



PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2025

1. **ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Mayor; Scott Korthuis, Councilors; Gary Vis, Nick Laninga and Mark Wohlrab

Staff Present: Parks Director; Brent DeRuyter, and Parks Admin. Assistant; Nancy Norris

Guest: Bob Johnson Rec District Commissioner, and Amanda May

2. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Approval of Parks Committee Minutes- February 18, 2025**

Wohlrab moved to approve February 18, 2025, minutes, Laninga seconded the motion.

The Parks Committee approved the motion to approve the Parks Committee February 18, 2025, Minutes.

3. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

A. **Updates on Parks and Trails**

Trail Renovation

Possible window of time for construction most likely June. Need a good stretch of good weather. It is possible to do segments each day not to shut down the whole section of trail between City Park and Bender Road.

Schoolyard Park

Excavation and installation to start ASAP now that the ground is ready. Volunteer playground installation- goal is to get it done before school is out for the summer.

Reviewing the initial drawings from the restroom facility designer, Mr. Robinson is doing a great job. This could be a private/public project.

An update on the amount raised by Mt. Baker Rotary for a splash pad and improvements at Bender Fields will be announced and a confirmed dollar amount raised will be announced at the May Parks Committee meeting.

Parks Department Shop Addition

The Contractor hopes to begin in May or beginning of June with demolition.



B. Bender Fields Structures Update

Civil engineers are working on final plans for 2 structures between fields 1-4 and 5-8 and updates on the amount raised by Mt. Baker Rotary at the recent auction to be announced at the May Parks Committee meeting.

Rec District Commissioner Bob Johnson mentioned that the Rec. District is committing to some funding for this project.

The goal is to have an August groundbreaking ceremony for these two structures.

Phase 1 is the buildings and Phase 2 will include turf fields and netting.

The current concession building could potentially be turned into storage.

The Director shared that he received notice that the city might be recipients for the RCO grant funding after all, that was applied for updating the current ballfield lights. More information will be provided at the May Parks Committee meeting.

C. 2026 Project and Budget Discussion.

2026 will not be a capital project year, but more focused on maintenance upgrades.

Mayor Korthuis stated that there could be work done toward the design for a 2nd cable bridge at Dickenson and additional trail project design.

Maintenance upgrades for 2025

Million Smile Playground mulch done by volunteer groups.

Berthusen Park 2nd bathroom upgrades.

Park Cameras- 2 at bender 1 at city park 1 at Berthusen LPD needs to confirm with the opioid advisory council on the specifics as to how the funding can be used.

Park Impact Fees,

The Parks Director shared as requested by the committee what the city's impact fees are currently set and noted that Lynden's Park impact fees are in comparison to the City of Ferndale's Park impact.

Laninga asked for more information on the feasibility of Civic Rec. Vis mentioned that there have been comments made on the reservation processes from community members who have had longstanding reservations.

The Parks Committee is concerned that the city is losing its personal touch with long-standing reservations.

DeRuyter mentioned program costs approx. \$10,000. annually. DeRuyter will provide the 2024 revenue for all the picnic facilities and sports field reservations and have a discussion on the reservation process at the May Parks Committee Meeting.



D. Berthusen Gun Club Lease Update

Work is being done to finalize draft for the gun club. DeRuyter confirmed with the Gun Club on the testing of the water and soil for lead. DeRuyter reported that a 3rd party tests the water and soil yearly and makes sure the Gun Club is taking precautions to deter any foul from migrating and feeding in the fall zone.

4. ITEMS ADDED

- A.** Scheduled Rec District meeting with the Parks Committee to talk about the bond money for Benson Park proposal and other future projects for the May 19th meeting. Laninga noted he would not be available for the May 19th meeting.
- B.** DeRuyter mentioned that the potential renter for the Benson Ag. Property backed out and that the city will be making the 28 acres available for lease yet this year.

Meeting Adjourned 4:58pm.

NEXT MEETING- Monday, May 19, 2025