

January 6th, 2014 Regular Park Board meeting @Cusick Community Center

Park Board members present: Jeanetta Taylor, Ken Timmreck, Sam Nichols, Greg Jakeman, Mark Bender and Dave Gruver.

Pend Oreille Community Development staff present: Director Mike Lithgow, Parks Plan consultant Dixie Chichester and administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke.

Guests: Susan Harris, Executive Director of Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA) advocating the assets of tourism, the Pend Oreille River Water Trail, Birding Trail and the Batey Boulder "dirt bike" facility. Luke Machtoff and Dave Crossley of Northwest Management Inc.

Sam Nichols called the meeting to order and asked for introductions; Dave Gruver motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Mark Bender seconded and the minutes were approved. There was no Treasurers report.

Director Mike Lithgow explained the February meeting would include yearend financials; he then introduced Northwest Management Inc. for a presentation on developing a Forest Stewardship Plans for Parks properties. (Please see attached outlined example and Washington State Guidelines) Luke detailed particulars re: writing a Forest Stewardship plan, sustainability and management. Key objectives for each piece need to be well established, particularly using citizen input, "tailored" plans. Ancillary items discussed: a cruise of Pend Oreille County Park to locate possible disease, "stand exam data" needed for the Park, objectives, monies already paid to 4-Seasons Forestry, disturbing the Park to access Rustlers Gulch and potential damage/weed encroachment. A Forest Stewardship Plan is key to securing matching cost share monies from the Department of Natural Resources. A "full stand exam" utilizing Variable Radius Plotting (VRP) to tally the trees, with a view to sustainability, is what the Park needs. Mike spoke to conservation vs preservation. There is a June 30th deadline. Ken motioned to approve a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to move forward with Forest Stewardship Plans through Northwest Management Inc., Greg seconded, and the vote was for unanimous approval. Greg Jakeman requested a copy of the 1982 transfer document which deeded the Rustlers Gulch property to Pend Oreille County, a copy will also be delivered to Northwest Management Inc.

Charlotte Yergens, Clerk to the Town of Cusick, has included a Disk Golf Course in Cusick's park plan. Mike re-capped the disk golf designer field trip, it is considered an affordable development option. Greg Jakeman explained what qualities make for a good course. Further discussion on disk golf as a family friendly activity.

An AmeriCorps and/or Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) position was discussed.

Equestrian Trail survey data is being inputted into Computer Assisted Drafting (CAD) program by the County Design and Engineering technician.

Dave Gruver made motion to adjourn and Mark Bender seconded, the meeting was adjourned. Approx. 4:30pm

Regular Park Board meeting February 19, 2014 Cusick Community Center

Park Board members present: Dave Gruver, Don Comins, Jeanetta Taylor, Mark Bender and Ken Timmreck

Guests: Susan Harris, Executive Director of PORTA (Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance) Dixie Chichester, Park Plan consultant and Kevin Walton of the Forest Service.

Pend Oreille County Community Development staff: Director Mike Lithgow and administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke

In the absence of Parks Board director Sam Nicholas, Director Mike Lithgow called the meeting to order at 2:05pm and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Mark Bender made a motion to approve the minutes, Dave Gruver seconded, motion carried.

2013 financials were reviewed, as well as January 2014.

Dave Gruver, liaison with the Back Country Horseman, has a plan to utilize some of the trees felled at the Pend Oreille County Park, he also mentioned he had a conversation with Bob Gish, instrumental in the frost free water line installed at the Park, and the remainder of the receipts (\$800.-\$900) for reimbursement will be submitted soon.

