



SEDRO-WOOLLEY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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SHANE WALLEY, SUPERVISOR

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 7th 2010

Members Present: Stephanie Lokkebo, Mark Mauden, Ed Blanton, Kim Woolsey, Jon Schmidt.
Members Absent: Todd Torgeson, Caleb Bradford
Staff Present: Public Works Operations Supervisor Shane Walley, Operations Lead Nathan Salseina
Others Present: Robert Woolsey,
Call to Order: 6:02pm

Minutes: No previous minutes to read.

Board Discussion: Shane opened meeting with a discussion on current situation of the Parks Department funding and staffing due to economic conditions. It was stated that staff is currently being shared between the areas of parks, streets, cemetery, storm water, and facilities, and staff is stretched very thin with work increasing all the time.

All of the present board members introduced themselves.

Shane discussed the purpose of the board, and described the duties of the chair and vice chair and opened the nominations of chair. Kim suggested that Stephanie would be a good chair due to her experience and community involvement.

Mark Mauden seconded the motion

Discussion followed.

Motion carried 5-0

Stephanie Suggested Kim would be a good vice chair

Ed Blanton seconded the motion

Motion Carried 5-0

Terms were discussed, it was decided that 3 year terms as specified in the city ordinance would be perfect for the advisory board.

Discussion followed about the annual meeting schedule. It was decided that meetings will be the 1st Monday of every other month with the next meeting being on November 1st 2010.

Nathan commented on the availability of other locations for meetings such as city hall, parks, the community center etc if the board wishes to rotate locations. It was decided that the Bingham Park Office is an ideal location but it is nice to have other options available.

Discussion ensued about the future development of Riverfront Park. Shane discussed property that the city currently owns such as the FEMA Property adjacent to Riverfront Park, the Swedelius property on River Rd, and the recent purchase of the Stiles addition to Riverfront and the limitations of the property due to flooding concerns etc. It was discussed that it would be great location for soccer and softball fields in the future with roll away backstops that could be removed during a flood, nothing permanent.

Discussion ensued about the shortage of athletic fields in the city.

Ed asked about the status of the Metcalf field property. He gave a history of the property and wondered about the future status of the property. Shane mentioned the property is currently used as a baseball field only, the carnival has moved and we have asked for more money to update the facility, but budget requests have not been fulfilled so far.

Discussion ensued about the current status of all the parks, and Robert Woolsey commented that the staff does a good job with what we have.

Stephanie who is also a planning commission member commented that the planning commission has recently sent an ordinance to the council stating that no more buildings can be built on land designated for parks.

Shane mentioned that trail construction would be a good area to focus on and that we have funding available for trail construction. He explained that we have trail areas that we are currently working on.

Mark asked about the status of the hwy 20 trail along the BNSF tracks. Discussion followed about the future of the trail and options about completing the section of the trail from Ferry Street to Metcalf Street. It was suggested that we could ask for a trail easement from Sea Land Corp the owners of the former Skagit Plant.

Kim asked about the status of a trail at Riverfront Park FEMA property. Shane said nothing has been done. Kim suggested reviving this plan saying it would be an ideal place for a trail. Shane commented on the problems with building trails in the flood plain and the problems we've had in the past getting things repaired after the floods.

Discussion moved to that status of facilities maintenance. Mark discussed the fact the SW Rotary has built and donated a lot of structures and facilities around the city, and the city has not adequately funded the maintenance of these facilities. Mark commented that the Rotary has donated a lot of tables and equipment the community center and things have disappeared. He commented that the week the custodian was on vacation things were filthy at the Community Center. Discussion followed about the condition of the Community Center rentals and the facility monitor and the problems with theft of rotary equipment and damage to the building.

Kim inquired about what are the expectations of the board. Shane mentioned that the board will be the advocate for parks in Sedro-Woolley and will help with planning for the future.

Discussion followed about the duties of the parks and all the areas that we maintain and are responsible for.

Jon a Rotarian gave a summary the Rotary Club activities that they are getting ready to do.

Large shelter will have a new roof and re-coated with a sealer.

They will also construct the walking path from Township Street to the beginning of the path.

They will also work on the Rose Garden at Riverfront Park and will involve the high school agriculture program.

Robert Woolsey said the S-W Garden club is up and running again and will be involved with future projects.

Jon also stated that the logs on the train at Harry Osborne Park will have a permanent roof built above them by Rotary to help them from deteriorating.

Ideas about a splash park built by Rotary were discussed.

Nathan mentioned that the future of parks funding need to be researched. Jon said that Shelton is a good place to emulate and get ideas.

Discussion ensued about who would be the best city council liaison to the board. The board agreed that Brett Sandstrom would be very good. Nathan will ask him and try to have him be ready for next meeting.

Jon forgot to mention that re-constructing the small t-ball field at Riverfront Park with roll away backstops and other improvements has also been funded and is being planned. He mentioned that we need more community involvement with parks projects. Discussion ensued about the need for more community involvement in the parks projects.

A discussion followed about the future plans for the N. Township Street Park. It was stated that we should not add new facilities if we can't maintain what we have now.

Discussion ensued about the current situation regarding facility monitoring. Jon suggested an outside contract person monitoring the facilities during events. It was said that we need to look at the facility monitor position and perhaps look at revamping the position. Perhaps coming up with a stricter set of guidelines to operate under.

Jon stated that an individual is working privately on scheduling events for the amphitheater next year.

It was stated that the board strongly supports the flower program and requests that it is included in the parks budget submittal this year.

It was suggested that the board should all attend the September 22nd meeting and introduce themselves to the council. A letter will be sent requesting agenda time on the 22nd.

Mark Motioned to Adjourn the Meeting

Kim seconded the motion

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm