



Parks & Recreation

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Zoom Meeting

< <https://zoom.us/j/97322700083?pwd=VkJhUHJJZ1hIMmQ5TjhPU2lXcUpjZz09> >

Tuesday September 13, 2022

3:00pm – 4:30pm

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Jacob Vail called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

2. Roll Call:

A. Voting Board Members –

Kirahy Meyers (Dist. 1)	Y	David Divoky (At Large)	Y
Mary Rollins (Dist. 2)	N	Mike Farrell (At Large) (Vice Chairman)	Y
Vacant (Dist. 3)	V	Darrell Olson (At Large)	Y
Steve Yandl (Dist. 4) (Notes)	Y	John Tam (At Large)	Y
Bob McCarty (Dist. 5)	Y	Vacant (At Large)	V
		Jacob Vail (At Large) (Chairman)	Y

B. Staff (Parks and other County Departments or agencies) – Dave McConnell, Associate Park Planner; Tom Teigen, DCNR Director; Sharon Swan, Parks & Recreation Division Director

C. Guests – Nick Coelho, Tammy Dunn, Cabot Fuqua, Tony Trofimczuk, Rose Intveld

3. Review of August 2022 minutes.

Board Member David Divoky moved to approve the August 22 meeting minutes as written. Board Member Steve Yandl seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Public Hearings/Meetings.

Board Chair Jacob Vail asked board staff if there were any meetings or hearings of interest to the board. Board Staff Member Sharon Swan informed the board of four events of interest (see below). The Forsgren Community Park meeting has been delayed to the start of 2023. The Trafton Trailhead, Whitehorse Trail Virtual meeting has been scheduled for September 27 at 6:00 PM. There is a Planning Commission meeting scheduled for September 27, 2022, at 5:30 PM. And the Executive’s Budget Address has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2:00 PM 3:00 PM at the Campus Public Meeting Rooms, Robert J. Drewel Building, 1st floor. The meeting links are listed below.

A. Forsgren Community Park meeting delayed to start of 2023

B. Trafton Trailhead, Whitehorse Trail Virtual Meeting, September 27 at 6 pm

(1) Project Website: <https://snocoparks.info/TraftonProject>

C. Planning Commission, September 27, 2022, at 5:30 pm

(1) See Planning Commission website for meeting link:

<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=2116>

D. Executive's Budget Address, scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2-3 p.m. at the Campus Public Meeting Rooms, Robert J. Drewel Building, 1st floor.

5. Oral Requests from the Audience/Correspondence.

There were no oral requests from the audience and no correspondence for the board.

6. Administration

Board Staff Member David McConnell requested that the board select a new clerk to take minutes for the board. Board Chair Jacob Vail asked board members to consider volunteering for the role. He also will look into appointing a board member if no volunteers are found.

Board Staff Member David McConnell informed the board that at the time of the meeting board staff have received 6 applications for the two open positions on the board. Interviews are to be scheduled this fall when schedules allow.

7. New Business:

A. Fee proposal

Parks Staff Member Cabot Fuqua presented the revised 2023 DCNR – Parks Division fee schedule to the board. He showed the board where fee increases had occurred and explained that most fees had increased approximately 8.5%. He asked the board to review the fee schedule and rate study, provide feedback and make a recommendation for approval. The fee schedule will be provided to the County Executive for approval in September.

Board Member Steve Yandl moved to endorse the fee schedule as proposed to include the differential holiday pricing as proposed. Board Member Bob seconded, motion carries.

B. Fair recap

Board Staff Member Sharon Swan reported to the board on this year's Evergreen State Fair. This year the fair was 11 days long rather than 12 with a rest day where the fair was closed to the public between the first and second weeks. An amazing effort was made by a small crew of staff to put the fair on this year, the first full fair since the start of the pandemic. Many days of preparation were made before the opening of the fair to set up the fairgrounds. This year's attendance numbers were good, and attendance was up ~30% over last year, but still down from pre-pandemic times. The peak day of the fair saw approximately 30,000 attendees. At the close of the fair, the start of the Bolt Creek fire between Index and Skykomish led to a rapid emergency management deployment at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds. Fair, maintenance and ranger staff stepped up to help set up the fairgrounds for emergency first responders. Ms. Swan thanked all the staff and volunteers for their hard work and effort to make this year's fair great!

DCNR Director Tom Teigen also commented on this year's fair and thanked Sharon and staff for their efforts. Sharon Swan recently became the Interim Director of the Parks Division of DCNR and took on the work of overseeing the fair for the first time as a Director. Mr. Teigen also thanked Mike Ohlsen and Jana Notoa who shared the role of Interim Fair Manager this year after the resignation of former Parks Division Director Jeremy Husby. Mr. Teigen went on to note that the vendors this year had a phenomenal fair and he further described the efforts of park and fair staff to work with emergency management staff on staging for the response to the Bolt Creek fire and for housing evacuees, their pets, and livestock.