Agenda items included the Department of Natural Resources Grant for forest stewardship plans, RCO (Recreation and Conservation Office) grant possibilities and the VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) application. Mike summarized the meeting he and Mark Bender had with forester Luke Machtolf of Northwest Management Inc. and possible strategies for creating the Forest Stewardship plans. It might be most advantageous to start with one of the properties and evaluate the process, work through the interactive procedure, the draft and review. The Rustlers Gulch property might be a good candidate as it will require a detailed and active level of management. The \$26,300. bid was a total cost for all the Forest Stewardship plans for Parks properties. The bid received for the Rustlers Gulch property is \$4,900. Merits of two options proposed by the forester were discussed. Some of the discussion points were, merchantable timber, fixed plot data, timber cruise, inventory of previously logged 80 acre parcel, plotted reproduction data and diversity of re-planting to name a few. Long term planning requires the best available data. Time frame questions. Each Parks property requiring a Stewardship plan has been allotted an amount from the DNR grant. Harvest dollars will support Parks projects. The County Park plan will not need as detailed data as the goals differ. Don Comins recommended deferring to Mark Bender due to his Forest Service background. Based on Marks judgment Dave Gruver made a motion to accept Option 1, or "A" from Northwest Management Inc. for the Rustlers Gulch property, Don Comins seconded and the motion unanimously passed. The plan is to start with Rustlers Gulch and as that "phase" nears completion, choose and begin on another. Mark suggested that if there would be crews in the area, for Rustlers Gulch, perhaps the Pend Oreille Co Park property could be partially included. Mike will follow up and thanked Mark for his expertise. RCO grant possibilities were next on the agenda. Mike began by sharing information from Daro Palmer with the WDFW on an internal proposal to rank a parking area for Rustlers Gulch. The proposal was well met at the Eastern Regional level. WDFW would take the lead on this parking area grant proposal. A preliminary "first touch" meeting was made with the Board of County Commissioners, Daro Palmer and Mike. The Best Chance Rd area would be an ideal location, on the County side. Partnering with Fish and Wildlife, as they manage the 2800 acres adjoining the Rustlers Gulch 560 acre piece, would be a

very attractive grant. Kyle, our grant manager with RCO recommends partnering as a favorable element to a grant application. The Pend Oreille County partnering piece would include the land and signage for way finding, campsites and interpretive. Dave Gruver presented and explained a letter of support from the Backcountry Horseman, which would be "soft match." An additional letter, more specifically targeting this project, would be good. This is a good project with the equestrian piece already in place and the close proximity of the Pend Oreille Park. Mike would also like to see an RCO grant written on a grand scale (larger projects have a better chance at funding, says Kyle, and the smaller projects are not really as "cost effective" for your time and energy) perhaps through WWRP (Washington Wildlife Recreational Program) or the RTP (Recreational Trails Program) addressing the need for a trailhead parking area nearer to the Park and including signage and campsite improvement. Mike encouraged the members to visit the RCO Grant website to see available grants and their focus. Dave Gruver made a motion to support Mike with the pursuance of the WDFW Rustlers Gulch parking area RCO grant on County lands, Jeanetta seconded. The motion carried with unanimous approval. Dave Gruver also made a motion to support the development of an RCO grant for Pend Oreille County Park, trail head parking and accouterments; Don Comins seconded, motion carried. Further discussion on what components should be included in grant applications, which grants require match, formation of sub committees for grant applications.

VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) was the next agenda item and Mike called on Dixie Chichester, Park Plan consultant, to explain the program and the goals for a VISTA person. It is hoped that a Parks and Recreation nonprofit foundation could be created, a valuable piece for grants. Susan Harris PORTA Executive director, herself a former VISTA, further elaborated on the benefits. Oftentimes the VISTA is looking for experience in their chosen field and frequently create a self-sustaining position for themselves by the time their internship expires. A stipend towards additional education is also available. Dixie will do some research, and be ready to submit a proposal for the scope of work to outline the level of effort to apply for VISTA.

Kevin Walton with the Forest Service provided an update; where they have yet to receive their 2014 budget, it looks as though their budget will reflect a 54% decrease. Next week he will attend a recreational strategy meeting. The Forest Service is basically in "survival mode." The PNWTA (Pacific Northwest Trail Association) will run the trails program this year. Kevin will also be looking into RCO grants. The Forest Service ranks high for grants. Salmo Basin Trail project will hopefully finish up this summer. Motorized use project and South Skookum Bridge were discussed as well as the South End project motorized vehicle use map addition. The Forest Service would like to work with the County on trailheads. Batey Boulder is a good candidate.

Susan Harris contributed an update from the EDC (Economic Development Council) meeting re: Batey Boulder, a project which would dovetail nicely with the South End motorized vehicle use. There are 4 Eastern professors in the field of recreation, who would be wonderful to have as a "think tank" along with students doing case studies, to showcase options.

Kevin continued with a Yocum Lake update, it has been cleaned up. The last mile and a half is closed to motorized access, the goal is to encourage walk or boat in sites. It was mentioned the Pend Oreille Sportsman Club would be interested in working with the Forest Service in creating parking at Bead Lake. Edgewater-Panhandle-Pioneer Park and Edgewater campgrounds were discussed, including bear boxes and better access trails.

