

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

APRIL 11, 2006

MINUTES

PRESENT Jon Halvorson
Bernie Chaplin
Donna Weaver
Judy Johnson
Carla Rutz
Grant Larsen

ABSENT Mark Lovrien

STAFF Michael Welter
Chuck Groth
Sue Poyner
Cheri Johnson

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

MINUTES – Jon noted that that the board approved the adoption of the mission statement, not mission date as stated in the minutes. Also, Jon was re-elected President of the PFD Board. With these corrections noted, the minutes were approved as submitted.

RECREATION REPORT – Staff is working on quarterly reports and will present them to the board when they are complete.

The after school enrichment programs at Griffin and Rochester schools have been very successful. Staff is looking at going out for a grant next year. They will also be looking at moving in the Rainier community with the same type of after school programs.

The recreation division served over 200 participants in Specialized Recreation, and over 100 participants in Special Olympics, due in part that Special Olympics was offered as a free event this year. Nick, Recreation Supervisor, was able to secure some large sponsorships that enabled the department to provide Special Olympics training free of charge.

Sue reported on the numbers of participants in the various sports; over 1000 participants will be served through youth soccer, coed adult softball, and adult soccer this year.

The is PARC Foundation will be holding their annual Alpine Experience Life Auction to raise money to support youth recreation programs May 6 at the Alpine Experience store. Sue encouraged everyone to attend. Last year the Foundation awarded the parks department approximately \$4,500 that was used for outdoor recreation programs.

The first annual Trail Day program is scheduled for May 13 starting at Chambers Lake trailhead. It is an event to promote trail use and encourage health and fitness. Chuck will also be bringing attention to the Friends of the Trails program. Staff hopes to expend this event to other communities next year.

MAINTENANCE REPORT – Chuck reported that he met with representatives from Panorama City to promote the F.O.T.T. program and distributed flyers. Chuck was invited to participate, along with Becky Oetter, on Panorama City’s local T.V. show to talk about F.O.T.T. Becky, Recreation Program Assistant, talked about the Walk About program on the trail for people with special needs.

Chuck is negotiating with an equestrian group to maintain a section of the trail for horse use. If this is successful, other equestrian groups may want to follow and adopt other sections.

Chuck will report back at the next meeting how people have currently contributed to F.O.T.T. Over \$1900 has been received to date.

Several Eagle Scout projects have been proposed to the department this year; adding picnic tables to the parks, extending Loop Trail around Griffin Park, and eradicating Scotch Broom and planting native plants along the trails. Only 2-3 Eagle Scout projects are awarded each quarter so as not to over-burden staff with supervising the projects.

The annual Arbor Day planting at Burfoot Park Memorial Garden will take place on Thursday, April 13 from noon to 2 p.m. Refreshments will be provided to those who attend. May 6 is Prairie Appreciation Day at Glacial Heritage. This year a commemorative monument will be placed on the site in recognition of the people who played a significant role in the acquisition of the Glacial Heritage Preserve.

New Staff – The maintenance division recently hired Mike Deibert as a Building and Grounds Maintenance Specialized. His position will be funded using a portion of Conservation Futures Funds. Staff is looking to go to the Board of Commissioners to get approval to create an additional maintenance position due to the increased number of contract sites the department maintains. These sites include maintenance of the landscape around County-owned buildings and storm water ponds. The maintenance of these sites and additional park properties has increased significantly and staff is hopeful the Board will approve the ¾ time position. Funding would come from the money received from the County contract sites.

Starbucks – Chuck reported that 4 Starbucks employees volunteered at the 67th Street trailhead to clean up the area. Their hours will be matched with the Starbucks Corporation and the money will be given to the department to use toward parks and trails.

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN – Michael talked about the process used to develop the Capital Facilities Plan for the benefit of the new board members. The board was asked to review the documentation he presented for discussion at the next two meetings. It was suggested that a line be added for “other resources” to accommodate donations by the public.

Michael stated that the Darling Creek property is now called the Mima Creek Riparian Area and managed by ???.

An issue that will need consideration by the board is the value of the Cooper Point property and its leverage potential for an IAC grant and what project, if any, to use it toward. Kerry and Michael will draft a list of potential projects for the board to review. The board’s recommendation would be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval. The Department received a waiver of retroactivity for the next two grant funding cycles.

PARKS PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE – The board discussed the benefits of visiting the park sites and viewing the maintenance projects that are being considered. They agreed that it is always positive to visit the park properties, especially for the new members. After further discussion, the board will meet on May 4 at 4 pm to visit Frye Cove, Louise H. Meyers, and the Griffin Athletic fields. Staff will provide dinner.

The board did not feel it was necessary to make a special trip out to see the bollards on the trails, but did think it would be good to visit the R.A.C. With this idea, the board agreed to visit the R.A.C. before the next meeting in May and then meet afterward at the Lacey Fire Station to resume their meeting.

PARC – Mark Lovrien was nominated to replace Joel Staloch as the representative from the Park Board on the PARC committee. Since Mark was not present, Jon stated that he would inform him of the nomination. Carla said she would be interested in serving next year if she is available.

BRIDGING THE GAP – Land has been acquired at the South Sound mall and at the corner of Martin Way and I-5 to begin the next phase of the project. The construction phase is out for bid.

NEXT MEETING – Donna was asked to speak about Rochester’s proposed park project and trail projects. Donna suggested _____ be invited to speak because they are more familiar with both of them.

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