

## March 21, 2019 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

**Commission members present:** Tex Blankenburg, Cy Field, Barbara Fulton, Johannes Krieger (by conference call), Margaret Payne, Bill Scherer.

**Staff present:** Dona Wuthnow, Adrienne Bourne.

**Guests:** Jamie Stephens. Chris Morris, Orcas Island Farmers Market Chair, Mandy Griffith, Orcas Island Farmers Market Manager, Mark Mayer, Ken Katz, Nicole Spin, representing Orcas Island Community Foundation, and Lance Evans, Orcas Island Chamber of Commerce, all arrived later for discussion of the new playground at Eastsound Village Green.

Chair Tex Blankenburg called the meeting to order at 11:16am in the Orcas Island Library Community meeting room in Eastsound.

**Approval of agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of discussion of the swale behind ESGV.

**Approval of minutes:** The Commission approved minutes of the February 21 regular meeting, as drafted.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Chair's Message.** None.

**Council Liaison's Message.** None.

**Open Forum.** Bill Scherer informed attendees that a Lopez resident hand carves walking sticks that the Lions Club puts out at trails for anyone to use. Bill has seen them at Shark Reef and Odlin. The Commission was supportive of this activity.

There are no updates on Canoe Journeys. Jamie Stephens believes that Tribes are bypassing the San Juans for this summer's big trip. Dona heard that the Mini Canoe Journey might travel in a more traditional matter with fewer canoes & people and without support vehicles.

### **Financial Report.**

- Department review and levy renewal budget scenarios. Dona was asked to provide budget analysis without an increase in revenue, with increased revenue adjusted for Cost of Living increase, and with full funding of our program. Jamie explained that the County will adopt a 2-year (biennial) budget for 2020-2021. Timing will be set to complement the State's budget cycle, though the County will be based on a calendar year, and the state is on a fiscal year. The County process will allow for a mid-point adjustment.
- Reservations update. Kathryn provided figures for the 2019 Resident campsite reservation program and opening day of Itinio.

**Shaw Park bank erosion.** There was discussion about eroding cliffs at the park. The existing Master Plan moves camping and the road to away from the bank. The project will face permitting challenges.



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### **Director's Report:**

- Agate Beach shoreline restoration design project. Dona reported that we have the funding contract with the Recreation Conservation Office for \$91,000 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). We will be contracting with Coastal Geologic Services, soon, to develop the design. A public meeting is included in the scope along with coordination with the neighboring property owners. We are working to synchronize with Public Works and their Federal Lands Access Program grant to relocate the shoreline road. Federal Highway Administration will execute that part of the project. The SRFB grant funding cycle for construction opens this August.
- SJCP septic system sand filter replacement. The annual septic inspection in 2018 revealed needed repair and unveiled additional problems. This system suffers with heavy use during summer and no use from November through March. We were advised to replace the entire sand filter. The contractor mobilized on March 18 and should be complete before April 1, so services can be accessed by the public.
- Blackie Brady shore access project. This property has high bank access to the beach. Dona is working with Public Works on design, permitting and construction. PW plans to conduct the installation from the water side. The design consists of bolted concrete block with attachments for a hand railing. The budget is \$84,000. Staff will monitor traffic on different days and at different times to get a verification on use levels. We plan to provide a portable toilet on the upland in July and August.
- Staffing. The new Assistant Manager starts at San Juan County Park next week. The Park Aide begins at the end of April. The parks are fully staffed!

[BREAK 11:57am-12:28pm]

### **Old Business:**

- ESGV Play Area presentation. Tex Blankenburg asked members and guests to introduce themselves. Dona talked a bit about the partnership with the EPRC and community members, then shared her presentation (also found online at <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/18211/03212019-ESVG-Playground-Alternatives-Presentation?bidId>). Dona raved that many people are donating materials and staging space. Washington State parks and Camp Orkila are donating logs. Camp Orkila also has some boulders to donate; Clyde Duke is providing storage space near the Post Office. Eastsound Water Users Association is donating a water bottle filling station, which will be located near the playground. Stormwater will be managed with drain rock and a curtain drain. Manufactured wood chips will be utilized in the fall zones under play elements to meet ASTM safety standards. This new construction will require Farmers Market to adopt a new booth layout. The LTAC funding also includes new updates of the rest of the park including, landscape renewal, new style garbage cans and picnic tables.

