



PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Willis Tucker Park (Zoom meeting)

6705 Puget Park Drive Snohomish Washington

Tuesday August 11, 2020 3:00pm – 5:00pm (Zoom meeting)

10. Call to Order

10.1. John Ewald called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

20. Roll Call

20.1. Voting Board Members –

John Dewhirst (pending) (Dist. 3)
 David Divoky (At Large)
 John Ewald (At Large) (Chair)
 Mike Farrell (At Large)
 Ting Liu (At Large)
 Bob McCarty (Dist. 5) (Vice Chair)

x
x
x
x
x

Darrell Olson (At Large)
 Robert Putnam (Dist. 1)
 Shawn Tobin (At Large)
 Steve Yandl (Dist. 4) (Notes)
 Vacant (Dist. 2)

x
x
x

20.2. Staff (Parks and other County Departments or agencies) – Russ Bosanko, Tom Teigen, Tammy Dunn (ex officio), Sharon Swan, Kye Iris, Emily Scott, Rose Smith.

20.3. Guests – Jamie Holland.

30. Review Minutes of June 2020.

30.1. Minutes from June 2020 and July 2020 were approved without changes.

40. Public Hearings/Meetings

40.1. The next possible public meeting might be regarding the operation of a new type boat that creates a surfable wake being used at Lake Roesiger with damage being caused by the resulting wakes.

50. Oral Requests from the Audience/Correspondence

50.1. Jamie Holland commented minimal BMX activity was occurring in eastern Washington and essentially no BMX activity in western Washington because of COVID phase limits. Some ideas were floated regarding use of older equestrian venues that are covered but Jamie felt site preparation to create BMX or pump tracks would be too significant for this to be done at a covered horse venue that was only temporarily available.

50.2. Jamie also inquired when Spencer Island might be opened for access by birders like herself. The response was that it probably would not be open until the start of hunting season.

60. General Business

60.1. We still have a board vacancy for someone from Council District 2. Russ plans to send a reminder to email to Megan Dunn’s office.

60.2. May 12, 2020 Field Trip – Rescheduled for October 13, 2020 (status really depending on what phase the county is in over COVID) – Esperance, Cavalero, Flowing Lake. Leave Willis Tucker Park at 2pm, hopefully return by 5:45pm. With the governor indicating delays in moving forward through COVID-19 restriction phases, September is also an unlikely date. Russ asked for feedback. Board members are willing to take private vehicles and make other adjustments to make the field trip possible, but the restrictions may take the decision out of our hands. Russ will keep us posted as the situation evolves.

60.3. RCO (Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office) -Planning staff have been working hard on nine (9) grant applications! Letters of support have been prepared and reviewed. By unanimous vote on each of the letters to Tom Teigen, Parks Director, from this advisory board (letters listed as items 60.3. 1 to 60.3.5 below) the board represents that the letters are our position and ask our chairperson, John Ewald, to sign each on our behalf.

60.3.1. Whitehorse Trail project.

60.3.2. Kayak Point waterfront renovation project.

60.3.3. Renovation of the southern shelter at Kayak Point Park.

60.3.4. Meadowdale Beach Park and estuary restoration project.

60.3.5. SR 530 (Oso) slide memorial project.

70. Reports from the Staff/Status Reports

70.1. General information on grants and projects from Sharon Swan.

70.1.1. Meadowdale Beach park

70.1.1.1. The project has been awarded \$500k from the 2018 application to RCO WWRP – Water Access program.

70.1.1.2. If and when grant money is received for this and similar projects, the need for bonds decreases.

70.2. COVID-19 impacts – Consistent with the Governor’s 4 phase plan:

It was noted that when crab season opened, enforcement of rules for parks during phase 2 went well with the majority of visitors to Kayak Point boat launch simply played by the rules or complied with instructions from rangers. It probably did not hurt that the weather was mediocre which probably reduced the number of visitors.