Forest Service danger tree identification is done "in house," regional expert with Forest Service, may offer a training opportunity. Jay Poppi, a seasonal employee will be back in March, heading up the PUD projects and hazard trees.

Noisy Creek access closed.

Gayne Sears, District Ranger at the Forest Service will be the keynote speaker at the Swan Festival, March 22nd, a film will be shown highlighting the 50th anniversary of the wilderness act.

Motion to adjourn. Dave Gruver

Park Board regular meeting March 19th, 2014 Cusick Community Center

There being no quorum, no formal minutes were kept, and no motions were made.

Jeanetta Taylor, Don Comins and Dave Gruver of the Park Board Advisory Committee were in attendance, as well as Susan Harris, executive director of Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA), Pend Oreille County Commissioner Mike Manus, Community Development director Mike Lithgow and his administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke.

As there was no quorum, neither the minutes from the previous meeting nor the Treasurers report could be approved.

Director Lithgow shared information about the Rustlers Gulch inventory and forest management plans; hopes are that a draft plan will be available in May with implementation planned for Fall. Pend Oreille County, in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), is pursuing Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) grants to develop the Rustlers Gulch Recreation area, which includes the Pend Oreille Park. Parking areas and connecting trails are planned, match monies will include \$120,000 which has already been committed for the design and development of an equestrian trail. A field trip is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25th on site to consider design strategy and mitigate for trespassing with signage and fencing. Susan Harris was in hopes PORTA will be kept informed as the Park map is a frequently accessed document on their web site. Letters of support, to be submitted with grant applications, were requested.

Disc golf was discussed, specifically the Town of Cusick is looking for match monies (\$4,000) from the Parks fund for a grant they are actively pursuing for at least a beginner golf course. The Town of Cusick, with their skate board park, public boat launch, picnic shelter and ample parking is an attractive site for this type of use. The Pend Oreille County Park was mentioned as an ideal location for a "world class" type disc golf course; with "phasing" of the course construction, beginning with a 9 basket course and expanding into an 18 basket course.

The concept of concerts in the Park was discussed, with the natural amphitheater setting. Blue Grass festival?

[may be time to amend the Park Board by-laws to include "virtual voting" by e-mail]

Other items mentioned:

The Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) program will not be funded for the next two to three years. Setting up a non-profit foundation & 501-C3 for the Parks properties/functions i.e. Water Trails, Rustlers Gulch Recreation Area; likewise compartmentalizing other appropriate properties under this County umbrella. The creation of this foundation and its associated non-profit status and by-laws may be a good task for a Gonzaga Law school student.

Mike shared a letter from Professor Gregg Dohrn re: possible interdisciplinary internships through Eastern Washington University (EWU).

A road swap has been proposed with the Forest Service; Mill Creek Rd for Rocky Creek Rd.

The Forest Service may keep open the northeastern most camp ground at Noisy Creek for the boat launch access.

PORTA will hold their signature Swan Festival event this Saturday, March 22nd. At this writing there are 120 confirmed attendees.

The meeting ended at 3:30pm.

Park Board Regular meeting 16th April, 2014 Cusick Community Center 2:00pm

Park Board members present: Jeanette Taylor, Dave Gruver, Ken Timmreck, Don Comins Mark Bender and Greg Jakeman.

Pend Oreille County staff: Director Mike Lithgow and administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke.

Other attendees: Dixie Chichester, Park Plan consultant and Cusick mayor Bob Spencer.

In the absence of Sam Nicholas the meeting was called to order by Director Lithgow at 2:00pm with introductions. As there was no quorum in March, there were no minutes to approve. Financial reports were considered, clarification on payments made to the Road Department for work at the Park. Dave Gruver motioned to approve the treasurer's report with Don Comins seconding, motion carried.

Rustlers Gulch Inventory up-date: Mike met on site with the Forester, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) biologist, and Washington State University (WSU) Extension Special Forest Products person, in the morning. Carol Mack of WSU Extension and Dixie Chichester were also in attendance. The goal is to manage the site for habitat, recreation and revenue, including some alternate revenue ideas. Stand exams were discussed along with marketable species and projected quantity of board feet. The next step will be prescriptions, a draft of this plan should be available in early June. Mark Bender, with his Forest Service background, was asked to be available for review of the prescriptions and implementation. Any revenue generated supports Parks and Recreation.

