

Consultants

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**PURPOSE**

Ad-Hoc Committee Kick Off Meeting. The meeting included an overall look at the design process, the design schedule, and the preliminary program for the Snohomish County Sportsman's Park. The goal of the project is to create a facility for shooting sports. Currently, there is a need for a safe place for shooters. Illegal shooting is widespread in and around Snohomish County. Illegal shooting is unsafe and causes damage to private and public property. Shooters damage trees, and streams and soils are contaminated from discharged lead.

**DESIGN PROCESS**

Brian noted that this is the first Ad-Hoc Committee meeting and the process will result in an overall master plan, master plan report, and a phasing plan that will be used to both guide the development of the site and aid in securing grants for actual construction of the phases.

Ad-Hoc Member Roles

Brian explained that each member represents a particular user group and, as such, is responsible for conveying the needs, wants, and concerns of the respective community. Brian noted that attendance at all meetings by all of the members is crucial for continuity and consensus. The current members and their respective roles include:

- Small Bore/Rifle
- avid shooter/business perspective
- Archery
- Fire Chief
- Snohomish County Sherriff (also potential black powder rep)
- Lake Bronson rep.
  - Lake Bronson, a 200 member camping club that typically hosts 400 to 600 guests annually, is the closest neighbor. The club was established and has operated in its current location since 1938.
- **Lake Bronson rep.**

During the meeting, the group had suggestions for individuals that could act as a representative for:

- Shotgun:
- Neighbor:
- Black Powder:

For the purposes of this meeting, members provided program information and requirements for Shotgun while other members provided program and information for Black Powder.

Schedule/Process

Brian noted that the design process has started but will begin in earnest after the first of the year. Brian noted that, starting in January, the committee will meet once a month for 4 or 5 months in order to provide input necessary to guide the design. Today's meeting had two purposes: 1) to review of the preliminary program established by the County; and 2) by listening to the remarks made by the committee members, to understand the needs and wants of the shooting community in Sultan and the

rest of the county. All agreed that Tuesdays at 3:30 are good meeting times. A rough outline of the schedule, associated meetings, and the desired outcomes from each meeting is as follows (dates listed are tentative):

- November 19, 2013 (Meeting #1): review; add to the program; and listen to the needs, wants, and concerns of the community
- January 14, 2014 (Meeting #2): prioritize/finalize program
- February 11, 2014 (Meeting #3): review master plan alternatives and select preferred alternative(s) for further refinement
- March 11, 2014 (Meeting #4): select preferred alternative
- April 15, 2014 (no meeting): refine preferred alternative and finalize report

Additionally, in order to get additional feedback from the community, a public meeting will be held before alternatives are developed. A second public meeting will likely be held once the preferred alternative is selected.

#### Site

Brian reviewed the site and described the natural features, opportunities, and constraints associated with the site.

#### Budget

Currently, there is no money set aside for the actual construction of the facility. However, a result of the process will establish preliminary budgets/costs so funding can be obtained from the county as well as through various grants available for shooting range development.

## **DISCUSSION**

#### Preliminary Program

Brian reviewed the General Preliminary Program, established by the County, which includes:

- Shooting Park for Pistols, Rifles, Shotguns and Archery
- Trails for Running and Mountain Bikes
- Classroom Facilities
- Pro Shop
- Parking
- Maintenance
- Storage
- Associated Infrastructure

After review, the committee removed running and mountain bike trails from the program. Running and biking are not compatible with shooting and should be accommodated elsewhere.

The following are the needs, wants, and general comments expressed by the committee members in regards to the various program elements:

#### Pistol (Small Bore)

- Cowboy action shooting area
- 25 (minimum) ~ 50 yard (maximum) small bore range
  - If it is 50 yards, include an adjustable backstop that would allow the range to flex between 25, 30, and 50 yards.
- Adjustable counters at shooting bays
- Shoot house with steel targets that you can shoot at and that make noise when hit (plink-plink-plink, etc.)
- Facilities should be expandable to accommodate future growth with potential for events
- Separation between shooters
- PA system for ranges
- Safe place for shooters
- Contain lead
- Mitigate sound

- Mitigate traffic impacts
- Covered or partially covered outdoor facility
  - Indoor facilities are costly and unnecessary.
- Include an area for IPSC handgun competition (range has doorways, windows, etc.)
- Small caliber is the least expensive/costly for shooters to enjoy
- Illegal shooting makes the area unsafe.
  - People who work in the woods are at risk from the illegal shooting.

