

July 18, 2019 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Commission members present: Tex Blankenburg, Cy Field, Barbara Fulton, Johannes Krieger, Margaret Payne, and Bill Scherer.

Excused absences: None.

Staff present: Dona Wuthnow.

Guests: None.

Chair Bill Scherer called the meeting to order at 7:36am in the Shaw County Park shelter.

Approval of agenda: The agenda was approved with two additions - Leave No Trace report and memorial donations.

Approval of minutes: The Commission approved minutes of the June 10 regular meeting with the addition of Marcia DeChadenèdes as a guest.

Correspondence: Dona shared thank you from Leslie Seaman, Music in the Park at Eastsound Village Green.

Chair's Message. Bill noted that Heather Oaksen made application for the second Orcas Island position on the Commission. The Council is expected to appoint Heather on July 23.

Council Liaison's Message. None.

Open Forum. Dona reported on the Leave No Trace (LNT) subcommittee of the Terrestrial Managers' Group. BLM has supported a Coordinator position though SJC Conservation District. Kelsey Kittleson was appointed in June. Kelsey is working on an LTAC funding application to create LNT traveling event/education booth, as well as working on the new LNT SJIs logo that will support permanent LNT awareness signage. Kelsey will also be working with SJIs YCC youth.

Financial Report.

- 2019 2nd Quarter Budget Summary. On the revenue side, camping is doing well. We are receiving positive feedback on the campgrounds and park staff. Kayaking numbers are significantly down, due to several operators moving trips to Jackson's Beach, presumably due to the lack of whales on the west side of San Juan Island.
- 2020-2021 Budget process update. Dona is working on projected revenues. At the June Council Retreat, there was no department reorganization presentation or discussion other than moving Lopez Village Park and Eastsound village Green maintenance to Facilities and Current Expense Account. This saves Park/Fair fund approximately \$35,000 per year. Dona will work on an agreement with Facilities regarding maintenance standards. Facilities is responsible for the restroom expansion project at Eastsound Village Green. Dona is preparing three budgets - existing status quo program level, 'flat' budget (same as expense level 2019), and a department request for preliminary budget. All three will be budgeted for 2020 and



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2021. There was discussion about addressing the large shortfall, including raising all fees; possible lower fees for residents, self check-ins at campgrounds, discontinuing special events that require high administrative work and set-up (no weddings), and closing parks that don't make money (day use).

There generally was little support for cutting staff positions.

- 2019 proposed levy update. There hasn't been much information offered about the County's levy proposal. On July 23, the Council will pass a Resolution for the levy to go on the fall ballot. The Council will likely present the measure as a permanent levy. Commitment to individual departments/programs is only for one year.

Director's Report.

- Derelict deepwater net removal. No comments.
- Parks Instagram account. No comments.
- Staffing. No comments. No comments.
- Commercial kayaking at SJCP. No comments.
- Music in the Park July 7. Cancelled due to rain. No comments.

Old Business:

- Projected capital needs. Margaret and Dona are working on an LTAC grant application for Eastsound Village Green Playground "Finishing Touches".
- ESGV access road improvement & Playground PFFAP grant proposals were not funded.

New Business:

- Victory Hill proposal (Margaret Payne). Discussion of property at north end of Eastsound Village.
- Forest health. Dona summarized the professional tree work to remove dying trees and added that deer are browsing seedlings and lower story vegetation. Cy noted that there may be grant money available to help with forest assessments.
- Council Retreat. Addressed in Financial Report.
- Goals for August 22 meeting at San Juan Park. No discussion.
- Memorial donations. No discussion.

Announcements: None.

Adjourned at 10:01am.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Payne/Kathryn Hansen
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission at their

SJC Parks & Recreation Commission
July 18, 2019

regular August 28, 2019 meeting in Shaw County Park.



Director's Report to the Parks & Recreation Commission

July 17, 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.

- **Derelict Deepwater Net Removal Project** – WA DNR is teaming up with US Army divers to remove significant numbers of derelict nets on the Westside of San Juan Island. Crewmembers will access the retrieval vessel from Eagle Cove County Park. The project leader provided us with the public information poster (attached) to install at the park kiosk so visitors will know more about the vessel they see working offshore. The work started July 8th and will run until the 28th.
- **Parks Instagram Account** – As you will see on the preliminary agenda link provided, park staff has set up an account to provide up-to-date park information and Leave No Trace messaging to visitors. The account has 206 followers. Posts are infrequent at this time and I am following the account to monitor the messaging. The account does not allow outside followers to leave comments on posts.
- **Staffing** – Patricia Bolding is staying on at San Juan Park in an “On Call” status to fill in for needed staff absences and to take over from Jillian when she returns to college 8/22. This is a very useful arrangement and I will consider for next budget. In addition, we now have a camp host for Odlin Park that should cover most of the summer. Jennifer Allen will be on leave soon, so I will be working to back up Adrienne on all things Fair until the 3rd week in August.
- **Commercial Kayaking at San Juan Park** – The SRKW have only appeared on the Westside for one day this summer, July 5th. For the first time since data collection began, there were no sightings in that area in June. Whether due to the lack of whales and/or our increase in fees, the most prolific of our commercial kayaking permittees is now launching from Jackson’s Beach and the NPS South Beach, with only an occasional launch from the County Park. Depending on how the rest of the summer goes, I expect we could be short \$20,000-\$30,000 or more in commercial revenues for that park in 2019.
- **ESVG Playground project** – Unfortunately, we were not successful with our PFFAP grant application of \$43,000 that would have wrapped up our fundraising for the full meal deal playground. The team, with pledges of an additional \$20,000 pending, is still seeking private donations. If we want to install all the cool elements in the Green Works design, we need to fundraise another \$45,000. Total full design budget including tax is estimated \$145K, (including \$11K sales tax) putting cost to construct just over \$30 per square foot for the custom design. With the funds we have now we can develop the basic playground with boulder mounds and logs, the ship rope balance feature, sand play area, a couple of benches, minimal landscaping, and water bottle filler/fountain. On the project execution side – Mark Maher has stepped in (and is volunteering his time!) as project manager and is working with Ken Katz to get up to speed on the details. Ken will be departing for the east coast in September. Ongoing: materials fabrication is underway- the team selected and prepared the logs and

Zacharya Leck has fabricated all the metal brackets for the logs, so those are ready to install when the time comes. See attached photo. Planned construction start date is October 1.

Project taking place off Eagle Cove County Park



NRC
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSULTANTS, INC.

DEEPWATER DERELICT NET REMOVAL PROJECT

Army soldiers are
diving deep to **July 8 - July 28**
improve habitat



Army divers will remove deepwater derelict nets along the western shore of San Juan Island. The nets continue to capture animals for decades.

Divers will be working off a large vessel called the Seahorse in locations shown in the red below between July 8-28.



Project website: Search "DNR Deepwater Nets"
<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/aquatics/restoration/deepwater-derelict-net-removal>

Joan Drinkwin, NRC, jdrinkwin@nrccorp.com

105ft.+ Depths
where deepwater
nets are located

233 Number of
known derelict
deepwater nets

2,246 Number
of shallow water
nets removed
from San Juan
County

Eastsound Village Green Play Area – Log fabrication at historic Helsell’s Mill (space donated!)

