

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Zoom Meeting
Tuesday May 11, 2021
3:00pm – 4:30pm

1. Call to Order.

2. Roll Call

A. Voting Board Members –

{Vacant Position} (Dist. 1)		David Divoky (At Large)	x
Mary Rollins (Dist. 2)	x	Mike Farrell (At Large) (Vice Chairman)	
John Dewhirst (Dist. 3)	x	Darrell Olson (At Large)	
Steve Yandl (Dist. 4) (Notes)	x	John Tam (At Large)	
Bob McCarty (Dist. 5) (Chairman)		Shawn Tobin (At Large)	
		Jacob Vail (At Large)	x

B. Staff (Parks and other County Departments or agencies) – Sharon Swan (meeting host), Tom Teigen, Thomas Hartzell, Tammy Dunn (ex officio), Dan Olson, Nicole Gorle, Rose Intveld, Peter Schuldt.

C. Guests – Kirahy Meyers (future board member), John Ewald, Jamie Holland, Shannon Crawford, Rick McGuire.

D. In the absence of the chairman and vice chairman, Steve Yandl agreed to chair the meeting. There was not a quorum of voting members at the start of the meeting so there were no votes taken.

3. Some edits to March and April minutes had been suggested and made. Without a quorum, approval of March, April, and May minutes will be voted on at the June meeting.

4. Public Hearings/Meetings

A. None to announce.

5. Oral Requests from the Audience/Correspondence

A. Sharon Swan provided a recap of our March field trip meeting and asked for feedback from board members who participated.

(1) John Dewhirst commented that it had been a positive experience and shared portions of conversations that occurred on the bus between visits and on the return to Willis Tucker Park.

(a) He commented that Kayak Point would be a monumental endeavor but was impressed with the plan.

(b) Everyone was a bit surprised by the popularity of disk golf and impressed with the enthusiasm of the operators at Kayak Point Golf Course Park. He felt they might need a longer lease to feel comfortable making more capital improvements. There was concern that the restaurant component might be a challenge because of the somewhat remote location.

(2) Mary Rollins commented that she had enjoyed the field trip as well. In a response to John's comment about the restaurant at the former golf course, now disk golf venue, she felt that if they had a focus on destination events like weddings where they would largely rely on caterers, far less would be required in kitchen upgrades and they would likely see success.

- B. Sharon shared that an email had been received from a citizen regarding prohibition of alcohol consumption in parks.
- (1) Sharon recapped the content of the email but promised to forward it to board members for review.
 - (2) The sender agreed that limits should be set on consumption to prevent obnoxious behavior by those who do not manage their alcohol use responsibly but felt responsible use, particularly in campground settings should be considered.
 - (3) The prohibition is part of Snohomish County Code. Sharon was asked by Mary Rollins to check when it became part of SCC.
 - (4) Sharon said she would check with ranger staff to see what types of alcohol related issues had been happening in the recent past and to discover the ranger's position on any changes to the rules. It might be good to have a ranger participate in the board's next meeting for discussion.

C. Tammy Dunn had an inquiry that she said was offered as a citizen comment, not her role as ex-officio.

- (1) A dumpster in the vicinity of off leash dog area and volleyball parking area was positioned on a disabled parking spot which she did not feel was appropriate unless there was some overriding reason.
 - (a) Sharon said she would investigate and try to resolve the issue.
 - (b) There was a discussion of various misuses of ADA, most because of the public not always educated on the reasoning for certain features.
 - (c) Sharon reminded the group that Cabot Fuqua was working on an ADA related project to update information on our web site and other Parks department information available to the public. Jacob Vail volunteered to review the information and provide feedback.

D. Guest, Rick McGuire, asked to speak on a concern at a small park just east of the town of Gold Bar.

- (1) The park described was an 8-acre parcel at the end of 429th Avenue that was being utilized as an access area to adjacent DNR land. {On the parcel map, this park is named Reiter Foothills Park}
- (2) Rick explained that there was a magnificent American Walnut tree, probably a century old that was in jeopardy because park visitors were parking under the canopy and likely damaging roots.
- (3) Rick had contacted the county and the response was to place a single boulder that really did not keep vehicles from parking cars over sensitive ground. A more appropriate solution would be a barrier that excluded vehicles to outside the tree's drip line or beyond.
- (4) Sharon suggested that Rick's complaint may have been misinterpreted, but explained boulders were generally an effective barrier to prevent vehicle parking. She will bring the matter up at a regular Thursday morning maintenance meeting she is part of.

6. General Business

A. John Ewald recognition.

- (1) Sharon Swan shared memories of working the fair booth with John multiple years and spoke about his tenure with the parks board.
- (2) Thomas Hartzell paid tribute, saying among other things that when John brought problems to the attention of parks staff he did not simply complain, he put forth ideas for solutions.
- (3) John inquired if he could continue to participate on the board as an ex-officio and was told he could.
- (4) Tom Teigen offered several tributes and thank-you messages to John. He commented that in multiple groups he would encounter people who knew or at least had encountered John and that he was liked by all.