### Rifle

- Minimum 600 yd. range
- Ability to change targets without shutting the range down
  - Consider using pits with downwardly adjustable targets so that the range can remain operable while shooters change targets.
- Most people have trouble shooting over 200 yards
- Possible to simulate longer range with smaller targets
- Must mitigate sound
  - Consider insulating the shooting area, using shooting tubes, etc. in order to accomplish this.
- Open table changing targets
- Consider a couple of lanes at the rifle range just for site-in
- Accommodate ADA in range design
- If the range is over 100 yards, golf carts may be necessary in order to change targets quickly/efficiently
- Multiple cleaning stations or designated area for cleaning of weapons
- Clearing station for emptying rounds before you leave each facility
- Design baffle to handle blast back
- Maintenance: daily cleaning is required for some areas in order to keep the facility safe

### Shotgun

- *Trap*
  - 3 stations expand to 5 then to 7 (there is a large youth trap demand in the area).
  - Possibly add towers on rails so that they can be slid back to allow skeet to be shot on the same field.
  - Consider layout to minimize cleanup
  - Design the facility so that lead can still be shot as opposed to steel only.
  - Need sound mitigation: keep trees or consider a buffer to contain sound.
  - Consider solar aspect in design. Typically all ranges are oriented north to accommodate this.
- *Sporting Clays*
  - Sporting Clays is good for revenue generation because you can cycle many people through on a given day.
  - Include a couple stations with pattern boards for site in purposes.
  - Consider facilities that cater to children and families, such as:
    - airsoft, BB guns, possibly paintball for young shooters or for shooters just learning
    - classrooms
  - Set aside space for safety programs and shooting/hunting education.

### Black Powder

- Black powder and shotguns may be able to share the same area/field.
- Typically, black powder shooters site in @ 50-100 yards.
- Separate bays off to the side of rifle range may be acceptable.
- Sound not as loud as rifle
- Ventilation is key for black powder ranges.

### Archery

- *FITA/Olympic Archery*
  - Ensure that archery range is designed to meet/accommodate FITA and Olympic competition program standards.
  - Include enough space for a competition field and a practice field.

- This would accommodate/draw JORAD competitions (good for revenue generation).
- Include a movable structure for field (FITA).
- The group noted that if an Olympic event was held, the range would probably shut down during the event which would be acceptable.
- Include storage for FITA targets.
- *3D range*
  - A 3D course with 30 targets would allow for national competitions.
  - A fee of \$10-15/course would be appropriate.
  - Want course that has ASA IBO certified events (potential to generate 500 attendees per event)
  - The 3D range wouldn't need to be flat and could make use of the site areas that are less desirable for the other ranges.
  - Include storage for 3D targets.

### Lake Bronson

- *In general, there is concern about noise/light pollution, water/ground contamination, an increase in traffic, and overall security at the site.*

### Other

- *Bathrooms*
  - Ensure that the bathrooms are well designed and easy to keep clean.
  - Permanent, everyday use facility should be included.
  - Set aside/include space for chemical or temporary toilets to accommodate large events.
- *Parking*
  - Include space for parking to accommodate everyday use.
    - The group did not want to waste valuable range space for excess parking. To achieve this, parking could include designated areas offsite and the use of shuttles.
  - Include shuttle and bus parking.
  - Include a small amount of camping spaces (5-6 RV areas with hookups).
    - Rather than developing a large camping area at the range, campers should utilize other existing camping areas such as Steelhead Park or Thunderbird Campground.
- *Flexible Spaces / Alternative Uses for Buildings*
  - Consider flexible spaces and alternative uses for buildings so a variety of events could be held at the range (weddings, etc.)
  - Accommodate Lake Bronson events
    - The group noted that the range should consider Lake Bronson events in order to minimize conflicts with them.
  - Consider expandable/versatile spaces to accommodate a wide variety of events and allow for future growth
    - For instance, the mountain men could use the archery field for their events (hatchet throwing, etc.).
- *Pro Shop*
  - Consider security: the area is secluded and there are a number of wire and fence thefts countywide each year.
  - Pro shop will have weapons and ammo that needs to be secured.
- Need area for sanicans for events
- Consider space for food trucks and vendors.
- Consider a small kitchen for food service and events.
- Include sustainable design practices (solar power, etc.)
- Consider poor cell phone coverage in the area.
  - Currently, there is no cell phone reception other than Verizon.
- Include a caretaker residence and/or RV space for caretaker
- Include CEPTED design standards, lights, alarms, etc.

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- Consider elements or portion of the design that could be built with volunteer labor
  - The community is rich with volunteers who are willing to donate their time and expertise
- Easton Arrow has grants available for development of ranges
- ***The property does not currently have any power.***

**NEXT STEPS**

Brian will organize the information so that the program and design criteria can be prioritized and finalized with the group at the next meeting (Meeting #2) in January.

*These are the minutes, as we understand them. If there are any additions or corrections, contact Bruce Dees & Associates immediately.*