The Pend Oreille Park trailhead, group camp layout and Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) grants are underway. There are non-motorized paths and trails monies. Creation of a trail in the Fertile Valley Rd right-of-way is key to connecting the Park with Rustlers Gulch. There are over 3000 acres of lands for public use. The goal is to make them more accessible and user friendly. There are two components 1) improve County Park, and ingress, 2) a parking area and an equestrian trail head. Director Lithgow has spoken numerous times with the RCO to determine which grant program will be most appropriate for this project. Non-highway and Off-road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA) no match required but recommended. Rustlers Gulch is dedicated as a mixed use so a delicate balance must be established. Dave asked if trail grooming and the donation of labor was of value, Mike assured him it was, and that it demonstrates support as well as a monetary value. Justifies a need. Scoring criteria is a challenge for mixed use grant applications. Mike was praised for his dedication and outreach.

Mayor Bob Spencer addressed the multi-use aspect of RCO grants; he mentioned that he was requested to present his grant proposal in person in Olympia; it is usually considered an optional process that is recommended. Mayor Spencer further pointed out that presenting in person gives the review board an opportunity to ask questions and for the applicant to more fully explain the scope of a project. Kyle of the RCO highly recommends this optional process of presenting this complex proposal in person to the technical board and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has offered to pay Director Lithgow's expenses. The first presentation and review, to the technical board, is for guidance and not the final decision.

Discussion on access for neighboring property owners.

Ken Timmreck motioned and Dave Gruver seconded a motion to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that they support the Town of Cusick as they move forward with a grant to develop a disk golf course in a sum not to exceed \$4000. Pend Oreille County Auditor, Marianne Nichols has been consulted re: the correctness of this action. The Town of Cusick will manage the grant and oversee

construction. Parks and Recreation will draft a letter of recommendation and develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The vote was for unanimous approval. [Commissioner Mike Manus arrived at 2:36pm] Mayor Spencer noted the disc golf course would be an added amenity for the future of the Eagles Landing development, leaning towards a resort community.

Dixie Chichester discussed the formation of a non-profit foundation; highlighting requirements and the relationship between the Park Board and a non-profit foundation. She has researched other jurisdictions with Parks and Rec foundations. It is supposed the non-profit foundation would have 501-C-3 status, co-ordinate fund raising efforts and feature events. There are lots of options, mission-structure, how to integrate and function with existing organizations. The foundation could function like an umbrella, sheltering other entities i.e. The Water Trail, properties currently administered by Parks and Recreation, (Rustlers Gulch Recreation area, Yocum Lake, Pend Oreille Park, Sweet Creek, Frisbee Golf courses) and perhaps with Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA) representation. The formation of a committee was mentioned, with the hope that a sub-committee would be composed of many different and diverse people. Don Comins expressed his interest. Dixie will continue to research; the information presented is very much a "first touch" and in lieu of the VISTA program (currently unavailable) hopefully outlined in the Parks Plan.

The Ecology grant for litter pick up was discussed. The grant reimburses costs to dispose of litter at the transfer station. Dixie mentioned this would be a perfect fit for a Parks Foundation activity.

A Thank you to the Back Country Horseman for their continued support with trail maintenance.

The Pend Oreille County Park will open earlier than the traditional Memorial Day date this year. Monthly pumping of the vault at the entrance is scheduled. Some discussion re: the Department of Transportation supporting the vault pumping; as this site, on the Highway, acts like a rest area.

Mike Manus addressed the Park Board re: motorized groups, Off Road Vehicle (ORV) access from Metaline Falls to Metaline develop ing a ditch, and the United States Bike Route-10 (USBR-10) utilizing Highway 20 through Pend Oreille County.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm.

Park Board regular meeting May 21st @ Cusick Community Center

There being no quorum and in the absence of the Park Board secretary, no minutes were taken.

Park Board Regular meeting June 19th Public Utility District (PUD)/Community Network Services (CNS) building in Newport 2:00pm

Park Board members present: Sam Nicholas, Dave Gruver, Don Comins and Greg Jakeman

Guest: Susan Harris Executive Director for Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance

Staff: Director Mike Lithgow, Pend Oreille County Park Host Mike Peterson and admin assist Terri Ann Hedtke.

Guest Speaker Dario Nila of the PUD, gave a presentation on "Getting Connected" at the Pend Oreille Park with WI-FI. Internet connectivity is a very attractive amenity for today's campers. It allows for social media, work related matters and the ability to access area information. Porta Executive Director Susan Harris applauded the pro-active engagement of the next generation of users, reminding those in attendance that the Baby Boomers have "boomed" and where the next generation wants a "wilderness experience," they also want to post pictures of their experience on Facebook. Connectivity at the Park would also enhance public safety and allow for IP camera placement. Benefits to the county include internet access for county employees, notably the sheriff's office, and a new medium to advertise Pend Oreille County and attract visitors. Price structure was discussed as well as security cameras with a demonstration.

