

January 17, 2019 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Commission members present: Tex Blankenburg, Cy Field, Johannes Krieger (by conference call), Bill Scherer.

Staff present: Dona Wuthnow, Kathryn Hansen.

Guests: None.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tex Blankenburg at 8:42am in the Parks & Fair meeting room in Friday Harbor.

Approval of agenda: The agenda was approved after removing Winter Park Projects from Director's Report and adding December 20 Storm Report, ESGV Restroom, and ESGV water bottle filling station.

Approval of minutes: Minutes of the December 12 regular meeting were approved as drafted.

Correspondence: None.

Chair's Message. Tex has a sofa sleeper for sale!

Council Liaison's Message. None. Dona announced that Jamie Stephens is now our Liaison for 2019.

Open Forum. None.

Financial Report.

- 2018 Budget. Month 13 expenditures closed on January 15, 2019. Dona reported that our year-end cash balance should be positive. We do have some capital and other funding to reserve.
- 2019 Budget. Dona explained how we plan to spend REET 2 Capital Maintenance money in 2019.
- Reservations update. Kathryn reported that the opening day of resident reservations brought in over \$12,000, a 71% increase over 2018. This was comprised of 89 reservations, with 66% staying at Odlin. For groups, the first two weeks raised almost \$20,000, with, once again, the majority booking at Odlin.

Director's Report:

- Agate Beach grant. Dona reported that we have received a \$91,000+ Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant for the shoreline restoration design project. The grant requires no County matching funds. A consultant has been selected with work to start mid-February and conclude by the end of this year. If the County desires, we could follow up with a grant application for construction. Public Works received a grant award for the road realignment.
- Canoe Journey project. Dona held an open discussion to gauge our role with this year's Canoe Journeys. Cy Field will talk with Stephanie regarding dates and other information. Bill Scherer will speak with Marcia deChadenedes, too. If the events come to Shaw and/or Odlin, we'll house them on the respective ballfields.



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- December 20 storm. Dona shared photos of wave activity at both San Juan and Odlin Parks. The storm coupled an 8.3' high tide with a 2.2' storm surge for a 10.5 high water plus wave heights. Without the gate valve flap, the tide gate at Odlin allowed seawater into the wetland/ballfield at the height of the storm, but cleared when the tide receded. Sea water also breached the shore at Odlin site #11, which was under water. At San Juan Park, wave action erosion washed fill behind riprap retaining wall away, reducing the stability of the road.
- Dona noted that the 5.6 acre neighboring property to San Juan County Park is still up for sale and the realtor contacted her. We've evaluated the property before, and it doesn't meet our needs for the price.
- Orcas High School Environmental Club. The Club has asked to install a water bottle filling station at the Eastsound Village Green restroom, adding that they have financial support for the project. Bill Scherer noted that this would require plumbing and a drain. It would also likely increase our monthly water expense. Dona will explore the idea further.

Old Business:

- Recruiting Orcas member/s. Dona said that Margaret Payne, also an EPRC member, might be interested in one of the Orcas positions.
- ESVG Play Area, park update. Work on the play area is progressing! There should be designs within two weeks. Public meetings on the project will be held February 11. Dona showed preliminary design sketches. Topics discussed included playground certification, risk exposure, relocating Farmer's Market space, stakeholders, and the possibility of holding a listening session with the Commission.

MOTION: Cy Field made a motion to move the location of the regular March 21, 2019 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to Orcas Island. Bill Scherer seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0-0.

- Bill Scherer shared an updated ESVG restroom expansion layout, including plantings and patio seating. Discussion ensued about extending the roof over the porch to the north, need to remove the pine tree, moving the bike rack, funding, Council interest, and partnering with the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses. Dona will present to the Eastsound Planning and Review Committee, once she has discussed with the Council.

New Business:

- Review of Advisory Committee Regulations. Tip sheets were sent to members prior to the meeting. Topics addressed included Conflicts of Interest, Open Public Meetings Act, not holding e-mail or other discussions of Park business outside of public meetings, and Executive Session protocols.
- Saturn LLC WSLCB license application. There was discussion about the application. Members and staff have heard complaints from the community. It was agreed that none of us involve ourselves as representatives of the Park & Fair Department.
- Evaluation of Vessel Launch Permit program at San Juan County Park. This relates to the in-park education & permit program for individual vessel operators in place at San Juan County Park for the last 9 summers. Staffing this program ties into the work plan and park staffing levels. With the regional focus on the plight of the Southern Resident Killer Whales

and other state and federal entities providing educational resources, is our program still needed or effective? Discussion ensued. Cy Field indicated that we would provide signage and brochures to still inform visitors. Dona added that if we suspend the program this summer, we could reduce staffing at that park from four to three positions.

MOTION: Bill Scherer made a motion to suspend the private Vessel Launch Permit Policy at San Juan County Park for 2019, based on staff recommendation. Cy Field seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0-0.

- 2019 Work Plan. Current projects include Fairgrounds Main Building steel painting, Fairgrounds RV camping restroom upgrades, Fairgrounds concrete slab connectors to the office, second phase of park use study (residents, marinas, and select outer islands), Tree work at campgrounds, ESGV Play Area design & construction, and ESGV improvements. The Turn Point Day Park renovation is on hold until 3rd quarter. The County Council retreat agenda includes the levy lid lift, capital project overview and policy, Parks & Fair funding and vision, and biennial budgeting.
- 2019 Staffing. Dona provided an overview of 2019 staffing. We may lose the current Lopez Assistant Manager to pursue a higher education program.

Announcements: The next regular meeting will be on February 21 in Friday Harbor; Kathryn will be away. Johannes hopes to join in person in April.

Adjourned at 10:58am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hansen
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission at their regular February 21, 2019 meeting in Friday Harbor.