

**Pend Oreille County
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

Cusick Community Center

Cusick, Washington

May 19, 2010

Minutes, Draft

Attending Members:

Sam Nicholas – Chair

John Hankey – Commissioner

Jeanetta Taylor

Ken Timmrick

Mark Bender

Charles Smith

Dave Gruver

Others:

Mike Deason – Public Works

Sally Clark – Public Works

Oliver Johnson – Public Works & Park Host

Mike Lithgow – Community Development

Bob Gish – Backcountry Horseman's Club

Mary Tucker – Property Owner

Karen Jackson – Property Owner

Carolyn Russell – Secretary

Jeanetta motioned to accept the minutes. Sam seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Jeanetta said expenses for April were \$151.77 with no revenues.

The members agreed that the by-laws are suitable at this time.

Possible Title II grants were discussed. John said Commissioner Merrill is on the grants committee in conjunction with the Forest Service. Bob said there may be several grants available which would be suitable for our use. He stated that they must have a specific purpose. They are due by the end of June. Ken pointed out the importance of writing the grants soon.

Bob said the engineering plans from Gonzaga University will be completed soon. These will comprise part of a grant application for an RV campground/trailhead at the County Park.

Dave motioned to appoint Bob Gish to write this grant proposal.
Ken seconded the motion and the motion passed by vote.

Funds for Parks and Recreation were discussed.

Sam asked John about the possible value of creating a Parks district. Sam mentioned a possible 1-2% tax on real estate sold that could go to Parks and Recreation?

John agreed to look into these items and speak with Tom about them.

Mark mentioned the importance of updating our County website so people can see what is available here for recreation.

County Park:

Oliver said he opened the Park May 15th this year due to good weather.

The Park opens Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend.

Dave asked that the Park be opened earlier and stay open later, depending on weather. Sam suggested he write a letter requesting this to the Commissioners. Dave agreed to do this.

Fertile Valley, Sec. 16:

Charlie handed out a list of possible goals. John agreed to show these to the Commissioners. It was reaffirmed that this is not a park but County land under the timber designation.

A discussion of a recreational easement between the Park and Sec. 16 ensued.

Portions of property held by Jeanetta, Karen and Mary could be involved.

Charlie agreed to speak with these property owners on this matter.

Mary suggested it be designated motorized.

Ken stated that a trail about 20 feet wide would probably be sufficient.

Yokum Lake:

Sam said he spoke with George Luft who may have some Title II funds available that may be suitable for improving the road and perhaps creating a small campground. John pointed out that more parking is needed also.

The Forest Service still plans to close their old road within the next several years.

Sam said he envisions the 5 year plan as "something for everybody" and sees more campgrounds and parking areas in the future.

Motorized Recreation:

Ken said there will be a Poker Run this coming Saturday May 22nd, from Ione to Metaline and back. Registration is from 9:00am-11:00am.

Ken spoke of creating an amendment to the 4-wheeler codes.

He envisions a 5 year plan containing the development of enough trails (especially along LeClerc Road and HWY 20) so that people can reasonably ride places without having to trailer their 4 wheelers.

The members agreed to meet a half hour earlier next month (2:30pm) and break into smaller groups for discussion of their areas of interest.

Next Regular Meeting:

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Cusick Community Center

2:30pm

Agenda:

Old Business

Approve Minutes

County Park

Sec. 16

Yokum Lake

Motorized Recreation

New Business

**Pend Oreille County
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

Cusick Community Center

Cusick, Washington

June 16, 2010

Minutes, Draft

Attending Members:

Sam Nicholas – Chair

John Hankey – Commissioner

Jeanetta Taylor

Mark Bender

Dave Gruver

Charlie Smith

Others:

Mike Deason – Public Works

Mike Lithgow – Community Development

Sally Clark – Public Works

Bob Gish – Backcountry Horseman's Club

Mary Maxfield – Sasheen Lake Betterment Association

Carolyn Russell – Secretary

Charlie motioned to accept the minutes. Dave seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Jeanetta said expenses for May were \$125.41 and revenues were \$90.00.

John had a copy of the community development regulations. He said they can be found online also. Sam suggested copies be placed at the libraries too. John said they are going to be updated. He told the group that there will be town hall meetings seeking citizen's input. There will be a meeting on June 22nd at the PUD building in Newport, June 23rd in Ione (Ione Community Center) and the 24th at the Sasheen Lake Fire Station. All the meetings will begin at 6:30pm.

