

**THURSTON COUNTY  
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**

2000 Lakeridge Dr SW  
Room 280 Building 1  
Olympia, WA

**MARCH 13, 2007**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT** Jon Halvorson, Chair  
Bernie Chaplin  
Donna Weaver  
Grant Larsen  
Larry Schaffner

**ABSENT** Donald Krug

**STAFF** Michael Welter, Director  
Chuck Groth, Parks Operation Manager  
Kerry Hibdon, Capital Projects Manager  
Sue Poyner, Recreation Program Manager  
Cheri Johnson, Administrative Assistant  
Nick Herzog, Recreation Supervisor

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Member Larsen moved to approve the February 2007 minutes. Member Weaver-Smith seconded. Motion passed.

**RECREATION REPORT** – Sue Poyner reported that staff has submitted a proposal to the PARC for \$5,000 to be used toward teen programs and specialized recreation. PARC was able to provide each of the local Parks Departments with \$5,000 last year that was used toward various recreation programs. Ms. Poyner introduced Nick Herzog, Recreation Supervisor, who gave a summary of the department-sponsored sports programs. Mr. Herzog talked about the Athletic Fields reservation process that the department adopted 3 years ago and how it works. He explained that the priority of use is not distinguished by user or age group, but by whether it's a tournament, game, or practice, in that order. Mr. Herzog explained that this priority was agreed on by staff at the beginning because of the quality of the fields at the Regional Athletic Complex (R.A.C.) and is consistent with how the cities prioritize reservations for most of their fields.

Mr. Herzog referred to the letter in the board's packet from Mr. Martinez. He stated that he would work with him to meet as many of his needs for field times as possible, but would not deviate from the field allocation policy the department has in place.

Director Welter stated that last year the operating expense for the department was \$150,000 and revenue was \$25,000. In phase II and III facilities will be in place to hold special events which will help offset the costs of operation. He spoke about the possibility of phase II construction including the installation of one or two artificial turf fields which is expected to bring in added revenue. Member Schaffner questioned whether the cost of replacing the artificial turf when it wears out has been considered and included in the long-term maintenance program. It was explained that the durability of the turf surfaces has improved in recent years and now can be expected to last between 10 to 12 years.

Mr. Herzog reported that the R.A.C. will be the home fields for St. Martin's University men's and women's soccer teams this year while they are constructing their own fields.

Last year the department was able to offer Special Olympics to athletes free-of-charge due to contributions received from the Sheriffs Department annual Special Olympic fund-raiser. Mr. Herzog found out yesterday that funding from the State Special Olympics office may not be available this year because of concerns expressed about how some of last year's funding sources. He is in communication with the state office and hoping to clear this up. This year, for the first time, the Basketball team won gold and two area athletes won gold and silver at the State Special Olympics meet in Tacoma. The board felt it would be a good idea to honor them in a special way.

**PARKS REPORT** – Mr. Groth gave a summary of the costs and labor associated with removing the gates on the trails and installing the single bollards. He estimates it will take approximately 6 months to complete the project. Funding for the bollards has been secured through the REET fund. Member Chaplin voiced significant concern regarding the liability at the 89<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection when the gates are removed due to the speed of traffic in that area. Staff shared their concerns with 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SR 507 as well. Staff stated that there are several very hazardous intersections on both trails that will be evaluated before removing the gates.

Mr. Groth reported that Greg Williams has recently been hired as a Building and Grounds Maintenance Specialist to fill a 9-month FTE position. The Board of Commissioners gave approval to fund this position for 2 years.

The maintenance staff honored the County Roads crew with a lunch held at the Kenneydell Lodge. This has become a tradition for the department.

Upcoming events of interest include:

March 24 – Starbuck's quarterly volunteer day

April 12 – Arbor Day celebration at Burfoot Park

Mary 5 – Prairie Appreciation Day at Glacial Heritage Preserve

May 12 – Annual Trails Day

Mr. Groth reported on two Eagle Scout projects:

- 1) A trailhead is being constructed in the City of Rainier which will include a cement pad for a kiosk, a bench, trash receptacle, and some plantings. Most all the materials have been secured with donations from businesses through the efforts of the scout doing the project.
- 2) Needed trail improvements at Kenneydell Park.

**DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS** – Mr. Hibdon reported that the swimming pool at the Glacial Heritage Preserve caretaker house has been removed as part of the renovation of the house. With most of the work being completed on the project, staff is hopeful to have a caretaker in the residence sometime in April. The person selected for the position will be responsible for taking care of the facility to meet the needs of the department, locking the gates, and maintaining a good relationship with the folks from the Nature Conservancy who work out at the preserve. The position will be advertised in the newspaper. Member Weaver-Smith suggested staff contact the Rental Association Board for background checks on potential renters.

Mr. Hibdon will be overseeing the construction of the last two soccer fields at the R.A.C. this summer as part of phase II. Things are moving ahead on the Smith Lake parcel acquisition. The department will receive approximately \$3,000 from FEMA which will need to be used toward the repairs in the parks, such as rebuilding the shelter at Kenneydell.

Mr. Hibdon reminded the board that the next park tour will be held March 30 at 1:00. The sites that will be visited are the Griffin Athletic Fields, Cooper Point property, and the Glacial Heritage Preserve. He stated that he would be willing to take any of the members to any of the park sites during his regular weekly visits. If anyone is interested, please contact Mr. Hibdon.

**CONSERVATION FUTURES PROJECTS** – Director Welter stated that two projects are under consideration and will be reviewed by several agencies to decide whether to adopt them into the Capital Facilities Plan. He will invite representatives from the Nature Conservancy and the Capitol Land Trust to give a presentation on the projects at the next meeting. The board was asked to review the proposals prior to that meeting.

**COMPREHENSIVE PARKS PLAN UPDATE** – Kerry gave a summary of the projects list from the Comprehensive Plan and how the list becomes part of the Comp Plan. This will be part of the discussion at the retreat next week. Staff will provide narratives for each of the projects.

There was discussion about the REET fund and how the money can be used. Director Welter stated it was set up for funding infrastructure that promotes tourism.

**2007 PARKS BOARD RETREAT** – The agenda will include the following items:

- Maintenance needs list
- Meet and greet
- Strategy for revising Comp Plan and assignments
- Board goals
  
- Recreation program needs

Director Welter reported that the candidate that the board had requested he contact to fill the District #1 vacancy has accepted the offer. He is hopeful to get the Board of Commissioner's approval at their next regular meeting.

Director Welter distributed a list of topics that will be part of the Comp Plan discussion.

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