



350 COURT ST #8
FRIDAY HARBOR WA
98250

(360) 378-8420

fax (360) 378-2075

e-mail

parks@sanjuanco.com

[www.sanjuanco.com/
parks](http://www.sanjuanco.com/parks)

March 18, 2010 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Commission Members Present: Gil Blinn, Kyle Davies, Cy Field, Barbara Keller, Johannes Krieger, Ann Palmer, and Sandy Playa.

Staff Present: Dona Wuthnow and Kathryn Hansen.

Chair Blinn welcomed Barbara Keller as the newest member of the Commission, representing Lopez Island. Introductions were made, and Barbara shared some of her background.

Guests: Randy Martin & Angela Atwell from Skagit Valley College and Richard Swanson and Jason Gunther from Discovery Sea Kayaks.

Chair Gilbert Blinn called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the County Legislative Building Conference Room in Friday Harbor.

Approval of Agenda: Approved as published.

Approval of minutes: Minutes of the January 21, 2010 regular meeting were approved with the following corrections:

Page 2, Old Business, Land Bank . . . “Kyle had preeviously talked . . .”

Page 3, New Business, 2010 P&RC meeting schedule – “Ann Playa Palmer moved to approve . . .”

Correspondence: None.

Officer / Committee Reports: Kyle reported that he and Johannes tried out the new C.A.M.P. reservation system last week. They provided some good insights and suggested some changes. Kyle stated that it is a robust program and it is exciting to have this new system created inside the County. The new system should free up some time for the office staff and it may result in some increase in occupancy.

Open Forum:

- Richard Swanson spoke about discrepancies in commercial kayak companies who are paying the required fees to use County Parks and those who are not, especially for use of Reuben Tarte and Turn Point Day Parks. He also announced the formation of a San Juan Island Kayak Association, currently comprised of four companies. Mr. Swanson asked that the current use fees remain as is and that the Parks & Rec Commission not implement a second fee schedule. Richard fielded questions from members. There was discussion about enforcement of the Parks code.
- As a follow-up to previous correspondence, Randy Martin provided a handout about the Skagit Valley College / Exploritas program and day use of San Juan County Park. He and Angela described their relationship with Elderhostel (now Exploritas), typical use of the park, the nature of the classes, and said that they are asking to be reconsidered in terms of their commercial designation He added that the program is essential to keeping the College branch viable. Dona gave some background of the 2010 policy development.

Financial Report:

- February Budget Summary. Asked what the expense for small tools and equipment at Odlin was. Dona explained that the staff is preparing for the summer and also establishing a small tool cache for volunteers.

Dona noted that Kris Bayas is coding all of her time to the Brann Cabin capital project.

Dona said that the Orcas Island Rec Program is currently in the red and the 2 staff have reduced hours to half-time, are paring programs back to the core, and are increasing fundraising efforts with their Advisory Committee. County Administrator, Pete Rose asked for a cost analysis of shutting down Orcas Rec. The Orcas Island Park & Recreation District could put a levy proposal on the ballot in August. There was discussion. Barbara asked Dona to bring the cost analysis to the April P&RC meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director's Report (e-mailed in advance of meeting):

- SJCP Launch Program.
- Parks & Rec. Plan update.
- Odlin Park Renovation.
- Camping Reservation system (C.A.M.P.).
- 2 year Farmers Market contract. Dona gave a brief verbal summary—the agreement allows for a 1% increase in fees in 2011.

Old Business:

- ESVG 'way-finding' sign. Sandy & Gil met with the EPRC. Gil summarized the background of the matter and Sandy handed out a schematic. Sandy reported that the Chamber of Commerce would like a P&RC decision regarding commercial advertising on park property. The P&RC could forward the project to the Stewardship Committee to develop a non-commercial sign. Barbara noted that there needs to be a policy established related to advertising. Gil favored a community-based sign without commercial advertising, but to include information about Eastsound Village Green, how to rent the stage, etc.

MOTION: Gil Blinn moved to approve a sign with a map and general locations of public facilities, but without any name-specific businesses; Barbara Keller seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- SJ Kayak Expeditions' request for fee reduction. Kathryn read the request portion from the 12/17/2009 letter, and Sandy summarized Tim Thomsen's appearance at the February meeting.

MOTION: Cy Field moved to deny the request for a fee reduction to use County Parks for commercial operations; Sandy Playa seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Meet with Fair Board. The primary topic would be discussion of the Park/Fair department's structure. Dona said to expect 2-3 hours for such a work session. Kyle suggested a sub-committee; Sandy recommended that reps from each island meet with the Fair Board members on their island. A Monday meeting of the two bodies was suggested; not May 10. Staff will work it out.

