

## PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Zoom Meeting  
Tuesday June 8, 2021  
3:00pm – 4:30pm

1. Call to Order.

2. Roll Call

A. Voting Board Members –

{Vacant Position} (Dist. 1)

Mary Rollins (Dist. 2)

John Dewhirst (Dist. 3)

Steve Yandl (Dist. 4) (Notes)

Bob McCarty (Dist. 5) (Chairman)

x
x
x
x

David Divoky (At Large)

Mike Farrell (At Large) (Vice Chairman)

Darrell Olson (At Large)

John Tam (At Large)

Shawn Tobin (At Large)

Jacob Vail (At Large)

x
x
x
x

B. Staff (Parks and other County Departments or agencies) – Sharon Swan (meeting host), Tom Teigen, Dan Olson, Nicole Gorle, Rose Intveld, Rich Patton, Cabot Fuqua.

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

3. Review of March, April, and May minutes. Edits had been made in prior meetings, but lack of quorum prevented approval of any of these. No additional edits were deemed necessary. March 2021 minutes approved unanimously; April 2021 minutes approved unanimously; May 2021 minutes approved unanimously.

4. Public Hearings/Meetings

A. None to announce.

5. Oral Requests from the Audience/Correspondence

A. Shannon Crawford inquired on the status of potential BMX at McCollum Park.

(1) Sharon Swan responded saying that an RFP process had commenced, and purchasing was providing information to a review committee.

(2) Since an RFP process was ongoing, no further details could be provided at the present time.

B. Sharon Swan reported that the dumpster placed in an ADA parking spot at Willis Tucker Park, reported at a previous meeting, had been moved to a more appropriate spot.

C. Sharon Swan reported that the situation where an old tree at a small park adjacent to DNR land was potentially being harmed by cars parking over its root zone had been verified and corrective action (more boulders to exclude cars) was being taken.

D. At our last meeting, an email from a citizen inquiring about getting rid of the outright prohibition of alcohol at parks, at least campgrounds, had been shared. The citizen felt that responsible consumption of alcohol should be allowed the same as it is in state parks.

(1) Rich Patton spoke on the history of the rule as well as sharing the opinions of ranger staff (the folks who must enforce these rules)

- (2) The prohibition of intoxicating beverages is not actually part of county code for parks, it is found within Title 10 of the Snohomish County code. It prohibits consumption on nearly all county property. It was created in 1979 and updated in 2017. Changing the rule would need to be done by the county council.
- (3) There was a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of the regulation.
  - (a) The advisory board could put forth a suggestion for the council to consider but no proposal was put forth this session.
  - (b) Currently, the rangers have discretion about how strictly they enforce the rules if they spot possible consumption of alcoholic beverage.
  - (c) Shawn Tobin pointed out that just because state parks allow alcohol in campgrounds does not necessarily mean it is a great policy. He cited his experiences on the difficulty of dealing with intoxicated campers, underage drinkers and other problems associated with alcohol consumption.
  - (d) Mary Rollins stated the rule should be properly enforced or eliminated. Leaving the rule in place and turning a blind eye to rule breakers punishes rule followers and shows a lack of trust in our citizens.
  - (e) Mike Farrell brought up concerns about monitoring for underage drinking and the challenge to rangers.
  - (f) John Ewald commented that generally we should strive to keep rules simple and then empower discretion.
  - (g) Tom Teigen shared his reasons for preferring to stick with the law as it now exists. The director of parks can permit alcohol in parks for events where it is appropriate and safe, and our ranger staff has the judgment to have common sense guide enforcement in campgrounds.
  - (h) Jacob Vail felt that dropping the rule would open a can of worms.

## 6. General Business

### A. Board member emails - trainings.

- (1) Jacob and Mary are both set up for email.
- (2) Shawn said he has been contacted but still needs to set up for email.

### B. ADA information sharing – Presentation from Cabot Fuqua.

- (1) Cabot shared Parks' web page on the County web site and the yet to be published pages he is developing to provide much needed information to the ADA community.
- (2) Cabot has been working with Tony Trofimczuk to make sure persons with disabilities can access information on individual parks before visiting but he is hoping for support from individuals who have limitations for needed feedback on factors that are important to address.
- (3) Jacob Vail and Mary Rollins both volunteered to investigate different parks and provide input. John Ewald asked if he could join on some visits to help troubleshoot what might be lacking.
- (4) Cabot will be checking with county web personnel to see what options were available to allow select members to visit pages in development so it would be easier to provide feedback on what was lacking.
  - (a) Rose Intveld suggested simply publishing for review which would allow board members to review but not edit pages. Comments could be sent to Cabot via email.
- (5) Multiple comments were made that Cabot and those assisting him had done a fantastic job on what had been developed thus far.

### C. Fall Field Trip

- (1) Darrell Olson suggested a visit to renovated Whitehorse Trail and the new Whitehorse campground.
- (2) Sharon said it would probably be good to visit the Oso Slide memorial to see all the recent developments.
- (3) Plan now is to do the northern parks, probably the October meeting.

D. Meeting next month (July) will be held but not the August meeting. Plans to ask the board to participate in manning a Parks booth at the fair are not yet set since so many particulars of the modified fair have yet to be worked out. Tom Teigen was meeting with the Fair Board later in the evening and would likely have a better sense of how we might participate.