70.2.1. Phase 2 – Snohomish County was granted by the Governor’s office entry into Phase 2

70.2.1.1. Gatherings limited to your immediate family + 5 others...or 10 max.

70.2.1.2. Most camping allowed but all yurts except Yurt 10 closed at Kayak Point.

70.2.1.3. Restrooms increased cleaning.

70.2.1.4. Playgrounds still closed.... Some athletic field use with approved safety protocols.

70.2.1.5. Park staff wear face masks.

70.2.1.6. Camping picnic shelters open w online reservations.

70.2.1.7. No cash handling.... Payment online, pre-paid, credit cards.

70.2.1.8. Dog parks open w social distancing.

70.2.1.9. Playgrounds closed until Phase 3.

70.2.1.10. McCollum pool closed.

70.2.1.11. Willis Tucker Park Spray Pad does not open yet.

70.2.1.12. Picnic Shelters closed until further notice. Note that parties with 5 or fewer individuals can utilize the shelters.

70.2.1.13. Drinking fountains/showers closed.

70.2.1.14. Events cancelled.

70.2.2. Phase 3 – Outdoor group re: sports activities (5-50 people, Recreation facilities at less than 50% capacity) such as public pools.

70.2.2.1. Allow gatherings with no more than 50 people.

70.2.2.2. Indoor gyms – less than 50% capacity.

70.2.2.3. Government offices open...telework remains strongly encouraged.

70.2.3. Phase 4 – Resume public interactions with physical distancing.

70.2.3.1. Resume all recreational activities.

70.2.3.2. Allow gatherings with more than 50 people.

70.2.3.3. Concert venues.

70.2.3.4. Large sporting events.

70.2.3.5. Resume unrestricted staffing of worksites but continue to practice physical distancing and good hygiene.

70.3. Planning/Engineering/Design/Construction Projects

70.3.1. Cavalero County Park – Substantial completion acknowledged on Friday, Jun 5, allowing us to have the park site open to the public on Saturday, June 6, 2020. Minor punch list items can be accomplished by the contractor while the park is open to the public until final acceptance of the project has been achieved.

70.3.2. Esperance County Park also reached substantial completion with the park being open to the public, Perhaps grand opening ceremony late summer or Fall.

70.3.3. Kayak Point Golf Course/Public- Private Partnership RFP)– Update from Russ Bosanko.

70.3.3.1. Received 11 proposals for various county park properties – 4 of the 11 relate to the Kayak Point Golf Course Property specifically.

70.3.3.2. Currently being utilized by a disc golf group that seems to be attracting participants and people seem to be enjoying the experience. The public partner has made inquiries on the possibility of serving alcoholic drinks.

70.3.4. Carousel Ranch County Park – Demolition of the remaining structures completed by contractor and county parks staff. Getting close to 90% plans, possibly go out to bid late 2020, or Spring 2021.

70.3.5. McCollum County Park, Community Transit park and ride improvements, Russ working on new maintenance and operation agreement with Community Transit, Potential Farmer's Market via RFP proposal. Drive thru COVID 19 testing may be occurring at McCollum Park soon.

70.3.6. Evergreen State Fair Park – East side will be used as future field hospital replacing the Angels of the Wind Arena in Everett. They have moved the testing site to Aquasox stadium in Everett.

70.3.7. Possible County-wide Parks and Trails Bond, November 2022. Looking to postpone this bond measure vote. There has been discussion that a small increase in sales tax within Snohomish County may be an option that benefits all the municipal park departments.

70.3.8. West Lake Roesiger Update Tom Teigen.

70.3.8.1. John Ewald commented that a focus on possible equestrian use of this area makes a lot of sense.

70.3.9. Executive Horse Council of Snohomish County – Update Tom Teigen, Russ Bosanko.

70.3.9.1. Whitehorse trail event and possible North Centennial Trailhead – Nakashima equestrian sponsored event.

70.3.10. Whitehorse Community Park – Update from Sharon Swan.

70.3.10.1. Award for next work phase to a contractor Parks has worked with in the past.

70.3.10.2. Need to have site prep and concrete work ready by September for the Timber Framers' Guild.

70.3.11. Veteran's acknowledgement on Centennial Trail, looking to relocate project possibly at county campus in Everett.

