very pleased with the work the committee has done on the draft codes. Michael stated that there is little he would change, but he would make his comments and send them to the board to review.

NORTHWEST EQUESTRIAN TRAIL PERMITS - The Board of County Commissioners overturned the department's decision and granted the Equestrian Center all 5 of their requested crossing permits. They will need to obtain permits for each of the crossings and they must comply with all County ordinances.

ROCHESTER PARK – Nothing new to report at this time.

INDIAN SUMMER HISTORIC SITE – It appears the Parks Department will not be involved in the maintenance of this site as was discussed at the previous meeting. The Indian Summer Homeowners Association will be maintaining the site through an agreement with the Historic Commission.

THURSTON COUNTY/LACEY REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX – The City of Lacey and Thurston County have had an excellent working relationship on this project and staff has been very pleased with the coordination and final results. Phase I construction of the soccer fields is complete except for a few details.

YELM-TENINO TRAIL – The Roads Department wants to finish the section of the trail from Rainier to Tenino by the end of December, barring any unforeseen obstacles that may come up.

BRIDGE THE GAP PROJECT – Negotiations are still ongoing with CDC to resolve outstanding issues around how and where the I-5 bridge can land on the South Sound Center site without compromising future development goals of CDC. A partnership between TRPC, WSDOT, Thurston County, and the cities of Lacey and Olympia has been working on finding solutions.

COOPER POINT PROPERTY – The land has been appraised at \$880,000. Staff will need to move ahead quickly to secure this property.

PARC – A representative from PARC would like to come to a board meeting to talk about the organization and solicit a parks board member to serve on their board. Michael will send out information prior to the January meeting for further discussion and will invite the representative to the February meeting.

MEETING DATE CHANGE – Jon moved that the Parks Board begin holding their monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month instead of the first Tuesday beginning in January 2005.

Michael suggested the board hold one of their upcoming meetings at the McLane Fire Department. The board was agreeable to this idea.

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