

**THURSTON COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**
Parks Department Conference Room
2617A 12th County SW
Olympia WA

APRIL 12, 2005

PRESENT: Joe Shorin, Vice-Chair
Bernie Chaplin
Mark Lovrien
Jon Halvorson
Grant Larsen

ABSENT: Judy Johnson

GUESTS: Joel Staloch
Commissioner Macleod
Eric Erler, Capital Land Trust
Bill Willis

STAFF: Michael Welter
Chuck Groth
Kerry Hibdon
Sue Poyner
Cheri Johnson

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

APPROVALS OF MINUTES – Grant's last name was misspelled in the minutes. With this correction noted, the minutes were approved as written.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS – Commissioner Macleod stated that Senator Karen Fraser has proposed an amendment in the Senate Operating Budget that allows counties that purchased land before 1978 for off-road vehicle sports parks to sell the land on the open market and give the money to the IAC, or give it to a state or local agency. This proposal will enable Thurston County to divest itself of the land without settlement costs. The Board of County Commissioners has discussed deeding the land to IAC who would then deed it to the DNR. Grays Harbor County has expressed some interest in acquiring it for ORV use.

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN – Eric Erler from the Capital Land Trust (CLT) talked about the Gull Harbor Project and CLT's request to amend its 2004 CFP Gull Harbor project funding request from the Thurston County Conservation Futures funds from \$133,566 to \$300,000. The amended amount is to secure two project phases that will protect a larger area of land. Mr. Erler provided maps of the area and talked about the benefits this unique piece of property will provide to Thurston County .

Jon moved that the Parks Board recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that they increase the amount of CFP funds for this project. Motion passed.

Mr. Erler also made a request for \$400,000 in CFP funds to acquire and protect 217 acres along Dempsey Creek. This property is adjacent to 50 acres already protected by conservation easements. This project is part of a larger initiative to conserve and restore wildlife habitat, prairie lands, and other natural areas along the Black River .

After discussion, the board requested overlay maps from GeoData of the property in order to get a perspective of the property's critical areas. The board felt that there might not be a need to purchase the property if the majority of it is environmentally protected. The board was also interested in knowing what the tax loss would be to the county if it were acquired. Michael will provide this information at the next meeting. Mr. Erler invited the Park Board on a tour of the property in order to get a better perspective of it.

Other considerations for the 2005-2010 CFP were distributed and discussed. Michael introduced Kerry Hibdon, Capital Projects Manager, who will be taking part in preparing the CFP in the future. Time will be set aside at the next meeting for further review of the Plan.

RECREATION REPORT – The newly formatted summer camp/recreation flyer was distributed. Sue talked about the programs staff is currently working on and getting prepared for summer. Summer employees will be brought on within the next month. Sue reported that the Parks Department is working cooperatively with the Rochester Boys and Girls Club to provide a spring break camp for the Rochester school area children. This has been a very positive venture and Sue is hopeful that it will lead to other recreational opportunities. The department was granted \$2,000 from PARC to provide outdoor recreation programs for people with special needs. Sue announced that the Alpine Experience is holding an auction on April 30 and all proceeds will go toward the PARC.

PARKS REPORT – Chuck reported on the 2005 facility improvement projects that have been completed.

Funding for these projects came from the Real Estate Excise Tax:

- The Glacial Heritage caretaker roof was replaced
- The access road to the caretaker house at Burfoot was paved
- Improvements were made to the caretaker house at Kenneydell

The current budget funded:

- A new gas stove insert in the Kenneydell Lodge
- New water spigots installed at Burfoot Park

Joe thanked the Board of County Commissioners for approving the funding to complete these projects.

Prairie Appreciation Day will be held at the Glacial Heritage Preserve May 7 from 10 am – 3 pm. The Boston Harbor Garden Club will hold their annual Arbor Day planting at Burfoot Park April 13. The Park Board was invited to attend.

Chuck reported that the Black Hills High School Key Club, a branch of the Kiwanis, has volunteered to take on fundraising to acquire and install two playgrounds at Kenneydell Park .

ORV SPORTS PARK UPDATE - If Karen Fraser's bill goes through the legislature, the County will have between now and 2007 to sell the ORV Park and give the money back to IAC. The County can also quit claim the deed to a public agency if it chooses, which would be a win-win for everyone. The non-conforming use permit that allows ORV use at the site ends November

2005. If an agency wants to open the park before that time, they must operate the park within the same use pattern as previously operated by the county.

Commissioner Macleod stated he would not remain silent in negotiations about any reference to noise mitigation that the County is working on. Mr. Willis shared his concern of the noise issue if the County turns the park over to others to operate. Staff will keep the board apprised as Karen Fraser's bill moves through.

YELM-TENINO DEDICATION – There will be a dedication ceremony on April 28 at 2 pm at Tenino City Park . An award will be presented to the County Roads and Transportation Department for their support and work on the trails project. Michael emphasized the importance of the Road and Transportation Department to the trail project and acknowledged that they went above and beyond what was anticipated. Kerry has been the lead staff member for the Parks Department. Commissioner Macleod suggested appointing someone from the Roads to accept the plaque from the Board of Commissioners at a regular Monday meeting.

Kerry reported that during construction of the trail near McIntosh Lake , the crew came across the remains of an old mill town. The Historic Society felt it is significant enough to acquire funding through a grant to construct a monument at the site next to the trail.

REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX – Staff is in mediation with the contractor for the last elements of the phase I project. The soccer fields will be playable this fall.

BRIDGING THE GAP – Nothing new to report. The project is still moving ahead.

CAPITAL PROJECTS – Michael reported that the Cooper Point property, the property adjacent to the Deschutes Falls Park , and the 26 acre parcel next to the Regional Athletic Complex are all in the appraisal process.

Friendly Grove Property – the adjacent property owner, who came to the board with an offer to provide an easement to the County to access the Friendly Grove property, has taken back his offer. However, the County will continue to work toward acquiring the Friendly Grove property.

ROCHESTER - Michael reported that he and Commissioner Macleod will be providing assistance to members of the Town of Rochester in their efforts to develop a park in their town.

Jon Halverson gave an update to the PFD issue. There continues to be no decision made.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.