

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

MARCH 3, 2006

MINUTES

PRESENT Mark Lovrien, Chair
Bernie Chaplin
Jon Halvorson
Donna Weaver
Judy Johnson

ABSENT Carla Rutz
Grant Larsen

GUESTS Commissioner MacLeod
Evergreen University Students
Rod Knapp

STAFF Michael Welter
Chuck Groth
Kerry Hibdon
Cheri Johnson

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

MINUTES – The previous meeting minutes were approved as written.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – Commissioner Macleod stated that the Board of Commissioners were very pleased with the amount of public input that was received at the workshop.

COOPER POINT PARK WORKSHOP REPORT – Michael introduced the Evergreen students who participated in the workshop. They distributed a copy of their report and gave a summary of each section. The students were very pleased with the outcome and felt they learned a tremendous amount about public meetings. Over 100 members of the public attended the meeting, which went very well and a lot of good input was received. Staff was very impressed and pleased with their efforts.

PARKS REPORT – Chuck displayed a banner that was recently acquired for the Friends of the Trails program. Mark Hoy's sign company donated the banner and it will be used at all Parks and Recreation events to bring attention to the program. The banner was recently displayed at the Fun for Luck fun run put on by the recreation division. Other trail events are being planned, including one in cooperation with Panorama City. Chuck's plan is to get the word out about the program as much as possible. Mark Lovrien suggested adding a comment on the website that states that donations to the F.O.T.T. is tax deductible.

Monarch Sculpture Park – As part of the delineation of their trail permit, the business has agreed to provide sani-cans for trail users. They will be responsible for maintaining them as well.

Starbucks has begun a campaign to give back to the community. Starbucks employees are encouraged to provide volunteer labor in parks and on trails. The corporation will give \$10 to the parks department for every volunteer hour donated by their employees, up to \$1000. Starbucks also offers grants, which Chuck will be working on securing this fall.

Kenneydell Park – The drainage project on the soccer field is complete and staff is now preparing the fields for spring use.

R.A.C. – Field use begins April 1 Kerry stated that staff is working cooperatively with the City of Lacey on a vendor contract.

Griffin Park – Work is still progressing toward installing a well at the site. The baseball/softball fields will be up and running this summer for the first time.

Monument – Kerry is in the process of designing a monument to be situated at the site where the Town of MacIntosh once stood on the Chehalis Western Trail. The Thurston County Historical Society has set aside grant money to be used toward this. Ultimately, a trailhead is planned for the site.

Town of Rainier – The town is doing some improvements to their town center and will be planting trees and doing some landscaping along the trail.

Glacial Heritage Caretakers – The caretakers will be vacating the house this month. Applications for new caretakers have been accepted and staff will be reviewing them. Judy expressed her disappointment at the way the department handled their eviction. She feels the department will be losing an asset to the prairie preservation project when the caretakers leave. Michael explained that staff is looking at several options to continue the volunteer program even though the current caretakers were not the center of the operations, as they led people to believe.

The annual Prairie Appreciation Day is planned for May 6 at the Glacial Heritage Preserve. Chuck reported that a rare species of butterflies were released today in prairie.

A new full-time maintenance position has been added to the budget with funding coming from Conservation Futures. Staff is in the process of reviewing applications.

RECREATION REPORT

Gina Shaw, Recreation Program Assistant, has resigned to take a position with the City of Sea Tac Parks and Recreation. Staff hopes to fill this position by May 1.

Volunteer Citizen – Sue nominated Susan Zoccola for the Kiwanis Volunteer Citizen of the Year. Susan and her husband Terry have volunteered for the special services division for years. Susan is one of the top 5 candidates. The final decision will be made March 20 at a special luncheon.

PARKS MAINTENANCE ISSUES – As a follow-up, Mark recounted that the board had agreed to assist staff in determining and prioritizing maintenance issues and projects within the parks. The board had spent one afternoon last fall touring one of the parks and looking at the maintenance needs. Mark feels this should be a priority this year and would like to schedule more walk throughs. The board was asked to bring their calendars to the next meeting.

POTENTIAL GRANT/CAPITAL PROJECTS – This will be discussed at a later date. Leveraging money from the Cooper Point park property and determining where to use it is a point of discussion.

Michael reported that a couple of projects from the Conservation Futures group would be brought to the board to review at the next meeting.

Jon asked that a copy of the site improvement project list be distributed to the board. Michael stated that he would email it out.

PARC Representative – A new representative needs to be appointed to the PARC board to replace Joel Staloch.

Mission Statement Approval – Staff has been doing some high performance team building and has come up with a proposed mission statement for the department and is requesting the board’s approval. The board approved the adoption of the mission date.

Trails – Staff is continuing to wait on a decision by the Feds on how to proceed with the gates issue.

Bridging the Gap – Washington State Department of Transportation is in the process of acquiring right-away around Sound South Center. There are plans to go out for bid for construction within the next 30 days.

Public Facilities District – Jon reported that he was reelected as Chair of the Finance Committee.

Rochester Park – Michael and Commissioner MacLeod are continuing to work with the Town of Rochester on their plan to build a park in the playground of the old school.

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