Discussion ensued regarding a possible tax to go to County Parks and Recreation. It would be a real estate excise tax of $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1% to be paid by a seller upon the sale of their property. John stated that this has to be passed (by ballot) by a vote of the people. Sam suggested that petitions may be effective for this.

Mike Deason suggested that correspondence and ideas go to Sally who will then pass them on to the most appropriate people.

County Park:

Bob gave Mike Deason a copy of Gonzaga's engineering plans for a small RV/Trailhead facility for our Park. Mike said he will read them over. Bob requested that he contact him then to discuss them. Sally agreed to write a letter for us thanking the Gonzaga students and faculty. Bob mentioned the waterlines and asked about a possible parking area off Fertile Valley Road. Mike said Roberts Road is wide and could possibly be used as long as one doesn't create a traffic hazard. Bob suggested our projects be small and have low maintenance requirements, at least at first. Bob and John agreed that Title II grants may not be applicable to our areas of interest as they must benefit the National Forest.

Fertile Valley, Sec. 16:

Mike said some kelly humps have been put in on some roads and he intends to use the grader there. More "no woodcutting" signs have been put up and he is considering a possible gate on one well used road. He also mentioned that he has hauled away some junk and means to remove the junk cars also.

Charlie mentioned possible easements between the Park and Sec. 16. Sam suggested the County people speak with property owners on this matter. Mike said it is often best to try to work out the fewest easements necessary.

Yokum Lake:

Sam showed George Luft's plans for a small boat launch to the members. Mike said they will remove a hump there but there is not a lot of room (it will be 68' wide). Eventually, they hope to have a small parking area there also.

Motorized Recreation:

Sam mentioned that the Poker Run last month appeared to be successful and a surprising diversity of folks enjoyed it.

The members agreed to meet early again next month.

Next Regular Meeting:

Wednesday, July 21, 2010
Cusick Community Center, 2:30pm

Agenda:

Approve minutes
Old business
County Park
Sec. 16
Yokum Lake
Motorized Recreation
New business; Mike's opinion of Gonzaga's engineering plans

**Pend Oreille County
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

Cusick Community Center

July 21, 2010

Cusick, Washington

Minutes, Draft

Attending Members:

Sam Nicholas – Chair

Jeanetta Taylor

Ken Timmrick

Mark Bender

Charlie Smith

Others:

Mike Deason – Public Works

Sally Clark – Public Works

Carolyn Russell – Secretary

Charlie motioned to accept the minutes. Mark seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Jeanetta told the members that expenses for June were \$147.53. Revenues were \$162.00

Sam spoke of the importance of letting other members know, as soon as possible, if they will not be able to attend the meetings. Some members have a long drive and need to know if there will be a forum.

Jeanetta will be unable to attend in August.

Ken spoke of the proposed countywide plan and mentioned that the County is considering a “no camping on County property” rule. He suggested that this is inappropriate and inadvisable. The members agreed and discussed sending a letter to the Commissioners to this effect.

Mike showed the members a map of the Boundary Dam area. He said they intend to improve their recreation area (view points, trails etc.) and make a portage trail around Peewee Falls.

He mentioned several County pieces with river access but said the County currently does not have funding for clearing or improving these pieces.

The members discussed a possible real estate tax of 1/4 of 1% on the sale of property to go to improving parks and recreation in Pend Oreille County. They decided a letter to the Commissioners would be appropriate in the hope of getting this on the ballot for vote by November or next spring. Mike said he will mention this to the Commissioners on Monday.

Pend Oreille County Park:

Mike spoke of the Gonzaga plan for RV/Trail heads. He said it could perhaps be simplified as there is already a good road bed there. RV sites could be made off this and a turnaround area at the end. The group was hopeful that volunteers would help with this project. The members agreed that this would be a more feasible plan at this time. Mike said a thank you letter was sent to Gonzaga. Sally showed some pictures of exercise equipment that could be more simply constructed and installed at various places along trails. Benches at these sites would be good also.

Section 16 (Rustler's Gulch):

Charlie said surveyors were there last week shooting some lines between the Park and Sec. 16.