Board Member Mike Farrell, the Parks Director for the City of Monroe, also thanked all the staff involved in this year's fair and with the fire response.

C. Capital

Board Staff Sharon Swan gave a short presentation updating the board on the progress of several capital projects.

1. Meadowdale – Senior Planner Rob Marchand and Planning Supervisor Rachel Dotson are managing this project. BNSF has installed bridge 1 to replace 6-foot diameter culvert that used to run under the railroad tracks on August 29. The second span was delayed by fires which caused BNSF to pull its crews off the project to protect and monitor tracks in other locations. The work is to be rescheduled to this weekend hopefully, and then then 3 additional weeks are needed to finish removing the fill and cleaning up site for remainder of construction. The project is time sensitive due to fish windows that limit construction to protect salmon.
2. Whitehorse Campground – Senior Planner Rob Marchand is managing this project. Phase 2 of the Whitehorse campground project includes constructing 13 non-utility campsites. The sites have been constructed but opening of this portion of the campground is delayed due to backorders for picnic tables, fire rings and a restroom kit that still need to be installed. Sites should be reservable for next season.
3. Whitehorse Trail - Senior Planner Emily Griffith is working to finish the design and permitting for the construction of 2 sections of the Whitehorse Trail. A consultant is in the process of being hired to complete the designs, apply for permits, and manage the construction.
4. Lord Hill – Senior Planner Emily Griffith is managing this project. The preferred plan is complete and approved by the County Council. Parks Division is the process of implementing the projects in the plan. The parking lot swap, trail reroutes, are among the first to be started and many of the projects will be done in-house by the Parks Division Rangers and Maintenance teams.
5. Corcoran Park – Senior Planner Thomas Hartzell is managing this project. The playground has been installed and tile base surfacing is being installed to replace the engineered wood fiber surfacing which is higher maintenance.

Board Member Kirahy Meyers asked about Ms. Swan about the project at Kayak Point Regional Park. Ms. Swan answered that construction of phase 1 of the project has been delayed to 2023 due to a delay with the Army Corps permit. All other permits have been obtained and construction can start once the final permit is obtained. Principal Planner Carol Ohlfs is the project manager for this project and has applied for an RCO Land and Water Conservation grant for construction of phase 2 of the project. The grant application scored in the middle of the group of applicants so the proposal may not be funded this grant round.

8. Old Business:

- A. Board Members ADA/Park Observations (5 minutes)

Board

None.

9. DCNR Director's Time (5 minutes)

Tom Teigen

DCNR Director Tom Teigen thanked the DCNR team and the board for their service. Mr. Teigen is looking forward to 2023 where the new different teams coming together to form the new department will be more integrated. Many staff from before the pandemic have moved into new roles with the transition into DCNR and many new staff have been added to the Department. Mr. Teigen also discussed that because of many staff leaving to seek higher paying positions with other municipalities, the County has begun a Class and Compensation study that will be completed next year. It is anticipated that the study will recommend a pay increase for staff of between 8% and 12% across the board. While this will be good for existing staff, DCNR and especially Parks Division has been understaffed for several years prior to the pandemic and has a real need for additional 8 – 12 additional staff positions. Adding new full-time positions and funding pay increases for existing staff cannot be done at the same time with a potential recession on the horizon. Mr. Teigen hopes that by the end of 2024, the County and DCNR will be in a better position to fund the needed new positions.

10. Messages from the Board, Roundtable, Items for Future Agendas

Board

- A. David Divoky – None.
- B. Tammy Dunn – None.
- C. Mike Farrell – None.

D. Bob McCarty – Mr. McCarty reported that he has made a proposal to the City of Sultan for a program to address Japanese Knotweed control and prevention. Mr. McCarty also asked DCNR staff about Japanese Knotweed control at Steelhead County Park.

E. Kirahy Meyers – None.

F. Darrell Olson – None.

G. .

H. John Tam – None.

I. Jacob Vail – Mr. Vail reported that he may not be able to attend the next board meeting due to a health issue.

J. Steve Yandl – Mr. Yandl asked the board members to please consider volunteering to take over clerking duties from Parks Division staff and then he would help train the next person to take on the duties.

11. Adjournment.

Board Chair Jacob Vail asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Kirahy Meyers seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.

Monthly Report Schedule

January	Arts Commission, Capital, Property	July	Capital, Maintenance, Property
February	Communications, Maintenance, WSU	August	No Meeting
March	Capital, Property	September	Fee Schedule Review, Capital, Property
April	Conservation Futures, Operations	October	Historic Preservation
May	Budget Discussion, Capital, Property	November	Capital, Property
June	Events, Fair	December	No Meeting

ADA Notice: Snohomish County facilities are accessible. Accommodations for persons with disabilities, sign language interpreters and communications materials in alternate form will be provided upon advance request. Please make arrangements one week prior to the hearing by calling the Park Department office, 425-388-6602.