



SEDRO-WOOLLEY PARKS & REREATION ADVISORY BOARD

325 Metcalf Street, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Phone 360-855-1661 - Fax 360-855-0707

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

June 13th, 2018

- Members Present:** Ruth Richardson, Will Honea, Lauren Benham, Owen Murdock, Jim Allen, Rick Judd, Jerry Gardner (Late).
- Members Absent:** None
- City Council Present:** Germaine Kornegay, Chuck Owen, Pola Kelley.
- Staff Present:** Mayor Johnson, Eron Berg, Mark Freiberger, Doug Merriman, Nathan Salseina.
- Others Present:** Susan Wichers, Stacy Penno
- Call to Order:** 5:00 pm

Meeting was called to order by Nathan Salseina.

Nathan Salseina welcomed everyone to the first parks board meeting since 2012 and began the meeting with a roundtable introduction of all present. Ruth Richardson was nominated to be chair of the board, and Will Honea was suggested to be Vice Chair. Both Ruth and Will excepted the nomination. Discussion ensued as to the duties of the chair and vice chair. It was discussed that the mission of the board is to advise the Mayor, City Council and City staff on all matters relating to Parks & Recreation, and to serve as a liaison between the city and the community. Nathan Salseina presented a handout to the board that listed their staggered terms of service.

Nathan Salseina reviewed the cities two current RCO (Recreation & Conservation Office) grant funding applications for the Memorial Park Renovation Project, and the Winnie Houser Playfield improvement projects. Several questions were asked regarding the scope of the two projects and project timelines if the funding requests are successful.

Staff next presented the board the proposed location of the new BMX Bike facility. Discussion was held on the different proposed locations, the conflicts of BMX bikes using the skateboard park. It was suggested that staff involve the BMX user groups in any proposed designs. Staff asked the board if they were ok with proceeding with planning and design work for the West Bingham Park location behind the caretaker's residence and east of Edward R. Murrow Street. There were no objections to this location.

Staff reviewed the acquisition history of the new swift center park property at the entrance to northern state. City will own the property on June 29th 2018. The board and staff had a roundtable discussion about the conceptual designs for development of the park. Staff asked the board to look over the plan and make suggestions as to the recommended amenities that the park should have. The ideas of some larger covered picnic areas, and perhaps a stage area, and open space for soccer. Mayor Johnson asked as question that came from the audience as to why the baseball diamond was taken out of the concept plan. Staff explained the drainage and poor soil conditions were a problem, and would make a baseball field difficult to develop and maintain. Mark Freiberger gave an overview of the improvements that are part of the Fruitdale Rd Improvement project including sidewalks, and utility stub outs.

At this time the board and staff had an open discussion period. The need for additional open space for all outdoor sports was discussed. As well as the need for a neighborhood park in on the north side of SR20 in the central portion of the city due to the dense population of kids and young families in that area, and the dangers of crossing SR20.

The board discussed future plans for the proposed baseball and softball complex at the Northern State Recreation Area off Helmick Rd owned by the Skagit County Parks Department. The board and staff discussed the heavy maintenance that baseball and softball fields require. Owen Murdock suggested the possibility of hosting tournaments and the positive effect they have on bringing revenues into the community and filling hotel rooms.

Discussion was held regarding the need for R.V. Facilities to support tournaments, and staff reviewed the management challenges that they bring with them.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15