April minutes were approved, with Dave Gruver motioning to approve and Greg Jakeman seconding. In the absence of Jeanetta Taylor, admin assist Terri Ann Hedtke summarized the financials for the month of May.

Director Lithgow discussed the Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) grant and the time line for the grant presentation, the parking at Rustlers Gulch and the equestrian area. He shared maps, prepared by the engineering interns

Other items of interest; the upcoming Water Sports Festival, in conjunction with the Poker Paddle, to facilitate the formation of a Parks non-profit Foundation, and the need for more convenient pay boxes at the Pend Oreille Park

The meeting adjourned at 4:16pm.

Park Board Regular meeting July 16th Cusick Community Center

Park Board members in attendance: Sam Nicholas, Dave Gruver, Don Comins, Greg Jakeman, Mark Bender and Ken Timmreck

Pend Oreille County staff: Director Mike Lithgow and administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke

Guests: Susan Harris

Sam Nicholas called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

The first order of business was a summary of the Timber Management plans produced by Northwest Management Inc. for the Rustlers Gulch property. Many facets of the plan were discussed, including the level of detail, soil types affected by the timber and utilizing existing roads to save money. Also discussed; the revenue that could be generated this year and the long term application. Park Board member Mark Bender, formerly of the US Forest Service, spoke to habitat and productivity used as criteria for the plan; he is pleased with Northwest Management Inc., the information provided and their professionalism. He feels it has been money well spent. Questions about the plan centered on site preparation and money for reforestation and that timber sale monies should be utilized for those items. Greg Jakeman shared a conversation he had with Commissioner Mike Manus echoing that concern. Director Lithgow said a motion was now needed to recommend acceptance of the plan to the Board of County Commissioners. Further discussion on funding for the plan and the 2008 resolution in support. The proposed harvest should be sustainable. Chairman Nicholas asked about the possibility of an Americorp (VISTA) position. The program currently is not in use in this area. A Parks Director position is desirable. Further discussion on the quality of the Northwest Management plan and implementation. The question was posed; is there a conflict; recreational use vs commercial logging? A special site visit is planned to include WSU/DNR biologist. As far as the budgeting is concerned, the codes are in place, PORTA Director Susan Harris mentioned the marketing section of the plan was very valuable. Ken Timmreck made a motion to recommend acceptance of the plan which Dave Gruver seconded, a proviso included the concern over monies being used for cleanup. Mike will carry that message to the Board of County Commissioners. Mark Bender suggested a field trip. The vote was for unanimous approval to adopt the Timber Management plan and move forward to DNR. Susan Harris further recommended a letter of agreement to show everyone is "on the same page" to avoid future BoCC's revisiting of the motion. Director Lithgow felt a Resolution should be sufficient as it is all County with no outside entities. The Timber management plan compliments the Parks Comprehensive Plan. A site visit will take place prior to implementation of Plan "A"; it is hoped that the thinning/logging at Rustlers Gulch will allay any fears neighboring property owners might have of clear cut activity. The question was asked if thinning at Pend Oreille County Park could be accomplished at the same time. Susan suggested a press release. The Pend Oreille County Park might be the next candidate for a Timber Management plan, highlighting the needs of the public as criteria to prioritize the next Timber Management plan.

Other items discussed: money boxes for the Park, potable water added to the website, the upcoming Water Sports Festival and Poker Paddle.

Don Comins motioned to approve the minutes from June, Mark Bender seconded and the motion carried.

Ken Timmreck provided background on an article that appeared in the Miner Newspaper re: the ATV Poker Run and how the route will be changed to avoid the mud hole mentioned in the article for future events.

Director Lithgow provided some follow-up re: Wi-Fi at the Pend Oreille Park, a good map is crucial and it is hoped the College interns could be used to produce such a map. Vegetation is a barrier to efficient Wi-Fi connectivity, more information to follow.

Ken Timmreck asked about a road right of way trade, Mill Creek Rd. and Rocky Creek Rd. Mike will follow up with the Road Department.

