

**THURSTON COUNTY  
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**McLane Building Conference Room  
5033 Harrison Ave  
Olympia, WA 98502**

**November 8, 2011**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Larry Schaffner, Chair  
Douglas Bell, Vice-Chair  
Chris Colton  
David Jamison  
Cheryl Simrell King

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ed Cael

**STAFF**

Scott Schimelfenig, Public Works  
Kerry Hibdon, Parks Manager, Public Works  
Margaret Huff, Recreation Supervisor, Resource Stewardship  
Linda Abell, Resource Stewardship

**GUESTS**

Kateri Wimsett, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Schaffner called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**II. REVIEW AGENDA** - The agenda was reviewed and there were no changes.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT** – There were no public comments.

**IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES** – The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and there was one amendment. **Motion made to adopt minutes as amended. Motion seconded and approved.**

**V. TOBACCO-FREE PRESENTATION** – Kateri Wimsett shared a “tobacco free” presentation with the board. This proposed policy was previously presented to the BOCC and the Board of Health and is now being brought to the Parks and Recreation Board for consideration. The policy would cover all county properties including county parks. Ms. Wimsett shared statistics regarding tobacco use in Thurston County and explained that tobacco products are the number one cause of preventable death in the United States. Second hand smoke poses a great health risk as well, especially in children. Based on a survey of Thurston County households, nearly 75% of adults said that smoking should not be allowed in public places where children are present. She shared that Mason County buildings have been tobacco-free since 2006, South Puget Sound Community College recently adopted a new policy only allowing smoking in your vehicle and Providence St. Peter Hospital does not allow smoking on their property at all. Discussion followed about the difference between “smoke free” and “tobacco free” and the impact each makes on the public. Mr. Hibdon noted that Lacey parks are smoke free. Ms. Wimsett is asking for the boards’ perspective and input as the policy moves forward. Most members support the idea of tobacco free parks. Ms. Wimsett will maintain contact with staff for additional information needed about county parks properties.

**VI. REVIEW DRAFT DOCUMENTS: PARKS AND RECREATION POLICIES** – Mr. Schaffner and Mr. Jamison worked together recently on rewriting department policies to include in the Comprehensive Plan. The document they produced is comprised of policies found in the 2008 draft Comp Plan, some from the 2005 Comp Plan and new policies they created in their recent work session. Ms. Simrell King suggested a refresher about the process of updating the Comp Plan, including clarification of the consultant’s role. Mr. Schaffner gave a brief explanation of the responsibilities and expectations the BOCC has of the board. Mr. Hibdon recommended caution in attempting to rewrite policies without the input of the entire advisory board. Some members stated that they are unfamiliar with the current policies and would like the opportunity to compare them with this proposed draft. Discussion followed about the process to review and make comments. Suggestions included having a separate meeting strictly for discussion of the policies, focusing on one section at a time during regular meetings, assigning sections to the appropriate subcommittees or submitting changes to Mr. Schaffner electronically.

Ms. Abell reported that additional copies of the draft 2008 Comprehensive Plan will be available next week for those members who don’t already have one.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided that members will spend the next week reviewing the draft policies and the current policies from the 2005 and 2008 plans. Mr. Schaffner will contact members via email to collect their input.

Mr. Schimelfenig requested that in the future, all pages of draft documents be marked as such.

Mr. Jamison reiterated a request to keep the board members involved in the process of finding a consultant and asked if the November timeline is still accurate for publicizing the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Members expressed a desire to assist with writing the request itself. Mr. Schimelfenig suggested that in the interest of time, working with a subcommittee would make the most sense.

Mr. Schimelfenig stated that he and Mr. Hibdon are working on developing the RFQ and would keep the board apprised of their progress. Additional information should be available before the next meeting.

**VII. PREPARE FOR COUNTY WIDE PARKS & REC ADVISORY MEETING** – Staff will be meeting with their colleagues at Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater Parks and Recreation Departments to discuss possible agenda items for the next Regional Parks Board meeting. The top items the board would like to discuss are continuing discussion on a Metro Parks District, inviting the other jurisdictions to participate in the update of our Comprehensive Plan, successful inter-jurisdictional collaboration and a presentation highlighting the success of the Specialized Recreation program.

The meeting, hosted by Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department will take place on January 18, 2012.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS** – Regarding board participation on sub-committees, Mr. Schaffner reminded Cheryl Simrell King that she needs to decide where she would like to contribute her skills. Ms. Simrell King will contact Mr. Schaffner with her decision before the next board meeting.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Recreation:** Margaret Huff reported that TCTV and Commissioner Valenzuela will be making an appearance at the Westside Lanes next week for an interview with staff and participants of the Specialized Recreation Bowling Club. The feature will be shown on the program Thurston County Connection and will air in late December. The Winter brochure for Specialized Recreation will be in homes before the end of the month. Ms. Huff is requesting help from members for two upcoming Specialized Recreation events: the quarterly registration event take happening on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in Room 152 and the annual Christmas Cruise at the Olympia Yacht Club on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m.

**Parks:** There was no additional report.

**Director Reports:** There was no additional report.

**Future agenda items:** None suggested.

**ADJOURN** - Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

**NOTE: The next meeting is scheduled for December 13th 2011 at 5:00 p.m.**

*Linda Abell, Recording Secretary*