

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

**JUNE 19, 2006**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT** Bernie Chaplin  
Jon Halvorson  
Grant Larsen  
Carla Rutz  
Judy Johnson

**ABSENT** Mark Lovrien  
Donna Smith Weaver

**STAFF** Michael Welter  
Chuck Groth  
Kerry Hibdon  
Sue Poyner  
Becky Oetter  
Cheri Johnson

**GUESTS** Meredith Rafferty – Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association  
Mark Kelly - Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association  
Kim Kelly - Boston Harbor Neighborhood Association

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

**MINUTES** – Chuck noted that in the Maintenance Report he had stated that the Parks Department had worked cooperatively with the **Olympia Parks & Recreation Department** to purchase field paint at a reduced rate. It was also noted that Kerry had reported on plans for the **water** well at Griffin fields. With these corrections noted, the minutes were approved as submitted.

**BOSTON HARBOR LAND TRADE** – A Boston Harbor land owner has requested a land exchange of several small parcels of land that he owns with several small parcels of land that the County owns near Burfoot Park. The land exchange would consolidate the currently disbursed parcels and form two separate larger parcels and would give him a taxable building lot. The property the County owns was donated through the Lassen Trust several years ago and were secured by the County with the sole purpose of trading or selling them to fill in the checkerboard land ownerships around Burfoot Park.

The Boston Harbor Association had requested that the County keep them informed of any requests that would potentially change the ownership of any of the County owned parcels. They are interested in maintaining open space and undeveloped land in their community. Representatives of the Boston Harbor Association came and spoke of their intent to develop a long-range open space plan for the Boston Harbor area. They stated that they have not begun work on a plan, but would like to now begin the public process part and hopefully have a draft copy available to the parks board in the fall of this year. The board encouraged the Association to define specific time frames for completing their Open Space Plan and to communicate this back to the board. They

requested staff provide them with contact information for the folks at Evergreen State College who assisted the department in the public input process for the Cooper Point property project.

After a lengthy discussion of all the issues, the board felt compelled to respond to the request of the landowner who has been waiting a response by the County for quite some time. They felt that the land trade with this one applicant did not defeat the purpose of the BHA's efforts and the Parks board would still be willing to work cooperatively with the BHA in the future.

Judy felt that the board should allow the BHA to complete their plan before moving ahead with the property swap mentioned above.

Grant moved that the Parks Board advise the County Commissioners to proceed with considering the land trade with the following conditions:

- 1) That there be documented equal value to both parties by the trade (i.e., trading unbuildable land for buildable land has a different value and a parcel for parcel exchange probably is not equal), before any trade is consummated, and
- 2) That any revenue received by the Parks Department as a part of the trade be set aside to acquire those parcels not owned by the County which would perpetuate the Parks Department vision for infilling around Burfoot Park, and
- 3) The Parks Department continue to work with the BHA to determine how County property might play a role in the long range open space vision of the community.

Three members approved the motion. Judy opposed it, and Bernie abstained. The motion passed.

**RECREATION REPORT** – Sue reported on the many recreation activities that the department offers.

Sue introduced Rebecca Oetter as the new Recreation Program Assistant. Her position was created with funds from a two-year millage grant. The required components of the grant are that staff must provide physical fitness and nutrition classes and activities. Inclusion for participants is also a guideline of the grant. Rebecca has begun a volunteer program for participants.

An appreciation barbecue at Burfoot Park is planned for August to honor volunteers and staff who work to provide services for people with special needs. The board was encouraged to attend. It is a free event with entertainment and food. Staff is looking for people to make contributions to the event.

Jon ask that staff provide a summary to the board of how the Specialized Recreation division has evolved and what each city contributes to the department to provide these services. Sue stated that staff has discussed reaching out to the other city parks departments to meet and talk about the specialized recreation services and what is offered.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT** – Chuck reported on several Eagle Scout projects that have been completed on the trails and in the parks.

Staff has received approval from the Board of County Commissioners to hire a ¾ time position to focus on contract sites such as stormwater ponds and landscaping around County buildings.

Chuck gave his thanks to the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Olympia Kiwanis for their donation of 70+ trees that have been planted along the Yelm-Tenino in Rainier as part of a beautification effort in the town of Rainier.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT** – Kerry announced that an engineered plan has been approved for the water well at Griffin fields. Approval has also been given to provide drinking water as well. The target date to have the water available for the fields is August 1.

Kerry stated that staff will be going out for bid on a new furnace at the Glacial Heritage Preserve caretaker house. Operations at the RAC are going very well. No major maintenance issues. Kerry reported on the increase in field usage at the RAC, Griffin, and Kenneydell Parks.

The entire trail system will be shut down for the STP race on July 15. This is the first time STP has used the trail for their race. Also, the Capital Bicycle Club will be holding a rally on the trails on August 13.

### **2007-2012 CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN**

Mima Creek Project – Judy moved that the board not support the Mima Creek Project in the plan, but instead refer it to the . Motion passed.

Wilson Property – No action was taken to include this into the Parks Plan.

**OFFICER ELECTIONS** – Judy reported that the committee nominated Mark for Chair and Jon for Vice-Chair. No other names were added. Bernie seconded. Motion passed.

**BRIDGING THE GAP** – The contracts have been signed with Wilder Construction. Construction is set to begin July 5. Since the Department of Transportation, who is in charge of this project, does not normally hold ground-breaking ceremonies for their projects, Michael stated that the Parks Department has offered to hold a ceremony on site after the equipment is mobilized.

### **PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT UPDATE** –

This was Judy Johnson’s last meeting after 12 years of service on the Parks Board. She submitted her resignation letter to the Board of Commissioners. The board thanked her for her dedication and commitment.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.