Ken Timmreck motioned to adjourn, Don Comins seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

Park Board Regular meeting August 20th Cusick Community Center

Park Board members in attendance: Sam Nicholas, Dave Gruver, Mark Bender and Ken Timmreck.

Guests: Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA) director Susan Harris and County Commissioner Mike Manus and Rich Bain, vice president of the Washington State Geocaching Association.

Pend Oreille County staff: Parks director Mike Lithgow and administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke.

The meeting was called to order at 2:10pm.

Vice president Bain presented an informative overview of Geocaching, a worldwide, modern day treasure hunt. With headquarters in Seattle, there are over 6 million geocachers. A family oriented activity enhancing outdoor experiences. Recognized by the Boy Scouts of America with a merit badge. A great way to invite park and trail use. Susan Harris spoke in favor of supporting geocache activity. A question was asked re: liability, liability is on the person geocaching. A motion was made by Ken Timmreck and seconded by Dave Gruver to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that geocaching be allowed on County property. The vote was for unanimous approval. Mike Manus was favorably disposed. It was suggested to begin with the Pend Oreille County Park and Water Trail system. An excellent way of promoting these opportunities.

Motion was made by Dave Gruver to approve July minutes and Mark Bender seconded, the minutes were approved.

In Treasurer Jeanetta Taylor's absence the Treasurers Reports were discussed and approved, with Dave Gruver making motion and Mark Bender seconding.

Director Lithgow presented an update on the deployment of outside WI-FI at the Pend Oreille Park. It was suggested the box be near the Park host residence. Susan Harris mentioned the WI-FI would complement fibre optic cable.

A recent incident at the Park highlighted the necessity for a "Length of Stay" ordinance, to be enforced as needed. Dave Gruver made motion to recommend same to the Board of County Commissioners and Ken Timmreck seconded, the vote was for unanimous approval.

A dialogue was opened re: the creation of a Parks and Recreation logo. It was decided to explore initiating a contest and to engage the schools. Mike Manus will approach the Newport Schools and Sam Nicholas will contact Selkirk schools.

Further discussion on a lock box for camping and day use fees.

Discussion on the trees that blew down in the Park with the recent storms, the danger tree specialist with Northwest Management will be surveying. A "field trip" is planned for Thursday the 21st, Mark Bender will accompany.

Susan Harris spoke to the importance of a marketing plan for Parks and Recreation, incorporating stories and photos. Sam Nicholas mentioned to remember the Selkirk Sun with advertisements and marketing efforts.

Director Lithgow has budgeted in 2015 for either a Part time Parks person to “bird dog” Park projects or a full time person for 6 months. Discussion on which would be the most effective.

The Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) grant presentation is progressing.

Ken Timmreck wanted it noted recreation efforts need to bring people into the County, not just to the edge that more effort should be directed North County.

The next meeting will be September 10th, 2:00pm at the Cusick Community Center.

Mark Bender motioned to Adjourn with Dave Gruver seconding at 4:07pm.

Park Board Regular meeting September 10th, 2014 @ Cusick Community Center

Park Board members present: Chairman Sam Nicholas, Ken Timmreck, Dave Gruver, Don Comins, Greg Jakeman and Mark Bender.

Park consultant: Dixie Chichester

Pend Oreille County Staff: Community Development Director Mike Lithgow and administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke.

Chairman Nicholas called the meeting to order at 2:03pm

Minutes of the August meeting were approved with Mark Bender making motion and Dave Gruver seconding.

Chairman Nicholas shared an excerpt from The Story of My Life by John Middleton. At 88 years old, Mr. Middleton is a long time north county resident, his father ran the Ruby ferry and his memories of Yokum Lake make for fascinating reading. The boat launch and portions of the south side of the lake are now managed by the Parks. Sam also provided a copy of the Selkirk Sun newspaper and suggested we utilize it for advertising as appropriate.

In Jeanetta Taylor's absence, administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke presented the Treasurers Reports. In future, Sam would like these reports. Greg Jakeman motioned and Don Comins seconded to accept the Treasurers Reports.

Director Mike Lithgow shared with the Board an update of a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners re: Geo Caching. Stevens County allows and encourages Geo Caching in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, supporting an incentive program with coupons. The Forest Service also allows this activity on their lands. The possibility of organized events was mentioned.

Pend Oreille Park wireless project update, a field trip/feasibility has been done. Line of sight is important for functionality and a Spring deployment is planned.

Additional Agenda Items

Yokum Lake Rd

Park logo

"Bird dog" position

Blown down timber in Park

Park visitors

Yokum Lake, the Incident of the Locked Gate. Mike Kirkwood, Public Works Engineering Technician was called out to Yokum Lake Rd, he provided Director Mike Lithgow with a brief video of the roads' condition. Ken Timmreck motioned and Mark Bender seconded to recommend repair of the road to the Board of County Commissioners.

Chairman Nicholas provided an update on a contest to create a Parks & Recreation Foundation logo, including the Schools, it was agreed to begin this "branding project" with a deadline of December 1st,

2014. Park consultant Dixie Chichester shared some information and suggested even with an offer of prize money, there may be little to no participation.

A Parks Manager position, with the goal of “bird dogging” Parks projects was discussed. It would be desirable to have a part time—year round individual, non-benefited and nonunion. Dave Gruver motioned to recommend establishing a subcommittee to refine job parameters and create a job description, Ken Timmreck seconded. Don Comins, Greg Jakeman, Dixie Chichester and Mike Lithgow all volunteered to be members of the subcommittee. Dixie was asked if she would be interested in the position, she has applied for the Master Gardner/4-H coordinator position with Washington State University Extension. She would prefer the WSU position as she would like to initiate a Master Naturalist program.

Update on a new fee collection station at the Pend Oreille County Park. Dave Gruver was willing and able to create the pay box, but the powder coating necessary for this “out-in-the-elements” unit would be cost prohibitive. Dave Gruver motioned and Mark Bender seconded to recommend purchase of an appropriate fee collection station from an RV vendor.

Downed timber at the Park was discussed. The small amount of pine is already bluing and is a low price product. Due to its lack of millage value, it might be something that could be donated for low income families in need of firewood.

The Town of Cusick did not receive a grant for the Disk Golf course.

Ken Timmreck would like Greg Jakeman to view a site in the north county as a possible location for a disk golf course.

It was noted the Pend Oreille County Park is not on Google or Garman, how can we access these sites? Today’s visitors depend on this type of medium to locate camping facilities.

At 3:15pm, Don Comins motioned to adjourn and Ken Timmreck seconded.

Park Board Regular meeting October 15th, 2014 @ Cusick Community Center

Park Board members present: Ken Timmreck, Jeanetta Taylor and Dave Gruver

Pend Oreille County staff: Director Mike Lithgow and administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke

Park Plan consultant Dixie Chichester

Guests: Susan Harris, Executive Director of Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA), Mary Maxfield of Sacheen Lake and Commissioner Mike Manus.

There being no quorum, no official business could be conducted. The following are notes of items discussed.

Ms. Chichester has advanced to the next level of acceptance for the position she applied for with Washington State University (WSU) Extension. She is in hopes, that with this position she could continue to interface with the Park Board on future projects.

Director Lithgow spoke to the challenges of presenting both a motorized and non-motorized grant proposal to the Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) in Olympia.

Commissioner Manus talked about a property owner adjacent to the Section 16/Rustlers Gulch property. He has approached the County with a proposal which ultimately would end up in a 4 way land swap. His interest is in preserving his privacy.

A wood cutter found cutting trees at the Pend Oreille Park will be prosecuted.

By the first week in November there should be enough bids in to estimate the revenue to be gleaned from Section 16.

Director Lithgow has found a local company that manufactures the pay station boxes for the Forest Service and feels this is the best answer for the Park pay station.

Yocum Lake Rd repair—Public Works Senior Design Construction Engineer Don Ramsey recommends repair this fall.

Park Plan consultant Dixie Chichester reminded the group about the \$300.00 startup funds for the future Parks and Recreation department. Member Don Comins has been working on by laws. Dixie is in hopes of establishing a Master Naturalist program through WSU Extension.

Executive Director Susan Harris highlighted points from the Economic Development Council (EDC) meeting she attended, including an update on Batey Boulder.

Member Dave Gruver is in hopes a shooting range will be pursued.

The damage incurred at Sacheen Lake by the recent wind storms was discussed.

Park Board Regular meeting December 3rd, 2014 @ Cusick Community Center

Park Board members present: Don Comins, Jeanetta Taylor, Chairman Sam Nichols, Dave Gruver, Mark Bender and Greg Jakeman.

Pend Oreille County staff: Director Mike Lithgow and administrative assistant Terri Ann Hedtke

Guests: Susan Harris, Executive Director of Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA), Mike Manus of the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), Dixie Chichester, 4-H, Master Gardner & Volunteer coordinator for Washington State University (WSU) Extension, Gayne Sears and Kevin Walton of the Forest Service.