Chuck Greening stated that the group has already marked logs from winter blow-down at Moran State Park; some are 500-600 years old! West Sound Lumber has space to prep the logs.

Nicole Spin had questions about the project, as relates to the grant application Orcas Island Community Foundation received. This grant funding will pay for the slide and viewing benches.

- ESGV Play Area stakeholder discussion. Chris Morris, OIFM, wants to be in communications with the Playground group and asked them to consider their construction schedule and potential impacts on the Market. Chris will coordinate through Dona. Ken Katz responded that construction will take place only on weekdays, thus minimizing effects on market vendors and patrons. Chris also said that dumpster containment must be carefully thought through to be out of the way and not ugly; the dumpsters harbor bees, so placement must be careful. There was discussion about the access road width and Chris suggested that replacing the dusty road surface with grass and gravel paver material would be an improvement. Chris also noted that the Farmers Market sets up early and tears down in mid-afternoon and voiced concerns about traffic control on the Green. There was discussion of using temporary fencing, perhaps similar to pool fencing that could be easily deployed around the playground when FM vehicles are moving in and out.

Fred Klein suggested restricting the gravel to the road entry only. He also shared his thoughts about reorienting the ESGV spaces axially from the Stage, rather than in rectangles, as it is now.

Chris voiced concern about how the space could be provided when there are multiple events on a Saturday (may include Cider & Mead Festival and OIHM Historical Days), suggesting that the space usually allocated to their market could be expanded to the south. Mandy added that they have 40-50 vendors during the shoulder seasons and 60-70 during summer, with a high of 84 vendors on 4<sup>th</sup> of July last year. Most booths are crafts and experiences; only 4-8 are farmers. Chris stated that is difficult to set up the Market in the street, but he welcomes other events using that space! The space neighboring the real estate office to the north is prime booth space. Mandy would love to see the level of service at the restrooms improved, perhaps with the expansion being conceived.

Nicole Spin clarified that the possible restroom expansion is not part of the grant with them.

Dona will meet, separately, with the Farmers Market regarding space and layout.

- Recruiting Orcas member. Dona noted that we are still looking to fill one Orcas position.

#### **New Business:**

- Stage on the Green windscreen. Dona prefaced the presentation by stating that we have secured \$5,000 in LTAC funding for this project. Fred Klein explained the need for the screen, as the prevailing wind whistles across the Stage from the South, making it difficult for acoustics and performer comfort. Fred shared some drawings and models to explain his concept. The screen would consist of a cedar panel of the same finish as the walls. This panel would be attached at the top on a rail and would hang in front of the side wall when not in use, locking in place with a hasp. When deployed, the screen would roll forward toward the cedar log and fit against that base. Further, there would be a 'sandwich' design that would allow a slab of wood to drop down to the floor, providing full floor to ceiling blockage of the wind. This design would be invisible from inside the stage and unobtrusive from the outside. There may be cedar available from Moran with possible milling at West Sound.

The meeting was recessed at 1:55pm to adjourn to Eastsound Village Green. Members reconvened near the Stage at Eastsound Village Green at 2:05pm.

- Eastsound Village Green swale. Margaret led members along the constructed wetland. She explained that Clyde Duke has obtained neighboring property and is interested in a public/private partnership to restore the swale by removing invasive species like hawthorn and blackberry.
- Members observed the ESGV grounds and environs.

**Announcements:** The next regular meeting will be on April 18 in Friday Harbor.

**Adjourned** at 2:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hansen  
Recording Secretary

*These minutes were approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission at their regular April 18, 2019 meeting in Friday Harbor.*