

**THURSTON COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**
Parks Department Conference Room
2617 A 12th Court SW
Olympia WA 98502

JUNE 14, 2005

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

ABSENT: Grant Larson
Joe Shorin
Judy Johnson

STAFF: Michael Welter
Chuck Groth
Kerry Hibdon
Cheri Johnson

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

APPROVALS OF MINUTES – Michael stated that Commissioner Oberquell had communicated to Michael that it is a Non-Conforming Use Permit that expires in November at the ORV Park . Discussion at the meeting had been about a Special Use Permit. The minutes were changed to note this prior to the minutes being mailed. With this correction noted, the minutes were approved as written.

RECREATION REPORT – Sue was unable to be at the meeting so Michael gave this report: The Recreation division has received an additional \$600 from PARC along with the 3 other jurisdictions. The money will be used toward specialized recreation programs.

Sue is working to open a new camp at McLane Elementary School . Since Perpetual Motion has closed, there is a need for a day camp in that area and staff is hoping to fill it. So far, there has been a lot of interest by parents in the area. Over 200 children are registered for the youth softball program this summer. This is the first year the department has offered this program. Swede Day Fun Run is set for Saturday, June 18 in Rochester , and Lakefair Kids Day, part of Lakefair, is coming up July 16. Bernie expressed interest in volunteering at the event and asked if any of the other board members would be interested in doing the same. It was suggested that he send out an email to all the members asking for their interest.

PARKS REPORT – The 2005 Pacific Challenge put on an event at Burfoot Park and approximately 100 youth spent the weekend in the park. This was a prearranged event through Chuck. He reported that, although staff had to repair problems with the water and electricity at the park, overall all went well and the group said that it was a big success. Several dead trees at Burfoot Park are going to be removed and the County Roads Department has agreed to take them down.

Staff has begun mowing the athletic fields at the R.A.C. twice a week now and have been putting in about 40 hours of staff time a week. A lot of issues, such as fertilizing, have not been addressed at this point. Several thousand dollars worth of vandalism to the restroom and sprinklers have been reported. Staff is working with the City of Lacey on ideas for security.

The office has received several reports of overgrown vegetation on the trail, but staff has been unable to mow because the mower is broken.

Chuck reported that Fox Hall Film Company will be shooting portions of a movie at the Glacial Heritage Preserve. They mainly want to use it as a backdrop. A June 28 prairie management burn has been postponed due to the grasses and vegetation being too green.

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN – Kerry has been working to prepare the final draft of the CFP. The Darling Creek property acquisition is not included. The board discussed the tour they took of the Darling Creek property and did not feel it gave them a true perspective for what it all included. They felt that a topographic map depicting the sensitive areas would be more informative. They questioned whether it is prudent to spend Conservation Futures Funds to preserve it when there may not be enough land suitable or of interest to a developer anyway. Staff will work on providing a map for the next meeting.

Jon moved that the board approve adoption of the Capital Facilities Plan for 2006-2011. The motion was seconded. It was suggested making one of the funding sources Conservation Futures Funding. The board will discuss the Darling Creek property for final vote at the next meeting. The motion passed.

The park at West Bay will be redefined as a park in the West Bay Region and moved to priority #6.

PARKS PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE – At the last meeting the board talked about how the money from the Conservation Futures Fund could be used toward ongoing maintenance in the park facilities. Chuck and Kerry presented the board with a list of projects in priority order and the estimated costs associated with the projects. Several of the board members feel that the deferred maintenance items need to be the highest priority.

Mark stated that the County has always been reactive to maintenance issues rather than proactive. This needs to be turned around or assets will be lost for lack of maintenance.

The board felt in order to get a perspective of the maintenance needs in the parks they would try to set up a tour of the facilities to see the immediate priority needs. A tentative time was set for the next regularly scheduled board meeting. They would meet at 5:30 and review the Darling Creek property maps prior to the tour. Joel will follow up with each board member.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE – Bernie reported that the Committee nominated Joel and Mark for Chair. The candidate who receives the most votes will be Chair and the other will serve as Vice-Chair. Because 3 of the board members were absent, an email vote will be taken.

MCLANE CEMETARY - The Thurston County Historic Committee has been active in trying to get the Parks Department to take over the maintenance and upkeep of the McLane Cemetery. They are planning a documentation project and work party day to clean up the site similar to the project they completed on the Mima Cemetery. Kerry reported that the Historic Committee is also planning on placing a marker at the site of the old town of McIntosh along the Yelm-Tenino Trail in August.

REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX – The final acceptance of the site is dependent on the step system. Security systems are being researched.

CAPITAL PROJECTS – The appraisals have come back on the 26-acre site adjacent to the R.A.C. and the property next to the Deschutes Falls . Appraisals are still pending on the ORV Park . When the appraisal comes in the County will need to consider getting it on the market immediately to preserve its non-conforming use as an ORV Park . Grays Harbor County is still considering taking over management of the park.

BUDGET ISSUES/PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT – In a recent countywide study to learn from county residents what programs and services they find most valuable, the results showed that parks and recreation was rated the lowest priority of county government services. Michael noted that the results of the survey suggested that all services offered by the County were important, but law enforcement/court activities clearly were of a higher priority than parks and recreation. He noted that there are no plans for immediate lay-offs or huge budget cuts. Rather, the information will be used to ensure that the County is supporting citizens' priorities.

OTHER ISSUES – Mr. Jay Emery has written a letter to the Board of Commissioners regarding his concern that the gates on the trails are not ADA compliant and has threatened a lawsuit if they are not removed.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm