

Park Board regular meeting March 16th, 2016 @ Cusick Community Center

Park Board members present: Chairman Dave Gruver, Vice-Chair Don Comins, Treasurer Jeanetta Taylor, members Mark Bender and Dwight Opp.

Guests: Jim Hudkins of the Bank County Horseman, and Sonya Scaufaire, executive director of Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA), and Karen Skoog, District 1 County Commissioner.

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

Chairman Gruver officially called the meeting to order at 2:06pm, introductions were made for the benefit of the recorder.

Mark Bender motioned to approve the minutes from February's Regular Park board meeting, Dwight Opp seconded. The vote was for unanimous approval.

Treasurer Jeanetta Taylor provided the fund balance, including the credits and debits. It was noted a donation was recently received, which will be included in next month's reporting, for \$460.00 from the River City Van Club.

The By-laws were discussed. Vice chair Don Comins had several administrative type errors highlighted for correction. Member Comins provided these to Director Lithgow; he will make the suggested corrections and e-mail them to the Board members prior to next month's meeting. If the Park Board members have further corrections, additions or comments, they can be included. It is hoped a recommendation can be made in April. Of note, it was suggested the time frame for Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) directives be extended to 65 or 70 days, allowing for discussion at one regular meeting prior to a recommendation.

Clarification for voting and majority quorum.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has offered to deed a 3 – 4 acre parcel adjoining a Pend Oreille County public access at Ashenfelter Bay. Additionally former County Commissioner Dean Cummings met with Director Lithgow at the site, with a vision of a boat launch. Challenges could include: the shallowness of the bay and a possible tribal cultural resource site. There may be pilings from a former railroad trestle, and mil foil flourishes in this nearly no current bay. The Port of Pend Oreille also has property in this area and might have an interest in improving the site. An enhanced picnic site was proposed as a possible option, with an informational kiosk siting the railroad and tribe. Member Mark Bender suggested engaging the Tribe. PORTA Director Scaufaire mentioned the historicity, siting the Tiger Store "Next Stop: History" program and their historical trail as an example. She also said "if we build it, PORTA will promote it." Commissioner Skoog questioned the suitability for swimming, Vice-chair Comins is familiar with the site and feels the mil foil would not be conducive. Director Lithgow will invite Dean Cummings to the Park Board meeting in April to present his proposal.

The Bead Lake boat launch was next discussed. The configuration and access to the current launch, which has no dock, is difficult. The Pend Oreille Valley Sportsman has offered to fund the dock, cost estimate from S&K Marine of \$8,000. Forest Service District Ranger Gayne Sears had previously mentioned an agreement with the homeowners on the lake should be a part of any on-going discussion. Jim Hines as president of the homeowners association is amenable. Letters of support with the Forest

Service and Department of Natural Resources. The applicant will be the Forest Service. The land is Forest Service property, however Todd reminded the Board the state has an interest also due to the aquatic lands. Further Todd doesn't feel anyone would be opposed. A Substantial Shoreline Development Permit (SSDP) would be required, no house on property. Parks could do a letter of support. Trailhead is there as well.

Park Managers report:

Water test for Park came back, all good.

Equestrian project State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) has been processed and a Determination of Non Significance (DNS) issued. Applications are now being submitted. Mike & Todd will present to the Back Country Horseman (BCH). President Jim Hudkins requested handouts for members, it was explained Bob Gish, who was formally very involved with the land use/trails issues is battling cancer.

A spring harvest is planned for the Pend Oreille Park. The location is off of Gingers End Trail. harvest area, contract best value, most qualified, is important, it is a highly visible sight. Park board members Mark Bender and Dwight Opp, along with Northwest Management's Luke Machtof recommend a 'request for qualifications' approach to this highly visible site, with a focus on a 'least impact' philosophy. The long term Forest Practices Act (FPA) is in place and will remain in force for 15 years. Interpretive signing was suggested. It will be a minimal harvest identified in the Forest Stewardship plan for the Park as Stand 7. The bid package is on the web site. The Park Board members will make a recommendation to the Board of County commissioners based on qualifications of the contractors. The Board of County Commissioners will make final decision.

It may be more attractive and efficient to contractors by including Rustlers Gulch. WDFW is currently logging property in back of Rustlers Gulch.

BCH will participate in trail clean-up.

Manager McLaughlin has walked the trails to identify possible trees for removal. Several trees are down in the Park and there is some roof damage to one picnic structure.

Up-coming Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) grant submittal. This will be a highly competitive process.

The Park will be the site of a wedding in October. Todd will put together an event application.

Manager McLaughlin suggests the Park Board members explore the website for information on Pend Oreille Park, Rustlers Gulch, Yocum Lake, and Sweet Creek Rest Area, also the Water Trail map and information.

Potential Gun Club up-date. Dan Reijonen will be meeting with Steve Smith of Newport Equipment re: acquisition of adjoining property.

Signage for Parks Properties.

Lion's Club and Train rides up-date by PORTA Director Sonya Scaufaire.

Re: signage for the Equestrian Trail. Justin Holliday made a request to name the trail for a local resident who has passed.

Motion to adjourn 3:45pm.