

**THURSTON COUNTY**  
**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**  
McLane Fire Station Conference Room  
Mud Bay Road  
Olympia WA

**MARCH 8, 2005**

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

**ABSENT:** Grant Larson

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

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

APPROVALS OF MINUTES – The minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Jay Emery, a trail user, voiced his frustration and disapproval of the gates that are currently on the trail corridor. Mr. Emery feels the gates hinder the disabled but do not keep ATVs off as they are intended. He feels the County is out of ADA compliance and the gates should be removed. He states that he has spoken to many bikers with disabilities and they are all supportive of the removal of the gates. He said he is an avid user of the trail and finds the gates very annoying.

Michael stated that the gates were designed for safety purposes by controlling bikers before they enter crossroads. The existing design has worked but still can be improved upon, and the department will be installing new "Sunriver" design gates on the new section of the trail from Rainier to Tenino. The gates on the rest of the trail system will be replaced on a priority basis and when funding becomes available. The department has received minimal complaints about the gates from trail users.

Mr. Emery continued to make his point that the gates are not in compliance with ADA standards and that he would continue to pressure the County to remove them. He feels a bollard system would work better.

Mr. Emery agreed to meet with Chuck on the trail and give his input into the design of the gates.

RECREATION REPORT - Nick Herzog was introduced to the Board. Nick was hired March 1 as the new Recreation Supervisor, the position previously filled by Wendi Garrison. Nick will be in charge of all the sports programs including the new youth softball program.

Sue stated that she has requested \$2500 from PARC to go toward offering additional programs in Specialized Recreation.

Staff has been working on a donation link to the department's webpage. A list of contributors will be added for recognition. Joe encouraged staff to contact those that have contributed in the past for special events and to keep in contact with them.

PARK CODE REVISIONS – Joe presented the third draft for review, which included comments from previous meetings. Michael stated that he would make the minor changes that were mentioned this time and then forward it to the Prosecuting Attorney for comments:

- 10.76.130.3, ...annoy other park visitors, and do not disturb wildlife in any County park.
- 10.76.140, ...only in designated and/or posted... Use consistently throughout document.

PARKS REPORT – Chuck presented a revised draft of the Friends of the Trail membership program. The board was very supportive of the document. The following comments were made:

- In response to the issue of accessibility on the trail, it was suggested that "Improved Trail Accessibility" be added as a bullet.
- Remove Organization/Business Membership to encourage individuals to become Supporters, Builders and Protectors.
- Add a Lifetime Membership option. Work with the board to come up with a definition for this.
- Consider offering gifts as token of appreciation, newsletter, decals, etc., in step increments.

Chuck stated that his goal is to have the document approved by the end of April, and to unveil it to the public the end of May/early June. The board suggested unveiling it in June or July when the weather is good and people are out using the trail. With the comments noted, Chuck will make the revisions discussed and will bring back to the board at their next meeting. Michael will brief the Board of Commissioners of the program.

The Kenneydell Park ball fields will be opening for play March 15, weather permitting. Staff held their annual appreciation luncheon for the Roads Department and a record 87 people attended. The luncheon is held at the Kenneydell Lodge. Michael reported that as a token of appreciation for everything the Roads Department has done to complete the trail system, a structure at the trailhead will be constructed in their honor as an entry portal to the City of Tenino . Other recognition is also being considered.

Chuck stated that work has begun on the renovation of the roof of the caretaker residence at Mima Prairie. The other two caretaker residence projects are also underway.

ORV PARK UPDATE – Staff is continuing to compile information for the IAC. No news to report on the status of the bill presented by Senator Karen Fraser. A court date is set for September 2005.

2006 CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN – The board’s packet included two proposals: Gull Harbor preserve, and Black River Corridor. Eric Ehler of the Nature Conservancy will be attending the April meeting to give an overview of the projects. Michael stated that the board will be asked to complete an evaluation of each of the projects. The board discussed taking a field trip to the sites but no decision was made. Michael asked the board to give thought to potential projects to add in the 2006 Plan.

REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX – The board of Commissioners have given their approval to move ahead with the appraisal of the 26-acre lot adjacent to the Athletic Complex. Because of the inability of the area jurisdictions to make a decision concerning the Public Facilities District money, all work on Phase II has stopped. Phase I, however, is 95% complete.

FRIENDLY GROVE PROPERTY – Michael and Mark toured Mr. Nels Gordon property, the homeowner whose property is adjacent to the Friendly Grove property. He is willing to donate an easement across his land so the County can have access. Mr. Gordon is very supportive of the county’s plan to create a park on the Friendly Grove property. Staff has not moved toward acquiring the Friendly Gove property because of the access issue, but Michael feels Mr. Gordon’s offer would solve the issue. Staff will keep the board apprised as this move forward.

BRIDGING THE GAP – Michael reported that an agreement has been made with the CDC of where to land the bridge. The construction of the bridge over I-5 will be going out for bid in September.

YELM-TENINO TRAIL – Paving of the Yelm-Tenino Trail is expected to begin within the next two weeks.

MCLANE FIRE DEPARTMENT – Michael reported that the Board of Commissioners has given their approval to move forward on the move.

LASSEN TRUST – Staff has recently met with representatives of the Boston Harbor Association to discuss the Lassen Trust properties. They will be attending a park board meeting at some point to talk about their plan.

OTHER BUSINESS – Joel volunteered to meet with the PARC and represent the Parks Board.

There was discussion about putting time limits on public comment. The board felt it should not become a policy, but that the Chair deals with each on a case-by-case basis.

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