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April 22, 2010 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Commission Members Present: Gil Blinn, Kyle Davies, Cy Field, Johannes Krieger, and Ann Palmer.

Staff Present: Dona Wuthnow and Christina Giamalis.

Guests: Kitty Craig from Trust for Public Lands.

Chair Gilbert Blinn called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. in the County Legislative Building Conference Room in Friday Harbor.

Approval of Agenda: Approved as published.

Gil thanked Ann, Kyle and Kathryn for their help with the County Council presentation. Cy thanked Gil for doing the presentation. Johannes and Kathryn were at the presentation. Dona reported that Pete Rose felt the presentation was excellent. Ann asked if there was any discussion of the youth program. Cy asked if the council had any questions. Gil reported that Lovell Pratt had asked if the park staff could carry out all the work described in the work plan.

Approval of minutes: Minutes of the March 18, 2010 regular meeting were approved with no corrections.

Correspondence: Dona read a thank you note from Donna Wisenburg, daughter of Lewis Storm thanking the Commission for their generous donation of \$32.00 towards her father's campsite for his 90th birthday.

Officer / Committee Reports:

Update of Bylaws and Mission Statement: Cy Field reported that they did not meet on this. Cy suggested they discuss as a group to get some input from the other Commission members regarding the mission statement. Members expressed concern that the mission statement is in limbo until the ordinance combining Parks and Fair is passed and there is some clarification about the responsibilities of the two Advisory Commissions; each Commission would likely have their own mission statement. Gil reported that he met with Josephine Bangs, Fair Board Chair; they both felt that the situation was still nebulous. There was discussion that perhaps Dona could clarify with the Fair Board. Both boards are voluntary advisory boards. Gil suggested clarification is needed. Dona explained how the process works. There will be a public hearing on the ordinance.

Open Forum: None.

Financial Report:

- **March Budget Summary.** Dona explained that budget has been adjusted and is final unless we do another budget amendment. Dona noted increased revenue 2010 versus 2009. The 2009 "in lieu of property tax" payment was not received until December. The new reservation system is working, but it is hard to draw conclusions this early in the season. Camping revenues are up and there seems to be an early increase in reservations. Totals also includes group camping. There was discussion regarding camping fees vs. reservation fees.

Approved at the May 20, 2010 regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting.

Johannes suggested we find a way to accurately look at park occupancy, and suggested we track the number of camping nights in the C.A.M.P. system as a way to compare years.

Dona explained that LTAC is significant revenue for ESGV, and 2010 transfers have not yet been made by the Auditor's office. Day parks show increased expenses; staff is doing more work at the Day parks than last year and reporting their time correctly. Dona reminded members that the 2009 budget had no operating funds allocated for Day parks. Lopez staff has been working on Blackie Brady stairs as well. Kyle asked about the Volunteer program, whether it is still going on.

Dona asked about the usefulness of the budget report and what would the Commission like tracked. General agreement that it is useful but only if Parks is tracking the detailed expenses anyway. Ann suggested that in future Director's reports we include a summary of unusual expenses that may help explain discrepancies in 2009 vs. 2010 figures.

Gil had a question about the Village Square Stewardship committee. Rev is out of town but is interested in working with them. There will be a kick-off meeting with both Dona and Rev, after he returns May 5.

Parks and Recreation Director's Report (e-mailed in advance of meeting):

- SJCP Launch Permit Program. We are cooperating with NOAA to provide data for number of permits and individual launch data. This data should also help to determine economic impact on the park.

Dona will be meeting with park staff and K.E.L.P. on enforcement issues. Park staff does not have the authority to issue citations. Local fisherman or boaters only have to come to the park one time to get a season permit. To our knowledge, the Land Bank does not have any program in place for Deadman's Bay.

Dona provided copies of the memo and permit terms which was sent to commercial kayak operators via email.

Ann asked about San Juan Island Kayak Association and if all local companies were involved. Johannes reported that SeaQuest and San Juan Kayak Expeditions are not members.

- SJC Commercial Use.
- 1st quarter misc. updates.
- Odlin Park Renovation Project.
- Reservation Program status.
- Exploritas permit status.

Old Business:

- OIRP [handout]. Dona passed out copies of Linda Sheridan's strategy to keep the program operating. At the end of March, OIRP was \$4,000 in the red. Dona had told Linda that if donations did not pick up, that we would have to start looking at closing the program down, per the recommendation of the Commission at the last meeting. Bob Phalan (OIRP Advisory Committee) and Bob Eagan (Orcas Island Park & Recreation District) have started working together on how to make a transition. Their strategy is to take pledges, since donors are hesitant to donate if program was going to be closed. They

have asked the Council to make a commitment to keep the program open through November. Dona met with County Administrator, Pete Rose, on April 21 and expressed to him that it is in the county's best interest to keep OIRP operating, rather than to close the program. There was discussion. Cy asked about the Shaw Swim program; the program is scheduled to run and contracts are progressing. Pete will recommend that the Council to make a motion to keep the OIRP open through November, but this will not provide any county funding. Dona asked for member input on a recommendation that she could take to the Council on Tuesday, May 11. There was discussion. Kyle would like to see the P&RC at the table with the Council.

CONSENSUS: The Parks & Recreation Commission supports the Orcas Island Recreation Programs and the kids on Orcas Island and that it is in the community's best interest to continue the Program through the summer. The P&RC would support the Parks Department in continuing to operate the OIRP through November. The County Council should take on the financial responsibility for Orcas Rec. The P&RC does not want to take the financial responsibility, because we cannot use levy or LTAC funds to operate this program. It should not be the Parks Department responsibility if the Program fails to raise the needed funding as they have proposed.

Dona will draft a statement for the Council for Tuesday, May 11.

New Business:

- LTAC presentation. The date for Dona to present is to be determined, as Dona could not attend the April 26 session, as she was attending the Parks & Rec. Plan open house on Lopez. It would be helpful if Park Commission members could come or participate via videoconferencing. Ann & Kyle will try to participate. LTAC revenue represents about twenty percent of the Parks budget. Dona has a letter to the Council, showing official approval of project and authorization of application, to be signed by Gil.
- Odlin Renovation. There were 11 firms that bid on the project Design and Construction. Narrowed down to the top four teams. The top 2 were interviewed by phone, John Barker and Davido Construction. A final decision has not been made. There will be public input involvement sessions and Parks Commission review. Ann and Barbara recently had a meeting on Lopez and the ballfield may be a major issue.
- Orcas Island Historical Museum sculpture. The Museum has approached us about installing a sculpture on Eastsound Village Green between the park restroom and museum. It is a large carved wood sculpture of a heron in Native American style, with a 4' x 6' footprint. Dona is working with the County Prosecutor and the Museum to come up with a legal agreement that could allow for this to happen.

MOTION: Kyle moved to approve placement of the sculpture on park property at Eastsound Village Green, provided a proper legal agreement can be worked out. Dona to work out the details. Motion seconded by _____ . The motion passed.

- TPL Presentation. Kitty Craig presented an overview of public survey results. The draft San Juan County Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan 2011-16 should be ready in June.

- Council Questionnaire. Commission members worked through the four questions, and will submit to the Council office.
- Kurt Thorson Event. He has applied to have a graduation party at Eastsound Waterfront Park and is requesting a fee reduction. There was discussion. The general feeling was that it qualified as a \$60 event. No fee reduction granted.

Announcements. None.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Giamalis
(Acting) Recording Secretary