

MEETING MINUTES
WHATCOM COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
September 15, 2011
Dakota Creek Golf Course
3258 Haynie Road
Custer, WA 98226

Present: Commissioners: Gordon Rogers, Walt Lockwood, Jr., Patricia Lierman and David Wright

Staff: Rod Lamb, Mike McFarlane, Erik Axelson

Guests: Pam Smith and Brian Southwick

Absent: Commissioners: Wendy Setter and Theresa Sygitowicz

A pre-meeting tour of Dakota Creek Golf Course was made before the regular meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Gordon Rogers at 7:10 p.m.

- I. **AGENDA: September 15, 2011 Agenda Approval.** David Wright made a motion to approve the September Agenda as written. It was moved, seconded by Patricia Lierman and passed.
- II. **MINUTES:**
 - A. **August 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes Approval.** Walt Lockwood made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes as written. It was moved, seconded by David Wright and passed.
- III. **PUBLIC INPUT/COMMUNICATIONS**
 - A. An invitation to "Whatcom In Bloom" Awards Ceremony on September 22, 2011, was passed out to all.
- IV. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mike McFarlane**
 - A. **Little Squalicum Park:** The final walk-through for the EPA & Oeser clean up was conducted on September 14, 2011. The City is completing the clean up of the landfill and should be done by next week. The park looks great and it is anticipated that it will open soon.
 - B. **East Whatcom Regional Resource Center:** The Resource Center will be opening Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. There will be a brief tour. Commission members are invited to the open house. Hopefully, we will have a contract in place with the Opportunity Council by October 1st to operate and maintain that facility. The Parks Department will oversee administration of the contract.
 - C. **Whatcom In Bloom:** The awards ceremony will be September 22, 2011. There were 47 entries this year compared to 48 entries last year.

- D. **2012 Mid-Biennium Review and Adjustments:** In October, we are asked to submit our 2012 mid-biennium review and adjustments. This is a tweaking of the budget, but there are no major changes anticipated.
- E. **Hutchinson Creek:** We received letters from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Ben Cleveland, Regional Director to Back County Horseman and Back Country Horsemen's letter to Chris Hatch. DNR said they are not going to open or use Hutchinson Creek as a recreation site or trailhead. Any future consideration will require a recreation plan and that's not in their work plan for at least 2 years. The County Parks is still waiting for an easement.
- F. **Black Mountain Forestry Center:** A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2011, to discuss the lease.
- G. **South Lake Whatcom Divers Update:** Mike met with this group. They are organized and continue to move forward in their efforts to obtain a diving site on Lake Whatcom.

V. **PARK OPERATIONS' REPORT – Erik Axelson**

- A. **Hovander/Tennant Lake Trail Improvements:** The maintenance crew cleared, replenished the gravel, replaced some culverts to improve drainage and removed bumps in the trails that will make it more ADA accessible. All of this was done under budget and completed before the deadline. We had some help from Lynden Christian volunteers that did a service project. Lead Ranger, Dennis Conner, was impressed by their enthusiasm and amount of work that they contributed to clean up the Fragrance Garden.
- B. **Studebaker Car Show at Hovander:** The Studebaker Car Show was hosted at Hovander the weekend of September 10, 2011. Representatives came from British Columbia and all over the west coast.
- C. **Ferndale Oktoberfest Plans:** Organizers with Ferndale Oktoberfest are talking to Parks management about moving the event to Hovander in 2012.
- D. **Broken Water Line:** A spike in water costs in June and July was caused by a broken water line that wasn't detected until the ground dried out in mid-August.
- E. **Semiahmoo Park:** On September 12, 2011, the Semiahmoo Cannery Lodge and Park hosted a blessing of a Lummi healing totem pole that will begin a 5,000 mile-long journey to its new home at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland.
- F. **Plantation Rifle Range Walkway Construction:** The crew just completed putting a roof over a walkway between the entry to the Rifle Range and the actual Range.
- G. **Roeder Home Painting Project Update:** The County Council voted against accepting the change order that was submitted by the Contractor, Henefin Construction, to paint the Roeder Home and the rental building.
- H. **Canyon Lake Access Road:** We are looking at what we can do to work with Sierra Pacific to restore the vehicle access road to Canyon Lake Reserve.

- I. **North Lake Whatcom:** An illegal caching of materials was found in North Lake Whatcom. The Outside Worker crew removed a lot of material and the Sheriff's Dept. was alerted.
- J. **Chuckanut Trail Maintenance:** The Parks trails maintenance crew will be working with the City of Bellingham where the Chuckanut trails system overlap. This is an opportunity to re-establish some ongoing cooperation with the City Parks in trail development and maintenance.

VI. **DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT – Rod Lamb**

- A. **Lighthouse Dock Renovation:** We received our renewed lease agreement from the Department of Natural Resources. It is for a 35-year term. It is also a requisite for getting the grant funding completed.

We received 6 responses from our Requests for Proposals. They are all from very qualified firms.

- B. **Hovander Playground Update:** We continue to wrestle with a number of issues, primarily the compensatory fill in the flood plain. We will continue to work with River and Flood to resolve the fill issue.
- C. **Hovander River Trail:** Compass Point Surveyors surveyed and completed staking the trail last week.
- D. **Lily Point Marine Park:** The bids were due on August 17, 2011. We received 4 bids and made a recommendation to award it to HB Hansen. HB Hansen was the qualified low bidder at \$198,000 and the high bid was about \$254,000.

The pre-manufactured CXT restroom has been ordered. We will not have a building permit until Labor and Industries reviews the building plans from CXT. Once Labor and Industries approves the plans CXT will begin fabrication.

- E. **Stormwater Plan Update:** Public Works is updating their Stormwater Plan as part of the NPDES permit. We've been invited to participate because Public Works has certain policies that integrate pest and vegetation management. They have asked us to look at some of those policies and see if there are any special conditions that we want to have and incorporate as our own.
- F. **Samish Dock:** The drawings are completed and ready to submit for JARPA and shoreline permits. The goal is to be ready to install it in 2012.

VII. **RECREATION AND SENIOR SERVICES' REPORT**

- A. The Parks Department is planning a winter training session and get-together with all the agencies and coordinators for Senior Services. This will be an opportunity to touch base and continue improving future planning.

VIII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Budgetary Goals and Objectives:** We are doing this on a quarterly basis so that we have a system to report and track what we are doing.
- B. Financial Accounts:** This is information reporting so that the commission can see where we are in our revenue and expense accounts.
- C. Nooksack Loop Trail:** Walt Lockwood informed the Commission that he has resigned from the Nooksack Loop Trail Committee and asked if any other commissioner was interested in the vacant position.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Meeting:** October 20, 2011 – Plantation Rifle and Pistol Range
5102 Samish Way

6:00 p.m. – Guided Tour of Facilities

6:30 p.m. – Commission Meeting

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. by Commission Chair, Gordon Rogers.

Transcribed by: Daisy C. Hansen, WC Division Secretary

Approved by: Michael McFarlane, WC Parks Director