70.3.12. Lighting one (1) field at Willis Tucker Park with Mill Creek Little League

70.3.13. Emily Scott has been doing ranger / maintenance duties since managing events and supporting the fair isn't requiring her attention during the COVID restrictions. She shared some observations.

70.3.13.1. Parks are busier than usual with restless people desperate for opportunities to enjoy recreation while staff is extremely limited; both in number of regular staff and the absence of seasonal workers.

70.3.13.2. For the most part, park visitors honor social distancing, but the high volume of visitors makes routine maintenance a challenge.

70.3.13.3. Camping in general is going well.

70.3.13.4. Mantra is to keep parks 'Clean, Open and Safe'.

70.4. Events

80. Park Director's Time (Tom Teigen with help from Russ Bosanko).

80.1. Parks Personnel Changes resulting from COVID-19 impact.

80.1.1. Hiring freeze until December 31, 2020.

80.1.1.1. Specific exceptions granted by the county council.

80.1.1.1.1. FTE – FMW4 – park maintenance NPDES – position is paid by surface water management (SWM) division.

80.1.1.1.2. Fifteen seasonal staff.

80.1.1.1.3. Seven park ranger assistants; 4 in operations, 3 in maintenance.

80.1.1.1.4. Eight park aides in park operations.

80.1.1.2. Initially denied.

80.1.1.2.1. One FTE senior park planner.

80.1.1.2.2. One FTE park ranger assistant.

80.1.2. Tom indicated that COVID-19 restrictions were making this a very tough budget cycle for parks.

80.1.2.1. Increase in Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) rate largely mitigates what would have been lost because of an 80% - 90% occupancy rate.

80.1.2.2. With fewer grants, smarter and more directed investing is the order of the day.

80.1.3. New Communications Director, Rose Smith, introduced herself and invited board members to provide her with suggestions, particularly on making improvements to the Parks section of the County web site.

90. Messages from the Board. Around the Table

90.1. John Dewhirst

90.2. David Divoky

90.2.1. Reported that he enjoyed his inaugural experience playing disc golf at Kayak Point.

90.3. Tammy Dunn

90.3.1. Extraordinarily little happening for the foreseeable future with Covid restrictions. Youth sports activities at a near standstill.

90.3.2. Getting creative and looking at various virtual events.

90.4. John Ewald

90.4.1. John asked Russ to add discussion on where we are at with a possible shooting park at a future meeting.

90.4.2. Briefly spoke about the status of homeowner discussions on Lake Roesiger.

90.5. Mike Farrell

90.5.1. Mike reported that the Monroe Council made a budget amendment to allow Monroe Parks to move forward on Lake Tye project despite financially challenging times with COVID.

90.5.2. Parks is trying to better integrate with more partners to get things done on a lean budget.

90.5.3. Enjoying being able to watch races on TV even though fans can not be in the stands at the fairgrounds.

90.5.4. Had a report from some neighbors that they had a great camping experience at Kayak Point.

90.6. Ting Liu

90.7. Bob McCarty

90.7.1. Bob was attempting to get some information from Kevin Teague that had been misplaced regarding a shooting park.

90.7.2. Asked Russ for samples of COVID warning signs

90.7.3. Wondered if steelhead park might be an option for the bmx community to set up a track. The concern is with the park being in a flood plain that might not be ideal for the soil-based track.

90.8. Darrell Olson

90.9. Robert Putnam

90.9.1. Had to cancel a planned trip to Greece so he is spending time remodeling instead.

90.10. Shawn Tobin

90.10.1. Shawn expressed appreciation to County Parks staff for having the versatility and willingness to take on new duties in this COVID era and do their park to keep parks clean, open and safe.

90.11. Steve Yandl

100. Adjournment

ADA Notice: Snohomish County facilities are accessible. Accommodations for persons with disabilities, sign language interpreters and communications materials in alternate form will be provided upon advance request. Please make arrangements one week prior to the hearing by calling the Park Department office, 425-388-6602.