

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

AUGUST, 2006

MINUTES

PRESENT Mark Lovrien, Chair
Bernie Chaplin
Jon Halvorson
Donna Weaver
Grant Larsen

ABSENT Carla Rutz

STAFF Michael Welter
Chuck Groth
Sue Poyner
Cheri Johnson

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

MINUTES – The previous meeting minutes were approved as written.

RECREATION – This year marked the 24th year that the department has offered an overnight camp to people with mental and physical disabilities. This was the 16th year that it has taken place at Camp Cascade in Yelm. Sue will bring pictures from the camp at the next meeting. The regular day camps served 85-100 campers a day all summer. PARC funding was used to help provide a rock climbing trip and kayaking trip for teens.

Kids Day at Lakefair saw approximately 500-800 kids at this free event. The weather was very hot which might have kept attendance down.

Specialized Recreation participants, along with staff, spent a Saturday morning washing cars in the first annual car wash fundraiser. Approximately \$400 was raised in the 3 hour period. This money will be directed toward the Specialized Recreation Appreciation Barbecue at the end of August.

Nick, Recreation Supervisor, was able to form an adult coed softball league this year. Five teams joined the league for the first year of this event. There is a limit to the number of fields that are available and have lights.

Sue stated that next year the department will target Yelm for recreation programs and events. Staff will be spending time planning this fall.

The Thurston County Sheriff's fundraiser raised \$2500 for Special Olympics this year. This has enabled the department to offer the Special Olympics program training to athletes free-of-charge. Staff is hopeful that the event will continue in the future. Right now there is a question as to whether it will or not.

Approximately 10,000 bike riders used the Yelm-Tenino Trail this year during the Seattle-to-Portland bike race. There were no complaints by the organizers and only a few minor ones by the riders.

PARKS REPORT – The controlled burn at Glacial Heritage Preserve was cancelled in July due to a lack of volunteers. The next opportunity will be later in August. Chuck will keep the board apprised. The preserve was granted another \$80,000 from NRCS for prairie restoration. The department is unable to place a caretaker at the preserve due to the heating system being damaged. In the meantime, the Nature Conservancy is helping to oversee the property. Staff will be working to find funds to replace the furnace, but it is not in the budget for this year.

The fields at the R.A.C. are showing signs of wear from the intense use this summer. Staff will be testing a new fertilizer that claims to be better suited for athletic fields.

As part of a beautification effort in Rainier, staff planted approximately 100 trees along the trail corridor that had been donated to the department. Also, areas along the trail where people have dumped garbage were cleaned up.

The power has been turned on at the Griffin Athletic fields in preparation of putting in a well. Kerry is working with the Griffin School District to complete this project. The plan is to have irrigation installed next year.

Starbucks is sending their first check of \$600 for the first volunteer work day event in the parks sponsored by Starbucks. Chuck has had discussions with the company of new ways of doing the volunteer days next year. They would like to see more participation by their employees.

Chuck reported that Greg Williams was hired to fill a maintenance position to focus on the contracted sites the department maintains throughout the County system.

PARKS PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM – The board discussed whether to continue to tour the sites in order to get a better perspective of the maintenance needs in the parks. They agreed that it was not necessary until the list was narrowed down. Michael stated that if a maintenance plan is prioritized and approved by the board, it may elevate the need to use excise tax money allocated to parks to use toward the costs to maintain them. At the board's request, Michael will check into the exact amount currently in the R.E.E.T. budget.

After further discussion, the board requested that Chuck update the maintenance needs list and email it by the end of next week. The board will each give their ranking and it will be discussed at the next meeting. They agreed to visit the sites of the top 3 maintenance items. The board will potentially prepare their recommendation at the next meeting.

2007-2012 CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN – Lacey is moving ahead with phase II of the Regional Athletic Complex. They are hopeful to begin construction in the spring of 2007. The negotiations are continuing on the 26 acres of land adjacent to the park.

PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT UPDATE –

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN – The Plan came in with the same amount as last year. There was some money set aside for any unforeseen acquisition.

PARK BOARD VACANCY – Staff will advertise it in the paper as an at-large position. Those who applied for the last board vacancy will also be sent a notice.

Due to some health issues, Michael reported that Carla Rutz's future on the board is uncertain at this time. He will know more next month.

BOARD MEMBER AGENDA ITEM – Donna stated that she received a call from a railroad real estate representative regarding a 25-year use agreement of the Gate-Belmore trail. Donna stated that the communities vision is to connect in phases the railway as a walking trail to the schools to and other parts of the community.

Donna stated that the Rochester Park project is moving ahead. A conceptual plan has been completed.

TRAIL ISSUES – Michael reported that the department has still not received any official word about the gates. Mr. Emery received the findings several months ago.

The ground-breaking for the Bridging the Gap project went well and construction is moving ahead quickly. The Department of Transportation hopes to have the bridge open in December of 2006. The County Roads and Transportation is designing the bridge to go over Martin Way and Pacific Avenue. The City of Olympia will be installing lighted crosswalks until the bridges are built.

2007 BUDGET – The County is calling for a no-growth budget for 2007. This may mean reductions in the department because of the 4.6% living increases, and increased costs in internal services that will not be added into the department's budget.

BOSTON HARBOR LAND TRADE PROPOSAL – The Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association has sent out a survey of their draft Open Space Plan to the Boston Harbor neighbors.

The property owner who is interested in a land exchange with the County has contacted Michael asking if the board has made it's decision regarding his land. Mark will reply with a letter explaining the board's position.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE COLLECTION POLICY – Michael distributed a draft copy of a proposed policy regarding past due accounts. Michael asked the board review the policy and he will add it to next months agenda for discussion and adoption.

MCLANE FIRE STATION – All permits have been approved for the fire department to begin construction of their new facility. It appears they may be moving into their building in the fall of 2007.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.