



PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Zoom Meeting
 Tuesday January 10, 2022
 3:00pm – 4:30pm

1. Call to Order Chair

A. Board Chair Jacob Vale Called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

2. Roll Call: Secretary

A. Voting Board Members –

Kirahy Meyers (Dist. 1) (Notes)
 Vacant (Dist. 2)
 Vacant (Dist. 3)
 Steve Yandl (Dist. 4)
 Bob McCarty (Dist. 5)

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David Divoky (At Large)
 Mike Farrell (At Large) (Vice Chair)
 Darrell Olson (At Large)
 Vacant (At Large)
 Vacant (At Large)
 Jacob Vail (At Large) (Chair)

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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 – Annique Bennett, Communications Specialist, DCNR; Carol Ohlfs, Principal Park Planner, DCNR – Parks Division; Doug Shafer, Member of Public; Emily Griffith, Senior Park Planner, DCNR – Parks Division; Kara Underwood, Division Manager, DCNR – Parks Division; Kevin Cronk, Member of Public; Mary Rollins, Retiring Board Member; Nick Coelho, Member of Public; Stephen Heise, Member of Public; Thomas Hartzell, Senior Park Planner, DCNR – Parks Division.

3. Board Chair Jacob Vale informed the board that several of the retiring board members to be recognized needed to leave the meeting soon. Mr. Vale moved that the recognition of retiring board members be moved to the top of the agenda. Board Vice Chair Mike Farrell seconded, and the motion carried infamously. Parks Division Director Sharon Swan recognized each of the retiring board members including Steve Yandl, Bob McCarty, John Tam, and Mary Rollins. Ms. Rollins, Mr. Yandl and Mr. McCarty all thanked the board and staff for a great experience as board members. Ms. Swan invited the retiring board members to schedule exit interviews so they might have the opportunity to share their recommendation to the board in 2023. Retiring board members were asked to contact Ms. Swan or Mr. Vail directly to schedule if they wished.

4. Introductions, & Round Table (2 minutes per person) Chair

A. Board Chair Jacob Vaile informed the board that several of the new Parks Advisory Board members who will start their terms January 15, 2023, were present. He asked all meeting attendees to introduce themselves and asked the incoming board members to also include their background and what their goals were during their time as board members on the Parks Advisory Board.

5. Elect New Chair and Vice-Chair (10 minutes) Chair

A. Board Chair Jacob Vaile asked the board to consider postponing elections for the 2023 Chair and Vice-Chair positions until the March meeting of the board so that new board members would have a chance to see how the February meeting was run and have a chance to be more familiar with the board prior to elections. After discussion, Board Vice-Chair Mike Ferrell moved that he and Board Chair Jacob Vail serve as interim officers until the March 2023 board meeting and then the board would elect new officers for 2023. Board Member Steve Yandl seconded, and the motion carried.

6. Review of November 2022 minutes. (5 minutes) Chair

A. Board Chair Jacob Vail asked for a motion to approve the November 8, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Mr. Vail moved to approve the minutes as written and Board Vice-Chair Mile Farrell seconded. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

7. Public Hearings/Meetings. (3 minutes) Sharon Swan

A. Parks Division Director Sharon Swan reported that there were no public meetings or hearings scheduled as of the date of the January meeting.

8. Oral Requests from the Audience/Correspondence. Chair

A. Board Chair Jacob Vail reported that he had not received any correspondence for the board and asked members of the board and Parks Division staff if any had been received. There was no correspondence received.

9. New Business:

A. Arts Commission (20 min) Annique Bennett

(1) Annique Bennett, Communications Specialist for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, gave a presentation on the activities of the Arts Commission. Ms. Bennett introduced the six (6) members of the Arts Commission and program staff to the Parks Advisory Board and went on to describe the work of the Arts Commission and its programs. Ms. Bennett explained that the Arts Fund collects 1% of the budget from non-exempt projects to fund arts and cultural events each year. Projects and activities that are exempt from the 1% for the Arts requirement include capital projects at the Airport, Surface Water Management projects, public roads projects, and the purchase of properties. Projects and activities that are subject to the 1% for the Arts requirement include projects to remodel facilities, buildings, parks, and trails as well as construction of new buildings, facilities, parks, and trails.

(2) Per SCC 2.95 the purpose of the Arts Commission is to serve as an advisory board to the executive branch of county government, and to propose and oversee the county arts program. The purpose of the Arts Commission is to Advocate for the arts as a part of Snohomish County culture.

(3) Per SCC 2.95.040, the Arts Commission

(a) Oversees the Snohomish Cultural Arts Network which supports arts education, legislative lobbying for the arts, funding for the arts and promotion of events for the arts.

(b) Supports open-source research by participating in the annual Arts and Culture Opportunity Assessment and by bringing data to document and support the inclusion of the arts and culture in Snohomish County.

(c) Provides annual grants to the public, to local municipalities and to arts focused non-profits to promote and support the creation and production of arts and cultural events in Snohomish County.

(4) The Art's Commission's budget in 2023 is \$100,000.

B. Monthly Report Schedule? (5 min) Chair

(1) Board Chair Jacob Vail reviewed the updated report schedule at the bottom of the agenda. Mr. Vail asked the board how they liked this approach to scheduling and hearing reports from Parks Division teams. The board was pleased with the approach and agreed by consensus to continue it. Discussion followed and several other teams may be added to the schedule in the future as appropriate.

10. Old Business:

A. None.

Board

11. Park Observations (5 minutes)

Chair

A. Board Chair Jacob Vail introduces a new standing item on the agenda and explained that he and Parks Division Director Sharon Swan wanted to invite the board members to focus their future observations of parks, trails, programs, and the Parks Division on four areas of long-term interest and concern. The four focal points are accessibility, equity & inclusion, community outreach & engagement, and other observations. Mr. Vail went on to explain what the focus of each topic was. Ms. Swan also shared additional information about the accessibility team and its future work in 2023. She encouraged the board to be out in the community to talk with people and to enquire about their concerns, especially with these topics.

(1) Accessibility

(a) Board Vice-Chair Mike Farrell complimented the Evergreen State Fair Park staff and complemented them for working with the City of Monroe to complete the frontage improvements project under construction along the boundary between the fairgrounds and State Route 2. The work is progressing and when done will improve accessibility for the public between the fairgrounds and the surrounding community.

(2) Equity & Inclusion

(a) Board Vice-Chair Mike Farrell noted that the removal of the chain link perimeter fence and razor wire along the south perimeter of the fairgrounds also helped make the facility a more welcoming and inclusive place to visit. Other members of the board and staff agreed.

(b) Parks Division Director Sharon Swan clarified the meaning of the terms “equity” and “inclusion” and explained using examples how board members could observe park facilities and assess whether they may support the goals of the County to become more equitable and inclusive. Examples includes seating arrangements as they relate to cultural differences, communication in languages other than English, the difference between universal design and accessible design – when people come to a park, do they feel welcome and included, or unwelcome and excluded? Is there a welcoming culture of inclusivity and community? Or are there barriers to this? Having different points of view helps to assess this.

(c) Future Parks Board Member Nick Coelho commented that he is a member of a commission in the City of Lynnwood which is exploring equity and inclusion in the City’s Parks, and it has been an interesting conversation with the community there. The commission has learned of numerous barriers to inclusion and equity that people of European descent and culture may not think of. Observation and talking with community members are key to learning.

(3) Community Outreach & Engagement

(a) Board Chair Jacob Vail explained that when board members participate on other boards or with other organizations or communities that they can act as ambassadors and to both represent the Parks Advisory Board and to learn from others about community problems that may relate to the work of providing parks, trails and recreation facilities and programs.

(b) Parks Division Director Sharon Swan encouraged board members to reach out to other communities and organizations when participating and to promote the park system and programs as well as to ask questions and learn about the good work of other organizations and communities. She used an example of how the Glass Quest contest came from the City of Stanwood to also include Kayak Point Regional Park.

