



SEDRO-WOOLLEY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

325 Metcalf Street, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
360-856-5167/ 360-855-0707

SHANE WALLEY, SUPERVISOR

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

November 1st 2010

Members Present: Stephanie Lokkebo, Kim Woolsey
Members Absent: Todd Torgeson, Ed Blanton, Mark Mauden, Caleb Bradford
Staff Present: Shane Walley, Nathan Salseina
Others Present: Robert Woolsey, Councilman Brett Sandström
Call to Order: 6:02 pm

Due to lack of a quorum, the review and approval of September's meeting minutes was deferred to the January meeting.

Board Discussion: Due to the lack of a quorum, it was decided that this meeting would be for discussion purpose only.

Nathan reviewed the department activities through the month of September and October. He stated that Staff is only doing routine maintenance, and that there are no major projects planned for now through the end of the year. He noted that Parks Operator Kevin Kesti has been out for a few days due to the birth of his new son, Landon. Nathan stated that the Parks staff is still splitting its time between the Street Department and Parks Department as the need arises. He also mentioned that the City is still under the informal spending freeze until the end of the year.

Nathan gave a brief review of the Parks & Recreation section of the Mayors Preliminary Balanced Budget. The preliminary budget includes money for the hanging flower baskets downtown, and the other annual flower displays. It also includes money to hire part time summer help for 3 days per week to water the baskets, and a 4 to 5 day per week person to help with roadside mowing and other parks duties. Nathan stated that there may be some money set aside to do some long range park planning, and that the Board may eventually be asked for direction and input. Other than that, all levels are pretty much where they were for 2010, except for a few extra dollars for some maintenance at Hammer Heritage Square and HVAC replacement at the Library. Nathan stated there is a public review copy in the City Hall lobby.

The Board asked exactly how the budget process worked. Nathan gave an overview of the process and noted that the preliminary budget goes to the public and council for review, and following a process of public hearings, the final budget document is usually approved sometime in December.

A discussion ensued about future park planning. Councilman Sandström stated that he would like to see some improvements to Memorial Park, possibly adding a skateboard park to some open space areas.

Councilman Sandstrom and Robert Woolsey commented further on Skateboard parks, and how they could be a potentially large asset to the community. Nathan asked if there was anything staff could do to improve the current site at Metcalf Park. It was stated that if the space was a bit larger, perhaps getting rid of the basketball hoops and incorporating the basketball court into the skate area, that would help.

Stephanie mentioned that they are looking into sites that would be good for the community garden. The FEMA land at Riverfront Park, the Swedelius property, and the City owned property on Cook Road were possible sites. Nathan discussed water availability at these sites, and noted the cost for the Public Utility District to install water meters. It was decided the Board would do more research into the best location for the community garden.

Robert Woolsey discussed the future of the FEMA land at Riverfront and discussed its natural beauty. He stated the best use for the property may be as a nature viewing area and that there is a lot of grant money available to make improvements for these types of uses.

Per the boards request, Nathan reviewed the requirements for Sedro-Woolley to become designated a Tree City USA. He stated there are four requirements, the city must have a tree care ordinance, a tree board that oversees maintenance, an Arbor Day proclamation by the council every year, and a tree maintenance budget of at least \$2.00 per capita in the city. For Sedro-Woolley, this would be somewhere around \$20,000. It was decided that due to the cost, we would look at it in the future, but not seek designation at this time.

Stephanie brought up the trees at the Lemley property on Alexander Street. It was stated that the trees should be moved out into the parks system before they become too large. The idea of "sponsor a tree" was brought up, saying that people could pay the cost of moving the trees in memory of people. Parks staff will look into the cost of a tree spade, and how to administer such a program.

Next Parks Board Meeting January 3rd 2011

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm