Park Board regular meeting June 17th, 2015 @ Cusick Community Center 2:00pm

Park Board members present: Chairman Sam Nicholas, members Mark Bender, Don Comins and Treasurer Jeanetta Taylor.

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

Guests: Mary Maxfield, Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA) executive director Susan Harris and County Commissioner Mike Manus.

Prior month's minutes identified the Road Department Engineering intern, Christie Wendle. Her salary is being paid for by the Road Department, Parks is utilizing a small percentage of her time. Clarification on the hazard tree removal project at the Park.

Jeanette Taylor motioned to approve the minutes, Mark Bender seconded, minutes approved.

Jeanette Taylor reviewed the Accounts Payable and Monthly Financial Statement for May. Some further discussion on camping fees and Water Trail maps. A large group requested to reserve 18 sites for 2 days at the Pend Oreille County Park. Normally the Park is a "first come first serve" facility, but as the group was not requesting the entire Park, the reservation was allowed. Parks Manager Todd McLaughlin has inventoried the campsites at the Park and feels there are 25 to 30 sites total. Signage for the sites needs to be addressed.

Hazard tree removal demonstrates due diligence. A little raking/housekeeping may be required in the day use area.

Parks Manager report

- Upcoming Geo Cache event
  Todd shared the passport created for the event and outlined the procedure for completing the challenge. The first 50 participants to complete the challenge will be awarded a trackable gold coin. Todd provided a coin for "show & tell." It is anticipated the challenge will take no less than 2 days. Sites are all local [County] and federal, no state or private sites. No sites requiring a fee to access. Director Mike Lithgow and 4-H coordinator Dixie Chichester have been publicizing the event.
- In conjunction with the Geo Cache event a Grizzly Discovery Center Geocache Class is planned for July 10th, partnering with Extension/4-H. 17 to 25 8th & 9th graders are registered for the ½ day training/introduction to geo caching.
- Equestrian Camp & Parking-intern Christie Wendle has been working with Todd on design. Back Country Horseman member Bob Gish recommended the publication used for design criteria. Historically the Back Country Horseman have provided the man power and equipment for projects at the Park.
- Signs-for campground-Manager McLaughlin provided a hand-out; signs include Day Use, Camping and Donation, in brown & white. The subject of a Parks and Rec logo was mentioned, using the County logo with verbiage identifying Park and Rec, to help raise awareness of the Parks properties in support of an initiative in the future to garner 1/4 of 1% of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET). Todd suggested some research into other Parks and Rec logos as examples.

- Fee Envelope-examples Susan Harris suggested Petroglyphs. Todd is hoping to simplify the process and raise the level of professionalism.
- Sandy Shores Boat Launch-intern Christie Wendle has designed a site plan similar to Greggs Addition.
- Section 16 aka Rustlers Gulch-road has been graded, water bars installed & a ditch. Gates will be installed utilizing the County Road Department District 1. The gates will be used to hopefully prevent access during certain times of the year. Member Mark Bender questioned if the public should be aware of the gates, in an effort to avoid blindsiding. Commissioner Manus mentioned the Forest Service has a similar issue with gated roads. Manager McLaughlin drew a comparison with Yokum Lake Rd and gate, noting the improved condition of the road presently, compared with the past when there was no gate to close and protect the road during wet conditions. The new gate will be signed.
- Trail comments-Manager McLaughlin shared comments from the Washington Trails Association website. This is a website hiker's visit to check the condition of trails for a future hike or to make a comment on a particular hike. Todd found a comment posted on the condition of the trails at the Park which noted some signs were missing. The individual posting the comment was very complimentary to the trail system. The park hiking trail in mentioned in Rich Landers book Day Hikes of Eastern Washington (hike #63). New carsonite trail markers will be ordered and installed.

A Public Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled re: Edgewater North property. The purpose being to garner public opinion on whether or not the property should be included in Parks. The meeting is scheduled for June 29th at the Ione Community Center 6:00pm. Advantages to the land being in the Parks purview could include; an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) friendly campground, with recreational liability exemption, also timber harvest could generate revenue, along with the ability to apply for grants. Chairman Nicholas questioned if inclusion in the Parks could limit the options for trade or sale of the property.

Don Comins motioned to adjourn, Mark Bender seconded.