

**THURSTON COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**
4131 Mud Bay Rd SW
Olympia 98502

DECEMBER 16, 2008

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT Donna Weaver Smith, Chair
Bernie Chaplin
Candace Rydalch
Ed Cael

ABSENT: Larry Schaffner

GUESTS Norm Landerman-Moore

STAFF Michael Welter, Director
Chuck Groth, Park Operations 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 6:20 pm.

The board gave their well wishes and stated their appreciation of service to Bernie Chaplin, Cheri Johnson and Chuck Groth. This was Bernie Chaplin's last meeting before his term ends at the end of December, Cheri Johnson will be laid off at the end of the month, and Chuck Groth will be retiring in February.

Norm Landerman-Moore discussed the draft of the Public & Enterprise Recreation Department Objectives section of the comp plan. He stated that there is a paradigm shift in the economy and the focus needs to shift to future ways of bringing in revenues.

He discussed the four principles:

- 1) An opportunity for land-banking
- 2) Policy framework – allow implementation using policies that are not in place now.
- 3) Financing strategy – Predicated on new legislation. Create an ongoing fund to the department. PWEA will bring in more job opportunities through public works. Should have in place capital objectives.
- 4) Develop objectives – How do they function in relationship to the above.

The strategy of enterprise development is to invest the money. This is done by creating a recreation experience that focuses on generating revenue while preserving the basic fundamental priorities of municipal recreation and park services.

Mr. Landerman-Moore strongly suggests that the Parks Board commit significant time and brain-power to the enterprise element during this critical time. It is very crucial for positive outcomes for the department in future. He also suggested the board consider structured planning sessions to bring the plan to fruition.

Some of the board members expressed concern that the current environmental policies will hinder the plan's implementation. Mr. Landerman-Moore suggests the board go into the public comment process with the notion to educate. The department needs to educate the public as to how this effort will benefit them. It is important for them to understand that the plan is to create new revenue centers to offset costs of providing the basic park and recreation services. It is not a way to trump natural resources, but a way to generate money to keep them intact.

The plan calls for partnership with schools for land use. Mr. Landerman-Moore stated that environmental learning centers are becoming very popular. He gave Deschutes Falls Park as an example. It also focuses on partnerships with other municipalities, groups and associations, and the private sector.

Several members felt that Mr. Landerman-Moore did a good job in clarifying the enterprise concept to them. Mr. Chaplin had concern and uncertainty about the concept. Others knew that Mr. Schaffner shared that concern. Concern was conveyed that the permitting process for any land development could be an obstacle in the short timeframe there is available.

Mr. Landerman-Moore will be sending a draft to the board on the four points he explained.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.