

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

**JANUARY 8, 2008**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT** Jon Halvorson, Chair  
Bernie Chaplin  
Larry Schaffner  
Donald Krug  
Candice Rydalch  
Donna Weavr

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Member Chaplin moved to approve the minutes of the December 11 meeting. Member Weaver seconded. The motion carried.

Director Welter reported that the Board of Commissioners is forming a focus group for budget priorities in the future. They are asking for volunteers from the citizen boards to be part of the committee. Member Krug volunteered and Member Weaver volunteers to be backup.

**RECREATION PROGRAM REPORT** – Ms. Poyner reported that the Rochester area is gaining a lot of enthusiasm for the recreation programs offered in their community. Most of the classes that staff is offering have filled up. She stated that McLane School has approached the department with interest in having the department provide enrichment classes at their school. Staff will be looking into it.

Alisson Bonner, Recreation Program Assistant who coordinates all the special recreation programs, will be taking maternity leave beginning February 1 for six months. Gordon Fox has been hired to fill her position on a temporary basis until Alisson returns.

Member Halvorson stated that the Kiwanis are interested in sponsoring a table at the Valentine Dinner Dance for people with special needs. He said he would also sponsor a table.

**PARKS REPORT** – Mr. Groth reported that South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement has acquired a grant for \$70,000 to do enhancements at Frye Cove Park beach. The focus is to bring the beach back to its natural state. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife Department is also involved with this project.

Mr. Groth stated that the second Saturday of each month volunteers are encouraged to come out to the Glacial Heritage Preserve for a work party. These work groups have been involved in helping to eradicate the scotch broom, planting native plants, and other projects to enhance the prairies native state. Prairie Appreciation Day, which takes place at the Preserve, is scheduled for May 3 this year.

Several events that will be taking place on the trails this year, including the department sponsored Run For Luck scheduled for March 1 beginning at Horizons Elementary and offers a 5K or 10K run and a 1 mile run/walk.

Mr. Groth has been working on negotiations with Burlington Northern Santa Fe to acquire or leave the unpaved portion of the Chehalis Western Trail at the Burlington Northern mainline. Director Welter stated that Mr. Groth's work has gone further in negotiations with the rail line than in all the years staff has worked on it.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS** – Mr. Hibdon reported that the well pump has been installed and is wired for irrigation at the Griffin Athletic Fields (GAF). At this point it appears that Griffin School is not willing to pay for the cost of irrigation so the department will be taking this on as a capital project.

Staff will be working on constructing a kiosk for the Yelm-Tenino trail next to the Rainier City Hall.

The department is on track to move to its new location at the McLane Fire Station by March 1. Tenant improvements to the building will begin in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Hibdon reported that details are being shored up with the contractor for phase II development of the RAC. The \$11 million project will include adding 2 more soccer fields, 5 baseball fields, more parking, support facilities and resurfacing soccer field #1 with synthetic material. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring and will be available for use in the summer of 2009.

The Board of Commissioners approved allocating \$461,000 to the department from the Real Estate Excise Tax. This is part of a six-year plan to add funding into the budget for capital projects. The money can be used for capital projects and professional services. This will allow staff to complete the projects using contracted help which will free up time for the maintenance staff. Mr. Hibdon prepared a list of projects that staff feels is a priority to complete this year. He used the following criteria for prioritizing the projects:

- Safety
- Public benefits
- Infrastructure protection

Director Welter stated that if major infrastructure work is done to the Griffin fields, the school would need to negotiate with the school district to extend its lease past 20 years or have the district replace the monetary value the department puts toward it.

In general, the board concurs with staff's recommendations for capital projects in 2008.

**REICHEL PROPERTY ACQUISITION PROPOSAL** – Director Welter reported that Mr. Reichel has two lots he would like to have the County purchase which are located adjacent to Burfoot Park. The lots have been assessed at \$23,000. The price would have to be negotiated with Mr. Reichel because the lots are not buildable. The value to the county would be that it would add more land to Burfoot Park. Money from the Rutledge land trade could be used to purchase the property since the board had agreed that any money acquired through the Rutledge land trade would be used to purchase other property around Burfoot. Director Welter stated that a survey would need to be done on these parcels. When Mr. Rutledge's property is surveyed it will give a point of reference to survey other lots in the area.

**Member Weaver moved that the Parks Board approve staff beginning the process of negotiations with the property owner that would be fair to all parties. Member Rydalch seconded. Motion carried.**

**2008 BUDGET** – Director Welter reported that nothing was lost or added to the 2008 budget.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE** – Many of the board members said they have many questions that they felt went unanswered by Mr. Landerman-Moore at the last meeting. Director Welter stated that Mr. Landerman-Moore has offered to come back to another meeting to talk about the plan further and answer questions. The plan will not be completed in time for the department to go out for any grants this year, but staff feels that it is better to have the plan done right and then to look to the future for grant opportunities when it is completed.

Member Schaffner expressed some philosophical concerns about Mr. Landerman-Moore's plan. After discussion, Member Schaffner was asked to compile a list of his and other board members' concerns and questions and then send for staff review.

Overall the board was impressed with Mr. Landerman-Moore's presentation and feel what he has to offer will be very valuable.

The board agreed that a special meeting to include Mr. Landerman-Moore and Mr. Cliff Moore, of WSU Cooperative Extension, would be better than waiting until February's meeting. Several dates were discussed and one will be finalized after coordinating with both Mr. Landerman-Moore and Mr. Moore.

**PARK BOARD VACANCY** – Only one applicant has submitted their name for the position. Staff suggested advertising awhile longer to see if anyone else replies. The board agreed.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER** – Member Weaver suggested staff contact adjacent property owners to Burfoot Park and asked their interest in selling or donating parcels of land to fill in around the park.

Director Welter reported that Jay Emery expressed his satisfaction with the way the department handled the bollard replacement project on the trails. He appreciated all the work that was put into it.

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

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