

MEETING MINUTES
WHATCOM COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
August 11, 2011
South Lake Whatcom Park
3922 So. Bay Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

Present: Commissioners: Gordon Rogers, Walt Lockwood, Jr., Wendy Setter and David Wright

Staff: Rod Lamb, Mike McFarlane, Erik Axelson

Absent: Commissioners: Patricia Lierman, and Theresa Sygitowicz

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Gordon Rogers at 6:35 p.m. The Commission meeting lacked a quorum until later in the meeting when an additional Commissioner arrived. All action items were deferred until the end of the meeting.

I. **AGENDA: August 11, 2011 Agenda Approval.** This item was discussed and acted upon under Section XI.

II. **MINUTES:**

A. **June 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes Approval.** This item was discussed and acted upon under Section XI.

B. **July 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes Approval.** This item was discussed and acted upon under Section XI.

III. **PUBLIC INPUT/COMMUNICATIONS**

A. A discussion ensued regarding current County politics and DNR's schedule of the Intertrust transfer and how that might affect the timely process of the Reconveyance.

IV. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mike McFarlane**

A. **Dakota Creek Golf Course:** The 138-acre golf course located on Haynie Road in Custer, is on the market for \$3.2 million. There maybe some funds available to consider this property for acquisition.

B. **Little Squalicum Park:** The clean up is underway. More contamination was found at the bottom on the stream. A meeting with the City of Bellingham and EPA to address this issue is being set up. The contractor is Glacier Environmental for the city landfill clean up at the site. The landfill project is scheduled to begin on August 22 and run through September 19.

C. **Flood Damage Chapter 17:** Staff from Parks and Public Works met to discuss some items being proposed in County Code Chapter 17 that could have a significant impact on Park projects.

- D. Plantation Rifle Range Lease Change:** Landlords have changed from Foxglove, Inc. to Vertec Timberlands.
- E. South Fork Park Plan:** Requests have been made to move forward on this project by having the Council take action on it. We are waiting for DNR to give us easements.
- F. Galbraith Mountain Update:** Appraisals are being done. Public Works has been requested to review public access onto that property. A proposal will be sent to the Council sometime this fall.
- G. Broadway Park Historical District:** The City of Bellingham is trying to set up the Broadway Park Historical District and as a National Historical District. They would like to include the Roeder Home as part of the District.
- H. Whatcom in Bloom:** Presentations are coming up September 22 at the Courthouse. If anyone would like to assist in the presentation they are welcome.
- I. East Whatcom Regional Resource Center:** The Resource Center is having a dedication on Thursday, September 22 at 11 a.m. and everyone is invited.

V. PARK OPERATIONS' REPORT – Erik Axelson

- A. Walkabout Article:** An article about Tennant Lake was featured in the Seattle Times.
- B. Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve:** Lynn Givler gave a tour at low tide on behalf of the Land Trust as a docent.
- C. Hovander Homestead Park:** Hovander hosted the Civil War Reenactment, an annual event held at the Park.

We are currently in discussion with a community group that is interested in hosting a community event including a family-oriented concert in August of 2012. It underscores the potential for Hovander to host these kinds of events without overwhelming the Park or the surrounding community. It can be a real benefit to us from a revenue standpoint.

- D. Lighthouse Marine Park:** The Annual Arts & Music Festival was held the weekend of July 30-31, also generating a little revenue into the County.
- E. Senior Centers:** We are moving very smoothly in shifting the operating responsibility over to the various organizations like the Council on Aging and the Jet Oldsters.
- F. Rifle and Pistol Range:**
 - a. The Range Master, Gary Rasmussen has trained 2 of our Park Rangers and Extra-Help staff to operate the range and assist in the intense run up to the hunting season.
 - b. Some of the Range equipment is starting to reach the end of its life. The ventilation system in the indoor pistol range is used extensively by law enforcement organizations. We have the potential to bring in \$130,000 from

rentals by law enforcement agencies that use it. We want to make sure that we do the necessary upgrades and figure out how to pay for it.

G. Staff Operations: We are working to figure out how best to deploy our staff. One idea we are looking at is the idea of “lean process.”

a. **Marketing our Parks:** We are looking at different ways to market the parks, enhance revenue, and raise the profile of Whatcom County Parks.

VI. DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT – Rod Lamb

A. Lighthouse Dock Renovation: The lease renewal with DNR is required as a condition to get the funding from the Recreation Conservation Office. We received \$240,000 in grant money from RCO that will be matched with \$80,000 of local REET II funding. The tentative schedule at this point is design will start in September of 2011 and construction will be completed February 2013.

B. Hovander Days Improvements: We are looking at ways to construct the trail from the Tennant Lake Interpretive Center to the Hovander Barn this fall. The maintenance staff will build it.

C. Hovander Playground: We are looking at ways to reduce the fill volume at the Hovander playground. Mike alluded to the changes in Title 17 and what it means if we are filling in the flood plain in terms of compensatory storage.

D. Hovander River Trail: We are continuing to work on the Hovander River Trail that follows the existing levy south of the boat launch. We met with River and Flood and talked about flood plain issues.

E. Lily Point Marine Park: The project is out to bid now and will be opened next Tuesday. It goes before the Council on September 13. Hopefully, work will begin on the trailhead September 19 and completed by mid-November. The pre-manufactured restroom has been ordered and will be available sometime in October.

F. Whatcom County Stormwater Plan: Public Works has to update the Stormwater Plan for the NPDES permit that the County has. They will be looking at their operations and identifying the best management practices that the County follows which may or may not impact Park operations.

G. Information Kiosks: The Park crew just completed installing 2 Information Kiosks at North Lake Whatcom trail. One at each parking lot.

VII. RECREATION AND SENIOR SERVICES' REPORT

A. None.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Tentative Proposal for a Freshwater Diver Clubs: Mike will meet with the club representatives next week.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recommendation for Naming Lily Point Marine Park:** A motion was made to have the name be left at "Lily Point Marine Park" by David Wright, seconded by Wendy Setter and unanimously passed.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Meeting:** September 15, 2011 – Dakota Creek Golf Course
7:00 p.m. – Dakota Creek Golf Course, 3258 Haynie Road, Custer

XI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES:

- A. Agenda Approval for August 11, 2011.** A motion to approve the agenda was made by Wendy Setter, seconded by Walt Lockwood, Jr. and unanimously passed.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval for June 16 and July 21, 2011.

A motion was made to correct the Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2011 under Director's Report, Item B., Galbraith Mountain Update: Delete the last sentence ("The Treasurer's Office sent the reconveyance tax parcel breakdowns to DNR."), and add a new section; "Lake Whatcom Reconveyance: The Treasurer's Office prepared tax parcel breakdowns for DNR." The correction was noted and a motion to approve the corrected meeting minutes of June 16 and July 21, 2011 was made by David Wright, seconded by Gordon Rogers and unanimously passed.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. by Commission Chair, Gordon Rogers.

Transcribed by: Daisy C. Hansen, WC Division Secretary

Approved by: Michael McFarlane, WC Parks Director