September minutes were approved, with Dave Gruver making motion and Don Comins seconding.

There being no quorum in October, no formal minutes were recorded and therefore no approval was necessary.

Treasurer's reports were considered.

For the benefit of District Ranger Sears and Recreation Specialist Kevin Walton, introductions were made.

Ranger Sears and Specialist Walton provided a thorough up-date on many issues and projects. It has been a year in transition for the Forest Service, with a decrease in staff and services and the associated challenges that brings. 3 campgrounds have been closed, The Salmo Basin Trail project is complete, and the South End Project is under way with a completion date for early next year. The South End project will include maps and create more loop opportunities for off highway vehicle (OHV) accessibility. For this project the Forest Service partnered with both Pend Oreille and Stevens County and received 2 grants, for both education and enforcement. Chairman Nichols mentioned how inadequate the maps have been and Commissioner Manus wondered if, perhaps in collaboration with the Newport Miner, maps could be produced for little to no cost by including advertisements. The Mill Creek Rd/Rocky Creek Rd easement exchange was mentioned, as well as the vegetated Renshaw project. Bridge 2, which has been closed to all terrain vehicle (ATV) use was also discussed and the letters of support which have been received.

Yocum Lake road closure, citing the 2010 public scoping and the signed decision to decommission the road to motorized use in the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) documents. There are camping sites in place, with walk-in or boat-in access only, however sanitation continues to be an issue. The area is a very poor candidate for the vault toilets typically utilized by the Forest Service as servicing is not possible. Specialist Walton mentioned the terrain would lend itself to an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible trail. Further discussion, with many concerns and suggestions regarding this once "family friendly" camping opportunity.

Susan Harris shared some information from a recent Economic Development Council (EDC) meeting. One of the EDC members had asked about options for Batey Boulder, raising the level of interest, and what it would take to get the trail back into usable condition. Ranger Sears said there is little interest in Batey Boulder at this time and feels a Master Development plan is needed for the highly eroded site. Possible organizations for funding such a plan might be the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) or the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA).

A disk golf course on the Wolf Trail was re-visited. Public support has not been forthcoming for this type of activity at this location.

The BoCC has received a request for snow plowing at some snowmobile/ski access points, notably Noisey Creek, Sullivan Lake, Harvey Pitt and the Wolf Trail. These are great recreation opportunities for a relatively low cost, the Park fund would pay, and a contract is needed. Dixie suggested a news release.

Mill Pond core drilling was mentioned.

Director Lithgow shared Parks logos that have been received in response to the Parks logo contest. Member Dave Gruver was tasked with conferring with his wife, Pandi, a graphic arts designer with the Newport Miner, to see if some of the logos could be suitably combined.

Danger trees and root rot at Pend Oreille County Park were discussed. Once danger trees are identified they must be removed to reduce liability. The equestrian trail will be pursued with Path/Trail monies. Susan suggested an individual who has expressed interest in the Pend Oreille County Park be approached to set up an Endowment to benefit Parks properties.

The District 3 road foreman has coordinated grading and yearly upkeep for Yocum Lake Rd. This yearly maintenance is much more cost effective than every 5 years addressing an emergency.

4-H, Master Gardener and volunteer coordinator Dixie Chichester shared information re: the relocation of the WSU Extension offices and ongoing endeavors to engage the youth of Pend Oreille County in outdoor recreation opportunities.

The 2015 budget and projects were discussed, highlighting the immediate need for a Parks Manager to "bird dog" these projects. A proposal has been suggested to utilize Todd McLaughlin, current Natural Resources Planner, at 2/5's time to fill this role. The Road Department would like Planner McLaughlin for the balance of his time for his expertise with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) paperwork on road projects. Todd is familiar with the County, the Parks properties and public access, his attention to detail would be an asset. Commissioner Manus suggested the Park Board form a recommendation. Don Comins moved to recommend Todd McLaughlin be offered the position of Parks Manager, to be paid at 2/5's from the Park budget, Greg Jakeman seconded and the motion carried. The job description will be drafted primarily from the Parks Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Nichols suggested in his absence an alternate chairman be appointed. Dave Gruver volunteered to sit as vice-chair. Motion was made by Don Comins to accept Dave Gruver as pro-tem vice chair, Mark Bender seconded, and the motion carried.

The next meeting will be January 21, 2015.

The meeting adjourned 4:35pm.