

Park Board Regular meeting February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ Cusick Community Center

Park Board members present: Vice chairman Dave Gruver, members Mark Bender and Ken Timmreck, and Treasurer Jeanette Taylor

Guests: Jim Hudkins of the Northeast Chapter of the Backcountry Horseman of Washington and Chad Goodhue, Director of the Pend Oreille County Information Technology Department.

Pend Oreille County staff: Director Mike Lithgow, Parks Manager Todd McLaughlin and administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke.

The meeting was called to order at 2:07pm.

Mark Bender motioned to approve the minutes of the January meeting, Jeanetta Taylor seconded, and the vote was for unanimous approval.

Treasurer Jeanetta Taylor summarized the financial reports provided by administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke. Notably, the timber harvest from Section 16 aka Rustlers Gulch, has brought in \$137,171.41. Unusual expenses for the month included the Forest Practice Application (FPA) and State Environmental Protection application (SEPA) for hazard tree removal at the Pend Oreille County Park. (136 danger trees have been identified at the Park and the prospectus and draft contract will be ready for publication by the end of the month. The trees need to be removed prior to the Parks opening.) Ms. Taylor also gave a brief update on the bat house project at Pend Oreille County Park. It has been an Eagle Scout project and the young man will be having his Board of Reviews. It was suggested he attend a meeting and share the project particulars with the Park Board.

IT Director Chad Goodhue and Director Mike Lithgow presented an update on a wireless project for the Pend Oreille County Park. Their presentation included the challenges of implementation due to the topography, dense vegetation and overhead canopy, highlighting the best location and expected coverage, as well as a quote for equipment and services. It was noted that the Pend Oreille Public Works Department would be able to trench in power and some picnic shelters could benefit. The Park Board members discussed the merits and short falls of the proposal i.e.:

- Return on investment
- Enhanced educational experience/opportunities
- Marketing tool/more competitive
- Necessity for a primitive outdoor experience
- Fibre is to the Park, feasibility
- Justification for day use fee
- A unique feature
- Pend Oreille Park is a low cost, front country experience

The wireless topic will be revisited at a later date when more are in attendance.

Parks Manager Todd McLaughlin presented a report covering the following topics:

- Hazard tree removal/mastication
- Management plan
- Ken Bevis, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife biologist will be preparing the wildlife portion of the Forest Stewardship Plan
- Managing the Park for habitat
- Website updates to include snow removal sites (7)
- New web site will be up and running soon
- Children's Forest Network w/ U S Forest Service, bring it to Pend Oreille County , good partnership opportunity; both Yocum Lake and Edgewater North would be good fits for these programs
- Playground at the Pend Oreille County Park
- Monthly Newsletter to be re-initiated, a good opportunity for press releases
- Bear proof trash receptacles/recycling containers; signage might discourage household refuse
- Sandy Shores boat launch, extend or repair in same foot print? Site visit planned to determine elevations

Further information on the hazard trees at the Pend Oreille County Park; again, the goal is to have the trees removed by the end of April or first of May so the Park is ready to open as early as possible. The trees slated for removal do not have a lot of value, maybe for pulp. The identified trees are diseased or rotted and in need of removal. Director Lithgow mentioned the Forest Service has a yearly assessment/maintenance and removal of danger trees, this process is less costly, more efficient and a safer practice. It is not yet out for bid.

Back country horseman subcommittee and a meeting with Bob Gish was mentioned. Mike Lithgow will follow-up.

It is hoped a grant for \$600.00 will be received from the Washington State Geocaching Association. The monies will be used for containers; a "passport event" challenge is in the development stage, perhaps partnering with the Chamber, to include at least 20 sites, perhaps even creating a site on the Water Trail. Kick off scheduled for July.

Manager McLaughlin introduced "orienteering," an established activity utilizing a compass. Todd will research further.

After some discussion, Ken Timmreck motioned to designate the Edgewater North property to the Park for management, Mark Bender seconded and the vote was for unanimous recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC).

Mark Bender motioned to adjourn, Jeanetta Taylor seconded and the meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.