

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

October 9, 2007

MINUTES

PRESENT Jon Halvorson, Chair
Bernie Chaplin
Donna Weaver
Larry Schaffner

ABSENT Candice Rydalch
Donald Krug

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

GUESTS: Meredith Rafferty, Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association
Donavon Rafferty, Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association
Cam Foster-Kiddie, Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association
Paul Brewster, Thurston Regional Planning Council

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – Some of the board members felt that the August minutes did not accurately reflect what the decision was regarding the proposed Burfoot trail. Member Schaffner suggested the following changes to the August meeting minutes: 1) The recommendation for the trail into Burfoot Park came from the Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association and not solely Mrs. Rafferty. 2) That the board gave staff direction to research a viable alternative route into the park. They did not authorize staff to construct an alternate route. **Member Schaffner moved to accept the August minutes with the changes noted. Member Weaver seconded. Motion carried.**

Member Schaffner offered the following changes to the September minutes regarding the Burfoot Park Trail Project: Rather than “The board had several concerns....,” he recommended that “Some of the board members expressed concerns...” Also add that they had concern of the risk of attracting after hours park usage if an alternate route is constructed into the park. Member Chaplin noted that during the 2008 Budget discussion, Member Halvorson had requested that staff provide the board with a copy of the proposed budget. **Member Chaplin moved to accept the September minutes with the changes noted. Member Schaffner seconded. Motion passed.**

Director Welter asked Chairman Halvorson to clarify his budget request. Chairman Halvorson requested information that would make it easy for board members to understand the general focus and priorities of the department budget. Director Welter said he would provide a copy of the full budget along with a narrative which would summarize it.

BURFOOT PARK TRAIL PROJECT – Members of the Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association attended the meeting hoping to get a better idea of the timeline for constructing the proposed trail into the park. Director Welter stated that several factors need to take place before construction begins. The first thing will be for Mr. Rutledge to complete the survey of the parcels which is part of the land trade negotiation with the County. Several other environmental screenings will need to take place before the department will know which permits will need to be acquired. The permitting process could take several months and could cost several thousand dollars.

Mrs. Rafferty stated that the Association has been looking at applying for grant money to offset the cost of constructing the trail but they have found that they need to be able to provide a more definitive idea of what the trail would look like and where it would lead. They have checked with private consulting groups which told them they could do a “walk through” with them for an estimated \$400. The consultant would then be able to give them an environmental screening of what types of permits may be needed. Mrs. Rafferty suggests starting the trail on the Boston Harbor Extension Road to avoid impacts to neighbors. Mrs. Rafferty said that the Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association has not spoken with neighbors along the road to get their input. Director Welter suggested that the consultation fee could be saved by tying into the services of the Planning Department during the survey delineation of Mr. Rutledge’s property. Staff could not provide the Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association an exact timeline for completing this because it will depend on Mr. Rutledge’s ability to move forward on his part.

DRAFT REGIONAL TRAILS PLAN – Paul Brewster from the Thurston County Regional Planning Council gave a report on the draft Regional Trails Plan. The 2004 regional transportation plan recommended coming up with a regional trails plan. The plan is currently in the public review process and Mr. Brewster asked that all comments be directed to him by October 23. Director Welter asked that the board forward their comments to him and he would refer them on to Mr. Brewster. As part of the recommendation for a potential trail in Thurston County, the Gate to Belmore was specifically identified as a valuable asset to the south county. Chairman Halvorson suggested adding the Gate to Belmore construction to the Capital Facilities Plan. The Parks Board thanked Mr. Brewster for his presentation and felt it was very well done.

CAPITAL PROJECTS – Mr. Hibdon reported that Bob Barnes, from the State Department of Transportation, has offered to donate several hundred trees to the Park Department. They will be planted throughout the parks system. Staff is very appreciative of this valuable donation.

Work on the kiosk in the Town of Rainier will be completed in November.

The maintenance crew continues to work on the installation of the bollards on the Yelm-Tenino Trail. The Chehalis Western portion of the project is complete. Staff will be working with the County Roads Department to increase the line of sight for both pedestrians and vehicles at several of the intersections by removing vegetation.

PARKS REPORT – Mr. Groth reported that the controlled burn at Glacial Heritage Preserve went well. Member Schaffner said he appreciated the email updates of the burn and feels that informational email like these are an efficient way to keep the board apprised of recreation/maintenance events rather than waiting for a report once a month at Park Board.

RECREATION PROGRAM REPORT – Ms. Poyner reported that staff has begun an effort to raise \$1,200 through donations to offset the cost of putting on the Specialized Recreation Valentine dinner and dance in February. They are hoping to cut the cost to participants in half. They are contacting local businesses to sponsor a table with a donation of \$100 to the department. Ms. Poyner encouraged the board members to contact staff with potential donor names and staff would follow up.

Ms. Poyner introduced Andrew Beattie, Recreation Supervisor, to the board. Mr. Beattie was hired in September to take over the position that Nick Herzog vacated. He gave a brief update of upcoming and past sports activities.

PARKS DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION STRATEGIES – Director Welter reported that Mr. Hibdon has been assigned to manage the maintenance crew on a daily basis. This will free up time for Mr. Groth to devote to issuing trail permits and other issues.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The City of Lacey is ready to begin phase 2 of the Regional Athletic Complex. Construction will start in spring of 2008.

DNR Trail – Pressure is being placed on the DNR to replace the gates along their trail with bollards. Discussions have continued to have the County take over the trail. The County has stated that they will not take over until the bollards issue is taken care of and other maintenance items have been resolved.

Director Welter stated that he would attempt to have Norm Landerman-Moore attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Parks Plan.

Mr. Chaplin moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Weaver seconded. With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.