Mark showed the members a map of this area. He said he was recently there and spoke of some beautiful water falls. Charlie pointed out that the falls were on private property but could be viewed from several places.

Next Regular Meeting:

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

Cusick Community Center, **3:00pm**

Agenda:

Approve Minutes

Old business

County Park

Sec. 16

Yokum Lake

Motorized Recreation

Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

**Cusick Community Center
Cusick, Washington**

September 15, 2010

Minutes, Draft

Attending Members:

Jeanetta Taylor

Mark Bender

Ken Timmrick

Charlie Smith

John Hankey – Commissioner

Others:

Sam Castro – Public Works Director

Sally Clark – Public Works

Carolyn Russell – Secretary

Discussion:

John spoke of the proposed seller's real estate tax of $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1%. He pointed out that, had the tax been in place in 2009, the amount accruing to Parks and Recreation would have been \$103,187.00. He mentioned that real estate sales are somewhat slower this year however.

Mark, Charlie and Ken mentioned that they had asked some people if they would be favorable toward such a tax and reported that they generally received a positive response.

Pend Oreille County Park:

Sam said some people, not at the Park, were putting their garbage in Park dumpsters. He would like to find a way to prevent this, perhaps by having the lids only open several inches.

He stated that he would tell Oliver to turn off the water for the showers as we are now at the end of the season.

Charlie suggested that we have a booth at the County Fair next year to disseminate information about the Park and other County lands. John said

the County hopes to have a booth there and Parks and Recreation could participate in that one.

Sec. 16 (Rustler's Gulch):

Charlie told the members that tree cutting is down now. He said a berm, placed on one of the roads, is now a popular dirt bike mound.

Charlie spoke to Julie (DNR) who told him some land is being set aside as a safety zone for animals (no hunting). He wondered if some kind of permit system, for hunting on County lands, would be appropriate. John thought it would be best to leave public lands public. Mark wondered if some areas should be set aside for disabled hunters.

Charlie asked if the road off Fertile Valley should be closed, when the weather turns wet, to prevent rutting and damage to it.

Yokum Lake:

Sam told the members that the County work at Yokum Lake is now completed.

Mark suggested that signs be emplaced saying, "Pack it In, Pack it Out".

Sam pointed out that signs tend to get destroyed quickly. Ken told Sam that the best prices for signs were at the Walla Walla State Prison.

Motorized Recreation:

Ken wondered if some lands should be designated for specific uses. He said the north end of the County is generally good for ORV trails now but asked John about the old, wooden bridge that he would like to locate and move to Mill Creek. John agreed to look into this and ask George about it.

Mark checked his map and said that Mill Creek Road probably belongs to the Forest Service, though it is difficult to tell for certain from his map.

Ken mentioned that the Forest Services' Batey-Bold trail is primarily for dirt bikes as it is too narrow for 4-wheelers.

Mark asked if the new maps were on the County website yet. Sam replied that he hopes to see that done within the next several months.

Mark suggested that we meet early for our November meeting (not October) to discuss our respective areas of interest. That would be the meeting of November 17th.

Jeanetta will be unable to attend the meeting next month (October 20th).

Next Regular Meeting:

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Cusick Community Center, 3:00pm

Pend Oreille County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Cusick Community Center
Cusick, Washington
Minutes, Draft

October 20, 2010

Attending Members:

Sam Nicolas
Jeanetta Taylor
John Star
Ken Timmreck
Charles Smith
Dave Gruver
Mark Bender

Others:

Sam Castro
Sally Clark
Alice McMillian
Karen Jackson
Mary Tucker

Sam N. motioned to accept the minutes. All seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Jeanetta said expenses for September were \$174.42 with revenue of \$82.00.

Sam C. updated the group on the Park dumpster issue stating that it has been resolved. The dumpster lids now open only a few inches preventing people from dumping their household garbage at the Park. He also arranged for high school kids to patrol the Park during their community service hours.

Charles asked about extending the Park hours and presented a letter to the Commissioners requesting this (see attached letter). Sam C. suggested that since the budget is low now extending the Park hours would not be possible at this time. He suggested better timing for this proposal. The group spoke about bathrooms being open and the gate closed.