## 7. Project Status Reports.

### A. Construction Projects

#### (1) Cavalero

(a) Repairs completed at the bottom of the deep bowl (skate park feature).

(b) Repairs to pervious asphalt also completed.

(2) Flowing Lake – Have a certificate of occupancy. Rangers ready to move into new building.

(3) Whitehorse campground.

(a) First campers stayed at the new area Memorial Day weekend.

(b) Looking for funding to improve restroom situation.

(4) Wenberg – The ADA compliant restroom is still incomplete, but progress is being made.

(5) Lake Roesiger

(a) Ready to open for group camping on July 1.

(b) Water is available at the site but the only toilet on the same side of the road as the campground is a Sani can.

(6) Meadowdale

(a) The project had appeared in jeopardy but changes to the agreement with BNSF railroad were recently approved by the county council, overcoming a challenging hurdle.

(b) Tom Teigen spoke on the complexity and challenges of such a project that involved attention to salmon habitat, safety of pedestrians, large complex federal grants, and the somewhat special requirements of the railroad. He is encouraged by the progress made, in large part because of the tenacity of key county staff.

### B. Design Projects

(1) Kayak Point

(a) Mary Rollins asked if tribal personnel had been involved in the decisions made regarding the park – Yes.

(b) Waiting on reports from Department of Ecology. Could be looking for bids next year.

(2) Carousel – Ready for permitting. Construction could commence next year.

(3) Corcoran.

(a) Working with the donor on elements of Phase 1.

(b) First priorities will include parking and a playground.

(4) Heybrook Ridge – Environmental studies being completed. Doing a survey of the trail system, determining details like location of trash receptacles.

(5) Thomas Eddy – Planning stages in close coordination with Surface Water Management to achieve mutually beneficial goals.

(6) Oso Slide Memorial

### C. Preferred Plan Projects

(1) Shooting Park

- (a) Noise study needed.
- (b) Probably will be done as a Master Plan item so it is fully vetted.
- (c) Coordinating with DNR since plan is on land that they currently hold. Determining if a joint SEPA is sufficient or if there will need to be separate SEPAs.
  - (i) Mary Rollins asked Tom Teigen if he could provide the name of the timber plot. Tom described the plot and location but could not recall the name and said he would check and get that information for Mary.
  - (ii) Tom said DNR is moving forward with their timber sale and SEPA.
- (d) County will be looking for a partner in the private sector with expertise in running a shooting park (which is not a core competency of County Parks and Recreation).

(2) Lord Hill Park. – Stakeholder meeting with Emily coming shortly after Labor Day.

#### D. Long Range Planning.

(1) Visioning Survey just closed.

(a) Around 1600 responses.

(b) The group asked Sharon Swan to arrange for a presentation on the findings at our July meeting.

#### 8. Park Director's Time.

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

(1) Tom indicated he would like to see a gathering of the multiple boards and commissions that fall under his new directorship.

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

##### B. Tom spoke about the future of McCollum Park.

(1) There are plans, in concert with Community Transit to make this a transit hub.

(2) The site will be designated as a community center and the location of a food and farming center.

(3) The pool will be closed. In four to five years, the plan is for the location where the pool is currently to become a public market. Prior to that, the initial food component would be a food processing center that could handle foods from local farmers as well as more distant farms who could transport product on I5 to such a center.

(a) Comments from several board members on the need to find swim lesson options, particularly for area low-income families since that was one of the benefits of McCollum Pool. Several options were discussed.

(4) Need for federal grants and other funding.

#### 9. Messages from the Board. Around the Table

A. John Dewhirst.

B. David Divoky

C. Tammy Dunn

D. John Ewald

(1) John commented that he had observed some significant tall weeds along Centennial Trail at Dubuque Road but at a recent visit the weeds had been dealt with.

E. Mike Farrell

(1) Mike was pleased that Monroe Parks recently received \$150k from the county for small but needed projects.

- (2) Monroe Parks has been coordinating with Evergreen State Fairgrounds to develop a hard surface pedestrian pathway from property owned by the city to the fairgrounds which will make access to the fairgrounds much safer and pleasant.

F. Bob McCarty

- (1) Bob has been quite busy with his regular job since multiple co-workers are out because of serious injury or legal issues.
- (2) Bob indicated his fair job in security was cancelled so he would be available to help man any booth we might have at the fair.

G. Kirahy Meyers

- (1) Says he is still getting a feel for the board. Happy to be participating and looking forward to officially being a member.

H. Darrell Olson

I. Mary Rollins

- (1) Mary referenced a stone with an inscribed message that was to be part of the Oso slide memorial. The writing had been shared by Sharon in her presentation on the memorial. Mary suggested that there would be interest from the tribes in having writings of tribal poets be part of the inscription.
- (2) Mary pointed out that Mr. Corcoran who was giving his land for Corcoran Park had lost a nephew in the Oso slide.

J. John Tam

K. Shawn Tobin

L. Jacob Vail

- (1) Jacob complimented county staff on the quality of the web improvements regarding information on Parks specific to those with disabilities and special needs.

M. Steve Yandl

- (1) Commented on the improvements to the Parks web page in its entirety, including the ADA related material. Also said he would be happy to review web content being developed by Cabot and comment.

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.