

**THURSTON COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**
Parks Department Conference Room
Olympia WA
JANUARY 11, 2005

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

ABSENT: Grant Larson
Joseph Shorin

STAFF: Michael Welter
Chuck Groth
Cheri Johnson

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

APPROVALS OF MINUTES – The minutes were approved as written.

PARKS REPORT – Chuck reported that the trails have recently been swept. Paving of the Yelm-Tenino trail has been delayed due to the rain. Caretaker contracts for 2005 have been signed. There was a slight increase in their rental fee this year. Chuck will present his draft of the Friends of the Trail Program at the next meeting. His goal is to begin implementation of the program by the end of March 2005.

RECREATION REPORT – Sue introduced Gina Shaw, Recreation Program Assistant, and stated that she will begin bringing staff to future meetings. Gina has been assigned some of the responsibilities of Wendi Garrison, Recreation Supervisor, who will be leaving the department to begin work in Pierce County this month. She has been handed the task of supervising of the Specialized Recreation division. Gina also runs the special events. Gina talked about the ways she has been able to secure funding for many of the special event programs, such as the fun runs, teen activities, etc.

Sue brought the board up to date on donations, grants/sponsorships, and in-kind donations collected last year. Sue's goal is to secure \$2000 in donations for the scholarship fund in 2005.

Mark suggested including information on the department's website about donations and how the money has been used in the past. People don't know if they aren't made aware.

Judy suggested the board send a letter of recognition to Wendi for her hard work over the past 5 years. They also mentioned sending Gina a congratulatory letter for her new job responsibilities in the department.

ORV PARK UPDATE - Michael reported that Senator Karen Fraser, who will be chairing the Capital Budget process in the Senate this year, has drafted a proposal pertaining to the ORV Park issue. She is proposing that the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development appropriate \$1,600,000 to Thurston County to be used for the purpose of settling all claims against the County and Grays Harbor involving the closure and/or disposal of the ORV Park. Michael stated that the prosecuting attorney is reviewing all the files that pertain to the history of the ORV Park.

PARKS CODE REVISIONS PROPOSAL – Joe was not present so this item will be placed on next month’s agenda. Michael suggested that the definition for motorized vehicles include motorized scooters as well.

COOPER POINT PROJECT – Michael reported that the Board of Commissioners have authorized the department to continue negotiations to secure the land. He stated that he has heard mostly positive comments from the community about the Commissioners’ proposal to purchase the property.

TURNER PROPERTY – The Turner’s have returned to the County asking for more accesses to the trail. Commissioner McLeod stated the Board wants to make it clear to everyone that because the County did overturn the department’s policy concerning the Turner’s easement permit does not mean they will be taken advantage of. He also reported that the Board has requested the Historic Commission identify any historic sites along the trail.

PARC REPRESENTATION – This was added to the agenda to allow the board to discuss PARC’s proposal to solicit a park board member to serve on their board. A representative from PARC has contacted the Parks Department to get their help in promoting their big fundraiser in April.

It was noted that the representation on the PARC does not lean heavily on the Olympia side anymore. Judy stated that she feels that if there is no representation from this board then they would have no say as to how funds are spent. Sue stated that that the money the department received from PARC last year was very beneficial to the recreation division.

The board agreed to invite a representation to the next meeting. A list of questions was created:

What are the goals of this organization?

Who are the representatives on the organization and where are they from?

What is the value to this board to have representation on their board?

How will it affect other fundraising efforts by the department?

What are the checks and balances this group uses?

THURSTON COUNTY/LACEY REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX – Jon reported on the latest PFD meeting; there has still been no decision on how the money will be used. The next meeting is scheduled for January 24.

Staff is putting together the final punch list to bring phase I to closure. The PFD money is critical to complete phase II. The Board of Commissioners have given approval for staff to get an appraisal of adjacent property.

BRIDGE THE GAP – Michael is continuing to meet with those involved in this project. The Washington State Department of Transportation is continuing to work on a plan for the bridge over I-5.

MCLANE FIRE DEPARTMENT – The Board of Commissioners is supportive of moving the Parks Department into the fire station and has requested that staff provide an estimated cost for the move and the annual operating costs of the facility. Michael suggested holding the next board meeting out there to allow the board to view the facility.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.