7. Project Status Reports.

A. Construction Projects

- (1) Cavalero

- (a) Repairs completed at the bottom of the deep bowl (skate park feature).
- (b) Replacement of some impervious asphalt pavement.
 - (i) Mary Rollins asked if consideration had been given to using asphalt with incorporated biochar for ecological benefits and a more rugged asphalt. Sharon said it was something to investigate and that in the past they have looked at asphalt with recycled plastics added.
- (2) Flowing Lake – Rangers are just about to move into the new ranger station.
- (3) Whitehorse campground.
 - (a) Pretty much completed. Reservations are being taken.
 - (b) First equestrian park in the county. Sharon shared some of the park features.
- (4) Wenberg – The ADA compliant restroom is nearly completed.
- (5) Lake Roesiger – Preparations are being made to re-open a shuttered campground for group use only (very limited parking and amenities)
- (6) Meadowdale
 - (a) Strider awarded the contract.
 - (b) Some disputed items with the railroad present some additional delays to work out.

B. Design Projects

- (1) Kayak Point – Nearing 90% completion of the design phase.
- (2) Carousel – Ready for permitting.
- (3) Corcoron – Second public meeting to be held soon.
- (4) Heybrook Ridge – Environmental studies being completed.
- (5) Thomas Eddy – Planning stages in close coordination with Surface Water Management to achieve mutually beneficial goals.
- (6) Oso Slide Memorial
 - (a) Sharon shared a slide presentation on the project, various concepts and how the project is progressing.
 - (b) One slide showed the mailbox cluster sculpture that has strong meaning to the families impacted.
 - (c) Multiple site element maps. Each element looks thoughtfully designed and elements integrate well.
 - (d) Pictures of two new flagpoles and memorial entrance with discussions of the significance to those impacted by the disaster.
 - (e) There will be a barrier between the memorial and the actual slide area.
 - (f) Mary Rollins had several questions and suggestions for Sharon.
 - (i) How often do Parks staff meet with stakeholders? – Sharon said meetings were very regular initially but currently meetings are on an as needed basis.
 - (ii) The suggestion was made to edit the word “drew” to “draw” on one of the quotes that will be on a plaque to represent the sentiment more accurately. Sharon agreed with the suggestion.
 - (g) There is a need for significant additional donations and funding that will require creative approaches.
 - (i) Jacob Vail suggested silent auction and a few other fund-raising ideas. Tom Teigen responded that silent auctions had been discussed and tried but they generated modest amounts of funds. Jacob asked if he could contact Seattle Men’s Choir who he has worked with before on fund raisers and see if something could be worked out collaborating with them. He was encouraged to reach out.

C. Preferred Plan Projects

(1) Shooting park. – Probably going Master Plan.

(2) Lord Hill park. – Stakeholder meeting with Emily was recently held and planning for a later public meeting.

D. Long Range Planning.

(1) Public Survey is out. Board members encouraged to get citizens to provide input on preferences.

E. Questions and comments from board members to parks staff.

(1) Mary Rollins stated that she has had many inquiries on Lord Hill Park.

(a) Tom Teigen said he was participating in a meeting later in the evening with equestrian groups, many who felt their interests at Lord Hill were not being considered. He assured the board that was not the case and he planned to convince the equestrian enthusiasts of that as well.

(b) Mary said most of the inquiries or concerns she was hearing were from hikers, many complaining that it was easy to get lost due to limited signage. Tom and Sharon assured the board the signage issue would be addressed.

8. Park Director's Time.

A. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is fully functioning.

(1) Shared leadership team

(2) A lot of coordination between department staff working to achieve shared goals.

(3) Tom expressed gratitude for Sharon Swan and her counterparts in other merged departments who make the merge happen despite hurdles.

B. Tom introduced us to Kirahy Meyers who is the candidate for board member from District 1. He is enthusiastic and qualified.

C. There will be an 11-day fair this year at the fairground park. Observing other fairs attempting a drive through fair, it was determined such events mostly benefited food vendors and got away from the general feel of a county fair. A true fair with needed restrictions due to COVID is a better option and that is what staff is working toward.

9. Messages from the Board. Around the Table

A. John Dewhirst

(1) Inquired on the ADA parks inventory project and Cabot's project. Sharon responded that she would try to get Cabot to participate in our next zoom meeting to share what he is putting together.

(2) Asked about the budget hit sustained by Parks and Recreation last year and where we stand this year. Budget answers for the current year are not yet available.

B. David Divoky

(1) David shared that he has been a regular at Kayak Point Gold Course Park, has become a disk golf enthusiast and hopes for the continued success of the disk golf operators who are becoming a force.

C. Tammy Dunn

D. John Ewald

E. Mike Farrell

F. Bob McCarty

G. Kirahy Meyers

(1) Anxious to join our board and contribute as soon as all the required approvals are in place.

H. Darrell Olson

I. Mary Rollins

(1) Mary congratulated Jacob Vail on his getting a proclamation accepted by the governor's office on EDS.

(2) She shared her passion for supporting those who must contend with struggles.

J. John Tam

K. Shawn Tobin

L. Jacob Vail

(1) Jacob had written and submitted to the governor's office a proclamation on Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, EDS disease, a rare syndrome he suffers from. The result was a week identified as EDS week and hopefully increased funding and research for this rare disease.

(2) He thanked the group for welcoming him and offered various ways he could investigate park features and act as advocate to identify issues from the perspective of a wheelchair dependent park user.

M. Steve Yandl

10. 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.