

Pend Oreille County Parks Board Workshop January 16th, 2016 @ Cusick Community Center

Park Board members present: Jeanetta Taylor, Greg Jakeman and Don Comins

Guests: Jim Hudkins and Bob Gish of the Back Country Horseman (BCH), John Floyd of the Pend Oreille Conservation District, and Sonya Scaufaire executive director of the Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA).

Pend Oreille County staff: Board of County Commissioner (BoCC) Karen Skoog, Director Mike Lithgow, Parks Manager Todd McLaughlin and administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke

U. S. Forest Service: Kevin Walton

The workshop was called to order at 10:17am by Director Lithgow, introductions were made. It was noted two new Park Board members are needed, one from the north region of the county and one “at large” member. As there was no quorum, no official business could be conducted and no formal minutes will be recorded.

Director Lithgow began with the year 2015 in review. Highlights include:

- The Geo-cache challenge
- Mapping of trails in the Park-GPS friendly
- New fee envelopes for the coming season
- Gates for Section 16 aka Rustlers Gulch
- New cash box system
- Greggs Addition boat launch repair-the “Band-Aid” approach
- Forest stewardship plans adopted

For 2016 the following are some of the goals:

- The Equestrian trail; a public meeting is planned for 2 February 2016 at the Sacheen Lake Fire Hall
 - Funding source –from the gas tax for non-motorized trails
 - Board of County Commissioners has authorized
 - Relocation of encroaching fences and gates will need to be addressed
 - Contractor selection
- Group Camp—area and functional layout approved by the Back Country Horseman
- Greggs Addition boat launch, apply for grant, work to be done in 2017
- Disk Golf course for Park—
 - a location has been identified for an 18 hole course
 - possible Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) grant
 - an alternate site for a shorter course on Forest Service property in Newport was discussed
 - PORTA executive director believes the larger course would be a better draw
- Batey Bould motorized trail system
 - Only the parking area would be on County property
 - Forest Service should be lead agency
 - NEPA would be required

- Seems like a “do-able” project but not without Forest Service committing staff & resources
- Newport Gun Club expansion
 - The BoCC has closed county pits to shooting, (addressing liability concerns) thus creating a need for safe shooting opportunities
 - The Hunter Education program also requires a range
 - The Sheriff’s office needs a practice range
 - Newport Equipment has a “played out” pit adjoining Gun Club property, at some time in the past it was offered to the Gun Club & Sheriff’s Office
 - This could potentially be a multi-use site, incorporating archery with 4-H support
 - John Floyd has ties to Safari Club International, possible help
 - RCO Grant w/match

Break for lunch.

Director Lithgow distributed the Park Board By-Laws for review. The by-laws need to be up dated and no signed copy could be found.

National Trails Day is June 4th, 2016. An event at the park was proposed.

American Hiking Association & chain saw certification.

John Floyd talked about the American Leadership School sponsored by Safari Club International located in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in August. It is a training opportunity, where they “train the trainers.” Scholarships are still available.

Kevin Walton provided a Forest Service up-date.

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) position is vacant, Kevin will fill-in
- N. Fork-Sullivan Lake Trail bridge replacement
- Trail crew funding
- Dave Drum has retired
- Lake Shore Trail-Boat Launch to dome American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, bench locations identified
- Thunder Creek (Gypsy Meadows) plan to replace structures BCH and Washington Trails Association (WTA) identified for input/support
- A Grant for a major overhaul of the Wolf Trail has been secured, improvements to be addressed, parking and Hwy crossing
- Parking at Sullivan Lake, Dam area
- Trail naming for Sullivan Campground spur, opportunity for public involvement
- Expansion at Pioneer Park to accommodate more walk-in and kayak sites
- Short course disk golf most likely on hold

A question was put to Kevin re: a boat launch and dock option at Bead Lake.

The workshop adjourned at 1:03pm.