The group spoke about establishing easements between Section 16 and the POC Park. Mary and Alice offered to gift easements or deed a strip of land to connect the two parcels if the conditions of the proposal were suitable to them and their families. Mary spoke about "usage for everyone" and a 20' easement. Sam C. suggested a round table meeting between the Commissioners and the adjacent landowners to determine the feasibility of connecting Section 16 and the POC Park.

Pend Oreille County Park:

Sam N. asked Mark to be the new Chairman for the Park Planning Subcommittee. Mark said yes and all agreed. Members of the Park Subcommittee are Mark, John, Charlie, Jeanetta and Dave. The group agreed to meet ½ hour early next month, prior to the 3pm Park Meeting, to discuss their respective areas of interest.

North County Timber Land (Oliver Rd):

Ken spoke to the group about the excellent ORV opportunities on the North County timber land that was logged near Oliver Rd. He spoke about the clay soil and how it is ideal for riding. He mentioned future income potential with an ORV Park. Ken would like ORV designation or a policy for ORV use on county roads. Sam N. asked Ken to provide a sketch or map to show the group where he is referring to.

The group asked about the Sand Creek Bridge being repaired. Sam C. stated that there are no funds at this time. The group shared that once Ron Curren had suggested recycling a south county bridge "removal" and using it for Sand Creek. The group asked if they could build a bridge themselves. Sam C. proposed they ask Don Ramsey the county engineer.

Section 16:

Charlie reported campsites on the sand hill near the Kelly humps with fire rings and unattended fires. He mentioned tracks and asked about potential erosion issues. Charlie also noted that there was a lot of ammunition used to fire at the trees around the campsite. Charlie asked about the legal aspects of this and any liabilities. Sam C. suggested notifying the appropriate agencies (DNR, police, etc.) if this occurs again, rather than confronting anyone directly.

Box Canyon:

Ken asked if this land could be designated as a Park or an ORV Park?

Yokum Lake:

The group commended the county on the outstanding work performed at the Yokum Lake Access Road Project site. They spoke of the non-combustion engine fishing regulation for Yokum Lake; Sam C. mentioned contacting Fish & Wildlife to clarify the boating regulations on Yokum Lake.

Sam N. ended the meeting with a brief update on the Loon habitat at Yokum Lake. He expressed the importance of this bird and preserving a healthy environment for its species.

Next Regular Meeting:

Wednesday November 17, 2010

Cusick Community Center, 3:00pm

(Subgroups will meet at 2:30)

Pend Oreille County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Agenda

**Cusick Community Center
Cusick, Washington**

October 20, 2010

Public Works Action Items:

Park Hours (see letter to Commissioners dated 10/15/10)

Easements/deeds to connect the POC Park to Section 16

Determine landowners in Section 23 (Sam C.)

Yokum Lake “non-combustible motors”

Pend Oreille County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Cusick Community Center
Cusick, Washington
Minutes, Draft

November 17, 2010

Attending Members:

Sam Nicolas
Jeanetta Taylor
John Stark
Ken Timmreck
Charles Smith
Mark Bender

Others:

Sam Castro
Sally Clark
Oliver Johnson
John Hankey

Sam N. motioned to accept the minutes. All seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Jeanetta said expenses for October were \$162.14 with no revenue.

Sam N. spoke of the subgroups decision to focus on the ¼ of 1% tax during our next meeting. The group would like to follow through on the feasibility of this proposal.

Pend Oreille County Park:

Charlie spoke of a potential access trail from the POC Park to Section 16. The group discussed different aspects of the use, maintenance, and liabilities of a potential access trail between both parcels of land. The group mentioned Tucker's original proposal of offering the county a 20' throughway to connect the parcels. Sam C. shared with the group that he attempted to contact the landowners and that they were not interested in talking making it a moot point.

The group spoke about the county's policy for removal of downed trees in the Park. Sam C. spoke of being approached recently regarding removal of downed trees in the Park in exchange for earthwork in the Park by a local man who had done this in the past and would like to do it again. Sam C. stated he was uncomfortable at this time with this kind of arrangement with one citizen. The group questioned the potential hazards and liabilities for the county. Oliver explained how in summer of 2009 there had been a specific agreement with this individual and Ron Curren to exchange "clean-up for downed trees" which required involvement from L&I plus a background check, etc.

