

February 21, 2019 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

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

Staff present: Dona Wuthnow, Adrienne Bourne.

Guests: None.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tex Blankenburg at 8:36am in the Parks & Fair meeting room in Friday Harbor.

Approval of agenda: The agenda was approved after brief discussion related to Odlin South Park neighbor license agreements.

Approval of minutes: Minutes of the January 17 regular meeting were approved as drafted.

Correspondence: None.

Chair's Message. Tex was glad that we all survived the winter storm!

Council Liaison's Message. None.

Open Forum. Dona inquired with Johannes about State actions related to commercial whale watching companies. Johannes reported on recent legislative voting. There was discussion. Dona added that we are receiving applications and issuing Commercial Use Permits for kayak companies at San Juan Park.

Financial Report.

- 2018 Budget Summary. Based on the final budget summary, Dona stated that overall we did well with revenue and expenses. Expenses were 94.7% of budgeted and revenues were 99% of budget. Dona is waiting for the Auditor's calculation of beginning cash for 2019. Facilities expenses in 2019 will be allocated to correct budget lines, rather than all being charged to Administration, as in 2018. Johannes asked about 2019 camping reservations; Dona said that we will have final figures for Resident Reservations at the March meeting. She added that Odlin is getting the majority of the resident and group reservations.
- 2019 Budget. Dona said she is analyzing 2018 expenses relative to 2019 budgeted amounts and expects we may be over budget again in 2019 on utilities, garbage, water, because those are costs we can't control and we don't have in time for budget presentation. The County Council is starting levy discussions; there was discussion of levy process and options. Discussion of property taxes. She explained limitations of 1% increase. Dona said Mike Thomas will ask department heads to respond to scenarios for proposed budgets and that Jamie Stephens will work with the Parks department. We will have our first quarter budget review in April.



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Director's Report:

- Staffing. No discussion.
- ESGV Play Area. Dona reviewed the Playground Committee's proposal with PRC members. Tex said he was concerned about the "log jumbles" and that they may become covered with moss and become slippery. Dona said the logs would be treated. Dona said the company who is developing the design will ensure that it meets safety standards. Additionally, we will arrange annual certified inspections. The committee has given input, waiting for public comment. Tex said he was surprised that the playground isn't more traditional, but thinks it will integrate well with ESGV stage. Bill said he thought there would be more play structures. Dona said that, given the space and budget, this was the direction the committee wanted to go. Barbara asked about placement of the dumpster. Dona said we're considering a location closer to the street, on north property line. Bill commented that he liked the design without trails. Discussion of there not being a covered area. Dona said a shade cloth might be an option in the summer.
- ESGV water bottle fill station. Dona talked with the students who had proposed this idea as a community service project. Dona explained that the ESGV playground will have a water bottle fill station and suggested that the students contact other businesses in the area to see if there could be one closer to the street.
- ESGV Restroom expansion. There was discussion of the potential operating cost changes and needed agreements to move the project forward. Dona will discuss with Councilman Rick Hughes.
- Turn Point renovation. No discussion.
- Agate Beach grant. The RCO Project agreement has been sent to Mike Thomas for signature. Dona is currently negotiation the SOW with Coastal Geologic Services who will be the contractor for the project. She will meet with Public Works next week to discuss coordination with the road realignment project.
- SJCP sand filter replacement. Dona said she has \$20,000 available in the capital budget for small projects. Last year, similar funding was used for upgrades at Odlin, SJP and the dumpster screen at Shaw. There is a capital meeting scheduled for next week and Dona will ask for additional funding. All Park restrooms & water systems are scheduled to open April 1st, and this issue needs to be resolved by that time.

Old Business:

- Recruiting Orcas member/s. Dona said Margaret Payne is on track to be appointed by the Council. Tex had recommended her to the Council office. Ms. Payne should be appointed by next meeting.

[BREAK 9:19am-9:30am]

New Business:

- Request for exception – SJC Park (Pat Venable). Customer is requesting to reserve a campsite at San Juan County Park now for August arrival. The intent of the trip is to spread her mother's ashes, and others would be visiting the park and campsite during evenings. Bill explained that requests for exception to department policy require a decision of the Commission. Tex also clarified that if there are additional

people, park staff wants visitors to carpool; Tex asked if we could have assurance from Pat that guests would agree to carpool. There was discussion. Dona explained that groups are booking now, this would affect travel plans, and is sensitive to the purpose as a memorial.

MOTION: Bill Scherer made a motion to make an exception to policy and allow Pat Venable to make her reservation now for campsite 13 in August at San Juan County Park. Barbara Fulton seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0-0.

Staff must let Ms. Venable know that guests need to carpool.

- Request for exception – Skagit Valley College. The request is for Skagit Valley College to stay one night in the park as part of a 12-day kayak journey within a summer marine ecology class, reserving individual campsites, as the group site is not available. Bill said he thought this request made sense for the class and their logistics. Dona clarified that the request is to reserve individual campsites. Bill clarified that the request is for Friday. Dona clarified group would need 3-4 sites. Tex asked how many sites are currently available. Dona suggested we offer them specific sites.

MOTION: Barbara Fulton made a motion to approve the request for Skagit Valley College to reserve individual campsites (as specified by Parks) at Shaw County Park for their one night stay in July. Johannes Krieger seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0-0.

Staff is directed to offer sites #1, 2, & 7 for this stay.

