

Park Board regular meeting February 17th, 2016 @ Cusick Community Center

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

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 2:05pm.

Introductions were made for the benefit of the recorded session and for the newly appointed member, Dwight Opp. Mr. Opp has been retired for three years from a 40 year career with Stimson Lumber.

Jeanetta Taylor motioned to approve the October 2015 minutes, Mark Bender seconded, minutes were (at last) approved. [this was the first Parks Board meeting to have a quorum since October of 2015]

Jeanetta provided the Monthly Financial statement. Terri Ann will e-mail the Expense Ledger summary for the month of January to the Park Board members. Jeanetta also provided some background on financials for the benefit of in-coming member Dwight Opp.

At the Park Board workshop in January, Director Lithgow requested the Park Board members review the by-laws. The by-laws were drafted when the Parks Department was a division of the Public Works Department, this being no longer the case, the By-laws need to reflect the Park and Recreation status with the Community Development Department. Manager McLaughlin will e-mail all members the by-laws for review at the March meeting. It was suggested any changes or corrections be e-mailed for inclusion prior to the March Park Board meeting.

It being necessary to appoint officers for 2016, Jeanetta motioned to appointment Dave Gruver as the Chairman, Mark seconded, the vote was for unanimous approval. Dave motioned to appoint Don Comins as the vice-chair, Dwight seconded, the vote was for unanimous approval.

Director Lithgow provided an encapsulated history of Parks for the last few years; including the adoption of the Parks 6 year Plan, identifying resources and goals, the formation of the Parks Manager position in 2015 and highlighting the grant opportunities for the upcoming Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) year. Further noting Yocum Lake is queued up for a Parks plan. Best case scenario for grant dollars would include; the Greggs Addition boat launch repair, a disk golf course with bathroom at the Pend Oreille County Park and upgrades to the picnic sites and a playground at the Pend Oreille County Park.

Todd provided the Parks Managers report, highlighting the Equestrian Trail project along Fertile Valley Rd, connecting the Pend Oreille County Park with the Rustlers Gulch property. The Geocaching sites from last year's challenge are in need of maintenance, there is the potential for another geocache event utilizing the Water Trail, it was suggested a patch be the prize for completion. Monies collected through the donation boxes installed last year at the Pend Oreille County Park will be used for bathroom upgrades. The Park will be surveyed to assess trail maintenance needs; it was noted some debris could be cut using hand saws but others will require chain saws and a chain saw certification would be desirable. Interest has increased for reservations at the Park. Todd has begun some research into setting up an application process along with rules for the Park and day use areas. Ancillary discussions included; establishing a fee for the group camp area and access for disabled hunters. The new fee envelopes are ready for the upcoming season and the hitching rails, made as an Eagle Scout project have been

delivered. Further discussions on pre commercial thinning and diseased tree removal, details on grant submittal; which grants can be used for design and also which grants can be used as match. Additionally Todd shared information from the recent Washington Recreation and Park Association Risk Management School in Seattle.

Discussions are ongoing for the Newport Gun Club property.

Comments received re: the Equestrian Trail were shared, notably it will be recommended there be no dogs on the trail, and a name has been submitted for the trail with a sign proposal; "Buckaroo Trail," in honor of Budd Brittain.

Dave Gruver adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm.