

Park Board regular meeting October 21st, 2015 @ Cusick Community Center

Park Board members present: Vice-chair Dave Gruver, Treasurer Jeanetta Taylor, members Mark Bender and Greg Jakeman.

Guests: Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA) Executive Director Susan Harris

Pend Oreille County staff: Community Development director Mike Lithgow, Parks Manager Todd McLaughlin, and administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke

Vice chair Dave Gruver called the meeting to order at 2:06pm.

Introductions were made for the benefit of the recorded session.

Mark Bender motioned to approve the minutes of the September meeting, Jeanetta Taylor seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer Jeanetta Taylor reviewed the financial reports.

The Forest Stewardship Plan for the Pend Oreille County Park has been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC). Luke Machtolf of Northwest Management will now apply to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for 50% re-imbusement of the plan cost. Commissioner Kiss was impressed with the level of detail in the plan, vice-chair Dave Gruver and member Mark Bender both commented that the plan was money well spent.

Next was a discussion of the Parks Plan Time Table and Budget, using a table from the Parks Plan (page 181). Items highlighted:

- Signage
- Facelift
- Parking
- Group site
- Revenue, which includes the beginning fund balance and monies from sale of timber
- Park harvest addressed disease prevention and thinning
- Parks Manager + an intern could = a Parks Director

PORTA director Susan Harris emphasized the Water Trail as a major asset and potential income producer. A Water Trail Geo Cache event would showcase the Water Trail much the same as the countywide Geo Cache event did for Parks properties in the County.

Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) grants were discussed as they would relate to Greggs boat launch and a planning grant for Batey Boulder. It was further noted side by sides are becoming more popular and the Batey Boulder site might be more desirable if it were developed as an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trail head.

Director Lithgow shared the 2016 draft budget. The budget includes \$5000.00 for Repairs and Maintenance as well as \$5000.00 in miscellaneous costs. Aggregate is needed for trail head parking, additional donation boxes for both a group camp area and equestrian area could be beneficial. Manager McLaughlin would like Park host Mike Peterson to perform some "drive arounds" on Saturdays to

ascertain usage, how many sites occupied vs fees collected. It was suggested a sign be posted at the kiosk "Fees checked daily."

The subject of a flood light for the southwest corner of the park host home was revisited. Director Lithgow recommended waiting until perhaps a shop/storage facility was installed for winter activities in the future.

Parks Manager Todd McLaughlin presented his report.

Manager McLaughlin and member Greg Jakeman visited potential sites for disk golf courses.

The Geo Cache event is ongoing, with over half the coins issued to date.

Park Trails have been walked and mapped. The Campground campsites have been inventoried.

The design for the fee envelopes is complete and has been submitted for proof and final printing quote. They will be ready for the next season.

The BoCC land closure has been lifted, the gate at Section 16, aka Rustlers Gulch will remain closed until next year for road preservation.

The derelict docks at the Public Access on Sacheen Lake have been removed. Manager McLaughlin may know whose dock it may have been for possible fine.

600 pounds of trash were removed from Ashenfelter Bay public access.

And lastly, Manager McLaughlin is working toward recognition of the Water Trail by 2 different groups, the American Canoe Association (ACA) and the National Water Trails System (NWTs). Both entities would include the Water Trail on their websites.

Vice Chair Dave Gruver suggested two 7' gates for the Park.

The meeting adjourned at 4:01.