- Canoe Journey. Bill Scherer asked about Canoe Journey, Dona said there may be an update in March.
- Lopez Village Park sign proposal. Christa Campbell of the Lopez Island Chamber of Commerce has proposed having a sign at LVP similar to the sign at Odlin that has a map of island, info for bicyclists, and Leave No Trace information. The sign is 4' x 6'. The Chamber will pay for sign. Bill asked if it was free standing. Dona said yes, and that it would be placed near entrance to the restrooms and it could be seen from Isabel's Espresso. Dona said it would be 4-5 feet from restroom. Dona showed pictures of the sign at Odlin. All agreed sign was a good idea.
- Blackie Brady Day Use Park. Dona said she received email from fourth grader who lives near Blackie Brady. This student was concerned with the amount of human and dog waste at the park, reporting that there can be up to 50 people at the park in the summer. Park staff haven't validated these numbers at this time. Dona asked staff to visit the park at different times of day to observe numbers during the high season. Dona said she wants to provide a portable toilet at Blackie Brady Day Park in July & August, and that David will be building a platform. Tex asked if there's an issue with stairs and access. Dona said there is no formal access for the final pitch to the beach. Capital funding is budgeted to improve the access and Dona will work with Public Works for design, permitting and construction. Tex asked about the stairs at Agate Beach. Dona said she hopes to have the Agate Beach stairs replaced by 2021 as a part of the shoreline restoration project. Barbara commented on the number of cars she sees at Agate Beach on weekends; she saw 12-14 cars over Presidents'

Day Weekend. Barbara also said she thought it was wonderful that a fourth grader had reached out to Dona, and that Dona had responded. Bill said he typically sees boaters at Blackie Brady, and sometimes up to 3-4 cars. Bill also said that Blackie's son is a metalworker (John Bostick). There was brief discussion of the possibility of metal staircase. Tex also commented on the stairs at Cattle Point (DNR). Dona doesn't think rock stairs would work at Blackie Brady because of erosion issues. Barbara said she would ask Carl Jones on Lopez about visitation levels at Blackie Brady as well.

- 20th Anniversary of Music in the Park. Dona shared Kathryn's idea to honor Leslie Seaman's 20th year of Music in the Park. Ms. Seaman organizes the summer music series at ESGV. Dona said she doesn't have specific ideas, and encourages PRC to suggest ideas. Tex agreed it would be good to honor Leslie's volunteer work. Dona said the first concert will be in July. Dona said we couldn't use county money for a gift, but that we could choose to contribute individually.
- Lopez Village Association Easement. Dona explained that the Lopez Village Association still owns some parcels in Lopez Village that they would like to divest, the organization plans to dissolve. Members reviewed a map of area. Tex said he didn't think parks would want those parcels, as it would add to our maintenance. There was discussion of parking and public pathways. Dona said she would talk to Jamie Stephens.

Announcements: The next regular meeting will be on March 21 at the Orcas Island Library in Eastsound, 11:10am-2:10pm. Tex may travel with Dona & Kathryn.

Barbara asked about the possibility of Margaret Payne joining the PRC and expressed her thought that Ms. Payne would be a good advocate for Orcas.

Adjourned at 10:22am.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Bourne / Kathryn Hansen
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission at their regular March 21, 2019 meeting in Eastsound, Orcas Island.



Director's Report to the Parks & Recreation Commission

February 20, 2019

The following is a summary update of relevant Park Department happenings since the last PRC meeting that are not included on the agenda as discussion items.

- **2019 Staffing-** After 4 years as the Lopez Island Assistant Manager, Jeni Brue is resigning her position to attend college full time. Her last day of work is March 22nd. Joe Ingman, SJI Asst. Manager is transferring to the Lopez position (he has been commuting to SJI) and we are advertising his position along with 1 Park Aide for San Juan. We started interviews for Asst. Manager yesterday and hope to have the position filled by the end of March.
- **Eastsound Play Structure Project-** The planned public meetings on Feb. 11th were cancelled due to the snow storm and we're now rescheduled for February 25th at the Eastsound fire station at 2:30-4:00pm or 6:00-7:30pm. I've attach a photo of design option models that Paul Kamin constructed for the meeting. Ben Johnson from Green Works will be presenting the project and our partner team will attend as well. It would be great if one or more of you had the time to come over to Orcas for the afternoon. That said, your March meeting is planned for Orcas, so you'll have a chance to invite public input then as well.
- **Agate Beach Shoreline Restoration Design SRFB Grant** – The grant contract is awaiting final signature and I've received the proposed scope of work from Coastal Geologic Services our primary contractor for the project. Contracting will take a couple of weeks, so I expect we'll get started in earnest by mid-March. In the meantime, I'm working with Shannon Wilbur and Colin Huntemer at Public Works to coordinate between the road relocation and our project.
- **San Juan Park Sand Filter Replacement** – Near the close of last season staff recognized some issues with the 18 year old sand filter at the upper campground restroom. Staff consulted with the original designer and our annual system inspector on our options. We determined that the primary issue was plumbing, but considering the age of the system, we determined it was best go ahead and replace the liner and sand while we're in there. This should get us another decade or more without major repairs. A call for bids resulted in 2 proposals, with the lower coming in at \$15,760.98. I will recommend we move ahead with the project to the County Manager.

Eastsound Village Green playground Models

