



JOINT MEETING-- PARKS COMMITTEE/PARK AND REC. DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2023

1. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Mayor Korthuis, Councilors; Ron DeValois, Nick Laninga

Staff Present: City Administrator; John Williams, Parks Director Brent DeRuyter; a Parks Admin. Assistant Nancy Norris; Park Maintenance Supervisor Tim Holleman; and Asst. Fire Chief Kristi Watson

Introduction of Parks and Recreation District Members Present Rec,

District Commissioners: Bob Johnson, TJ Timmerman; and Rec. District Advisor Vern Meenderinck

2. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Approval of Parks Committee Minutes- February 21, 2023,

Laninga motioned to approve the February 21, 2023, minutes DeValois approved the motion.

Action: The Parks Committee Minutes from February 21, 2023, were approved.

B. Approval of Modifications to Resolution 1034,

With the new online reservation program, modifications needed to be made to the ballfield reservation fees and game fees.

The Parks Committee reviewed the recommended fee changes and motioned to approve the fee modifications.

Action: Laninga motioned to approve the Fee Modifications to Resolution 1034, DeValois agreed the motion stands approved.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. SHKS Information on the Benson Barn Project

Staff has met and is making comments/recommendations moving forward.

A change in the occupancy title is being made for design and future use.

The barn will be a seasonal non- heated reservable facility April-September. During the Winter months the barn will be used for storage. The south wall, doors, windows, and lighting will be updated and repaired. Restrooms will be a separate facility. A gravel parking lot will surround the south and west side of the Barn as needed.

Rec. District Commissioners suggested planting grass in the open space while this property is being developed so people can use the property as various stages as it is being developed.



B. Updates on Parks and Trails projects

Benson Park

Draft of Master Plan revisions are still being revised from SCJ Alliance with more phasing and pricing elements.

Bridge “pre-drilling” and windmill renovation are continuing.

Schoolyard

Fence and Backstop Removal complete and most items off site.

New amenities for possible donation are in the design process.

Staff and possible volunteers have been contacted and will move forward once an irrigation plan and initial costs are received.

Meetings with Sumas about a potential Spray Park seemed promising.

Berthusen Park

Gate site installation is nearly complete. Gateway Service hopes to have the gate operational by March 31, 2023.

Request for a West Entrance sign from the Tractor Club. The Tractor Club requested a separate address from the park address for the park Ag land property off Badger Rd. After speaking with the County Planner and City Planner it was recommended not to break up the Berthusen Park property with multiple addresses and recommends this entrance be known as the “Berthusen Park West Entrance” off Badger Rd.

Trails

Progress is steady in preparation for the Depot to 8th St section and communication is consistent with PW as permitting goes through.

C. Budget/Project Updates

Extensive water line situation at Bender Concession Stand

D. Civic Plus

Meeting with Forte about payment portal has occurred and documents are going through review. Nancy will begin training March 28, 2023, with a launch date of May 23, 2023.

E. New Staff Update

Continuing the interview process for the hiring of one new seasonal employee, three are returning. The first set of interviews will take place March 21, 2023 with the hope to have a full time seasonal employee work April – September.

F. Railroad Trail Meetings

Discussions with County Members are occurring. The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2023, with the Mayors of Lynden, Sumas, Everson and Nooksack. Then on March 24, 2023, these Mayors will meet with the Nooksack Loop Trail Committee.

G. Park Signage Design Underway with Signs Plus

Signage designs for both City Park and Schoolyard Park have been requested from Signs



Plus. Signs Plus were given examples of other Lynden city signage to reference and asked to use the similar theme/pattern or look in the Park signs design.

4. **ITEMS ADDED:**

A. **Safety Village at Benson Park**

Asst. Fire Chief Kristie Watson shared the vision of developing an mini interactive safety village at Benson Park. The purpose of this Safety Village will be to educate the community members of fire safety, bike safety etc...

B. **Vandalism at Parks**

The Parks Committee questioned how the camera and restroom automatic locks are working and if the vandalism has been detoured. Parks Maintenance Supervisor Holleman mentioned that the vandalism has been minimal during the winter, some have been caught with little restitution or consequences primarily because of the enforcement of laws forbidding enforcement. Foul language continues to be a problem with the younger teens who have given unsupervised freedom to go to the Park pump track, basketball courts etc...

Meeting Adjourned: 5:32pm.

NEXT MEETING-Monday, April 17, 2023