- (c) Future Parks Board Member Doug Shafer asked what kinds of community outreach and community engagement strategies are currently being employed by the Parks Advisory Board, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the County as a whole. Ms. Swan responded that Mr. Shafer's question was timely because in March 2023 Rose Intveld, the Communications Specialist for Parks Division would be making a report to the board and could provide more detail on what approaches are being used. Ms. Swan also shared that Parks Division has a Facebook page, an Instagram account, a Twitter account, and a Next-door Neighborhood account as well as the department and division websites and a newsletter.
- (d) Future Parks Board Member Nick Coelho asked about the expectations regarding board members participating in recreation related activities as representatives of the board. Mr. Coelho recently participated in a Washington Trails Association volunteer workday at Southwest County Park and discovered that many of the volunteer participants were not aware of the Parks Advisory Board and were interested in participating as board members or attending meetings. He asked for more information to share with the public in the future and for ways that board members could help the public get more involved with County Parks programs. Ms. Swan replied that more information could be provided to the board on specific opportunities to get involved. She also mentioned that board members will receive business cards upon request that they can hand out to members of the public for outreach. Also, on the Parks Division website, there is a "contact us" section where members of the public can request to be notified for future meetings, Parks and DCNR events and notifications. Finally, there is a specific web-based form that members of the public can fill out and request/recommend park improvements. This will be covered when Rose Intveld gives her communications team report at the March board meeting. Discussion followed and members of the board would like to request business cards, board member badges and other information or flyers that they can provide to the public when in their communities.
- (e) Board Vice-Chair Mike Farrell asked about the parks improvement form and wanted to know where to find it and how the information would be used. Ms. Swan briefly explained and said that Rose Intveld would demonstrate how use the form. Ms. Swan also shared that Parks Division will soon be introducing the See=Click-Fix application for mobile devices. The application will allow users to identify and report problems they observe and report them in the field in real time. The application will be demonstrated to the board when it is ready for release.

(4) Other

- (a) Board Chair Jacob Vail explained that the last category is a catch-all for any other observations of a general nature that do not fit into the above three areas.

12. DCNR Director's Time (5 minutes)

Tom Teigen

A. DCNR Director Tom Teigen commented and thanked the retiring board members for their years of hard work and service. Mr. Teigen also commented regarding communications and outreach and noted that annually Parks is featured in between seventy (70) and one hundred ten (110) articles per year but more recently efforts are being made to use social media more. Finally, Mr. Teigen commented on some of the outreach by DCNR with state and federal elected and appointed officials and agencies.

- (1) Board Vice-Chair Mike Farrell asked Mr. Teigen about whether DCNR was seeking a new manager for the Evergreen State Fair Park. Mr. Teigen responded that the position was in the 2023 budget and the position will be opened for applications soon. Ms. Swan also commented that DCNR anticipates filling the position by the end of March. Discussion followed.
- (2) Board Chair Jacob Vail asked Parks Division Director Sharon Swan if Division Manager Kara Underwood could be invited to the February board meeting to give a quick ten (10) minute summary of the Evergreen Fair Park new manager position and improvements at the fairgrounds. Ms. Swan agreed.

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

Chair

A. Kirahy Meyers (Dist. 1) - Absent.

B. Vacant (Dist. 2) – Vacant.

C. Vacant (Dist. 3) – Vacant.

D. Steve Yandl (Dist. 4) – Mr. Yandl let the board know that he would continue to participate with board meetings and would assist Kirahy with writing the meeting minutes. He also shared with staff how to access the attendance list in Zoom.com.

E. Bob McCarty (Dist. 5) – Mr. McCarty planned to continue to stay involved with the board, attend meetings, and follow the east county projects important to his community including Sportsman’s Park, Heybrook Ridge, Steelhead Park, and others. He also reminded board members that it is their job to represent all communities when controversial projects come before the board. He plans to get more involved with the noxious weed board and programs in eastern Snohomish County.

F. David Divoky (At Large) – Mr. Divoky thanked the retiring board members for their service and hard work.

G. Mike Farrell (At Large) (Vice Chair) – Mr. Farrell informed the board of the Winder Dog Park piolet project partnership between the City of Monroe and the Evergreen State Fair Park. This partnership provides a temporary, seasonal off leash dog area during the winter months (January – February) at judging arena 606 of the fairgrounds as a safe and dry place for dogs and their owners to recreate when other locations are wet, muddy, or flooded and closed. Please see the Evergreen State Fairgrounds webpage for more details. More on this at the next meeting.

H. Darrell Olson (At Large) – None.

I. Vacant (At Large) – Vacant.

J. Vacant (At Large) – Vacant.

K. Jacob Vail (At Large) (Chair) – Mr. Vail thanked all the speakers, staff and guests who attended the meeting.

L. Tammy Dunn (Ex Officio) – None.

14. Adjournment. 4:48pm

A. Board Chair Jacob Vail asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Vice-Chair Mike Farrell moved to adjourn. Board Member Bob McCarty seconded, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Monthly Report Schedule

January	Arts Commission	July	Capital, Maintenance, Property
February	Communications? (Move to March), Maintenance, WSU, Fairgrounds	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

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