

**Mason County Parks and Trails
Advisory Board Meeting
November 4, 2021
MCRA Administration Office
411 N 5th St.
Shelton, WA 98584
5:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

- **Meeting Called to Order:** 5:28 PM
- **Present:** Andrew Kinney, Diane Zoren, Carl Olson
- **Call In:** Jeanne Robinson and Mendy Harlow, Hans Shepard

- **Excused:** Mike DiMatteo, Mary Miller
- **Guests:** Bob Droll, Dan Penrose, Constance Ibsen

- **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from September 23, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

- **Agenda:** The agenda for the November, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

- **Public Comment:** (Up to 5 minutes available per person for citizens to address the Parks and Trails Advisory Board.)
- Constance Ibsen was in attendance to speak about Union park and boat ramp. She feels the community needs a large covered area for meetings. This need was brought to light during Covid. She asked if funds that were available for improvement to the boat ramp could be transferred to fund a covered area in the Union Community Park which could also be used for basketball. She mentioned that the Union community may be willing to raise match funding if a grant was applied for to build a covered area. She also noted that the boat ramp does not have a sani-can and the community would like one. She drew attention to some safety issues in the area and noted that the bollards by the fence in Union park are very weak and may undermine the fence. She handed out notes and photos of her concerns which are attached.

- **Ken VanBuskirk**
Parks and Trails Advisory Board members:
- I only recently became aware of the needs assessment survey and the meeting scheduled for this evening. I am unable to attend the meeting please enter these as public comments.

- The needs assessment survey lists the Sweetwater creek waterwheel trail as being on your "working list" I am curious as to who suggested and how it was placed on the list and survey.
- The property is owned by the Port of Allyn and the Port Commissioners are not in full agreement or support of this project.
- Neither the park or trail are listed on the County's 2022-2028 capital improvement project list.

- The draft planned action Belfair EIS lists the property as an "archaeological" site, this is not true.
- If there is an attempt to place the Sweetwater park or trail on the County CIP project list I would like to be kept informed.
- I also would ask that all committee members follow your bylaws and disqualify themselves from voting if either of these matters ever gets on the project list.
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- Thank you,
- Ken VanBuskirk

- **Business Items:**

Introductions: Call in members introduced themselves to those present at the meeting.

Comp Plan Update:

Bob Droll and Carl Olson visited Mason County parks in October and Bob did a concept level of improvement needs in parks. A copy of Bob's Comp Plan has been emailed to the Board members who will review and have their priority list before the next meeting on December 16. The cutoff date for the survey has been extended to Nov 12 and Dan will get the results to Board members for their review before the December meeting.

For some of the new facilities Bob suggested a location and cost analysis. The indoor sports complex already has a site plan. He also noted that trail projects would require acquiring several parcels or easements. The question was asked how non- County property could be included in the Comp Plan. Bob explained that Sweetwater, for example could be pursued by the Port of Allyn and they can apply for grants or partner with BOCC. Sweetwater park is not currently in the Comp Plan. Bob also noted that the public would question any dollar amount spent on non- County facilities.

The Board was asked to submit their priority list as soon as possible.

Survey Update:

Dan Penrose gave an update on the survey. 496 responses have been received. Walking and bike trails seem to be top priority for citizens. Canoeing and kayaking came in second with Neighborhood Parks being third.

There was a lot of interest for trails from equestrian groups. A lot of responses noted that people are unaware of the location of some of Mason County parks. Some education and outreach may be needed. There were also many requests for clean restrooms, more maintenance and better signs at the parks. 94% of responders live in Mason County with 47% of that number being from Shelton. 75 people expressed interest in volunteering with trails.

Virtual Workshop: A virtual workshop will be held on Nov 9th where a questionnaire can be completed on line. There will also be a virtual interactive map showing park locations.

- **Correspondence/Good of the Order: : None**

- **Meeting Adjourned:** adjourned at 6:35 pm.
- **Next Meeting:** The next scheduled Parks Advisory Board Meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. December 16, 2021 at 411 N. 5th Street, Shelton.