Sam C. suggested that the Park group band together to open the trails in the case of a hazardous situation. He asked for volunteers. The group spoke of chain-saw safety and the liabilities and laws to protect landowners. Sam C. suggested asking Mike Lithgow to specify those details.

Mark volunteered to remove the downed trees and open the trails; he and Oliver spoke of arranging a time to do that. The group thanked Mark.

Section 16:

John stated that the Commissioners are looking at logging Section 16 next spring. The group questioned the laws regarding protecting old growth trees and asked what the purpose for the logging of Section 16 was. John said it would be thinning for the health of the trees left.

Box Canyon:

Charlie and Ken questioned the new berms installed on each side of the railroad tracks on Box Canyon Road. The group asked who built the berms on the county road. No one knew. Sally suggested asking Larry if a permit to Perform Work on a County Road Right of Way was issued.

North County Timber Land (Oliver Rd):

Ken spoke of wanting a policy for non-profit or profit use of ORV's on county roads. Sam C. suggested contacting Mike Lithgow to see what would be needed to put a policy in place. The group discussed potential liabilities for the county. John said he will find out what it takes to release the county of any liabilities for ORV use. The possible need of a Conditional Use Permit was mentioned. There were discussions of The Water Trails Group and the permitting process for a "multi-use" area north of Edgewater.

Yocum Lake:

Sam C. spoke about the fishing on Yocum Lake. He had contacted Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) after the last meeting to propose the non-combustion engine fishing regulation be added to the regulations as it had been in the past. Sam C. asked Sally to follow-through on the communication he initiated with the DFW.

¼ of 1% Tax:

Sam N. stated that during the next meeting he wanted to focus on Mike Deason's suggestion of the potential ¼ of 1% tax for real estate sold going toward the Parks & Recreation Fund. "You stay, no pay". The group agreed. Ken asked when we could get the public involved.

Sam C. ended the meeting by sharing two emails from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) seeking volunteers for a Conservation Program and a Recreational Trails Program. He recommended volunteers from our Park Group to be part of these types of programs in order to learn about grants, etc.

Sam C. also read out loud the email he received from Department of Fish & Wildlife responding to his request to add the non-combustible motors regulation to Yocum Lake officially. Sam asked Sally to contact District Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Bill Baker, to find out what is needed for the next step.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone...

Next Regular Meeting:

Wednesday December 15, 2010

Cusick Community Center, 3:00pm

Focus: ¼ of 1% tax

Pend Oreille County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Agenda

**Cusick Community Center
Cusick, Washington**

November 17, 2010

Public Works Action Items:

Box Canyon Road berms-who installed? (ask Larry or Don)

Yocum Lake "non-combustible motors"- initiate regulation proposal (Sally follow-through)

Pend Oreille County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Cusick Community Center
Cusick, Washington
Minutes Draft

December 15, 2010

Attending Members:

Sam Nicolas
John Stark
Ken Timmreck
Charles Smith
Mark Bender

Sam Castro
Steve Gibson
John Hankey
Heather Wells
Todd McLaughlin

Other Attendees:

Susan Harris

Sam N. motioned to accept the minutes. All seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Sam N. spoke of the ¼ of 1% proposed (excise) tax only go to sold real estate. A discussion on how this may be achieved.

Section 16:

Steve said the condition of timber is deteriorating due to several factors. He suggested doing some harvesting, and considering options like providing trails etc. Steve did put together a packet for harvesting timber sales, which are estimated at \$283,000, and should be going to the Parks Board. Using sales from timber to produce revenue, funds can go towards any parks, not just Pend Oreille Park. Regarding trespassing, surveyors have been out to put orange markers and flags on trees and land between state and county lines. Hopefully this will help to maintain a "no unauthorized motor vehicle "area.

Todd McLaughlin touched on the parcel of land off of Fertile Valley Road where County Forester will be going in and cutting down trees. While this is public land, it needs to remain public.

The Department of Fish & Wildlife also addressed the interest of keeping off road vehicles from entering the adjacent property known as Rustlers Gulch. They have recently opened this area to public use and discourage any motorized vehicles from entering. We can all help by reporting violators.

Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance:

Susan Harris gave the committee a short presentation on options that could be explored to generate more funds by attracting tourism to the area. The presentation included options like attracting fisherman, hunters, campers and outdoor enthusiasts.