- P&RC Work Session.
 - Report to SJ County Council. 2:30pm is the new meeting time on April 13. 2009 Accomplishments and the 2010 Work Plan should be addressed. Ann will update the PowerPoint presentation with P&RC input. Gil is willing to travel to help develop; Kyle is, too. Gil will make the presentation to the Council.
 - 2009 Accomplishments. Brainstorming followed; the following items were delineated:
 - Shaw Master Plan finished
 - TPL SJC Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan planning
 - Volunteering and volunteer coordination
 - Park monitoring
 - ES Village Green watering
 - Community outreach
 - Committee rep's
 - Blackie Brady stairs
 - Budget planning
 - Reviewed waiver requests & appeals
 - NOAA proposed rule
 - Policy & fee evaluations & recommendations
 - Lopez Commercial program
 - San Juan commercial program
 - SJCP launch permit program
 - Agate Beach bathroom painted
 - Lopez Hill trust land transfer
 - OIRP coordination, strategizing
 - 2010 Work Plan
 - Work with Fair Board
 - Complete and deliver TPL SJC Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan
 - Implement SJCP vessel launch permit program
 - Review mission and bylaws
 - OIRP & Recreation District transition
 - Odlin Renovation – final design
 - Volunteerism
 - Brann Cabin – level of preservation
 - Fee schedule review
 - Policy evaluations and adjustments
 - Village Green committee
 - Advocate for second ¼% REET to fund Parks and Public Works capital projects
 - NOAA regulations re: Southern Resident Killer Whales
 - 2011 Budget
 - Update Bylaws & Mission Statement

Cy will chair a committee to review and make recommendations; Kyle will work with Cy. They will look at the combining of Parks and Fair, Finance Officer, and consistency with SJCC Chapter 12.

New Business:

- Lewis Storm exception to 90 day reservations. Kathryn explained that long time San Juan Park camper Lewis Storm will celebrate his 90th birthday during his stay at the Park this August. His family has asked that he be granted an exception for the maximum 90 day requirement to reserve his campsite this year.

MOTION: Johannes Krieger moved to allow an exception to the 90 day maximum requirement to reserve his campsite this year; Barbara Keller seconded the motion.

Sandy will get a birthday card for Mr. Storm. The members personally contributed one night's campsite fee for the night of his birthday.

- Skagit Valley College/Exploritas appeal of Director's Decision. In their earlier presentation, Randy Martin had stated that they were willing to pay something, but asked for some relief from the 2010 commercial fee schedule. There was discussion.

MOTION: Ann Palmer moved to leave Skagit Valley College's status as commercial, but to offer a 50% reduction for 2010, with fees to return to published for 2011; Barbara Keller seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Change April P&RC meeting to 4/22. This would delay the meeting by one week, allowing the meeting to coincide with an already scheduled Trust for Public Lands presentation on the Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Plan update.

MOTION: Cy Field moved to change the date for the regular April P&RC meeting to April 22; Sandy Playa seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Developing Capital Project priorities – Park Plan update. Dona provided a handout. Brann Cabin preservation is in progress. Odlin Park Master Plan Renovation is in progress. Lopez staff is charged with completing the lower portion of the Blackie Brady stairs. Kyle addressed the need for improvements to the road, parking area, and for drainage at Turn Point Day Park. There should be a sign installed at Eastsound Village; perhaps the Stewardship Committee could do that, subject to funding. Dona advised that park administration buildings won't be eligible for grant funding, so would need local funding. Odlin South Master Plan (unique with its aspen grove) was added to 2016.
- ESGV Committee. Kathryn recited the 2006 timeline of formation of the previous committee. Dona would like to see a committee populated with new people; they could work with Rev Shannon of the Fair Division on events and activities. It would be helpful to have a group to give an ear to community complaints and dispel misperceptions about the park and the Department. As the current P&RC Chair, Gill would be an ex-officio member of the committee.

MOTION: Johannes Krieger moved to establish the Eastsound Village Green Stewardship Committee; Barbara Keller seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion passed with one abstention (Keller).

Dona was directed to move ahead with the list of invitees.

Announcements:

Dona will be on vacation the week of April 5.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hansen
Recording Secretary



Director's Report to the Parks & Recreation Commission

April 29, 2010

The following is a summary update of projects and relevant Park Department happenings since the last PRC meeting.

San Juan Park Launch Program - The Whale Museum Contract is in place to develop the education program and they are working with staff on operation details at the park and content of the program. At this point we're on track to "launch" on schedule. I welcome your input if you have specific ideas about how or where we should communicate the details to the public as they plan trips to the islands.

Parks & Rec. Plan update- Kyle will report on last week's internal workshop tomorrow. I would like you to consider changing the April PRC meeting to 4/22 to coincide with the public workshops; allowing Kitty to give an in person project presentation to the PRC. The next steering team meeting will follow immediately after the PRC meeting tomorrow.

Odlin Park Renovation - I have selected an Archeologist to contract for the cultural survey and she will begin work this Saturday. We received 11 proposals for the Design & Engineering RFP. Two Public Works staff are assisting me with evaluations. We'll likely hold interviews before the final selection.

Camping Reservation system (C.A.M.P.) - We had a 1 day delay in opening due to a snafu between the bank and our online credit card processor. However, that was quickly resolved and we opened at 9:00 am yesterday. Overall, it's going very well, with only a few minor bugs to work out in very unusual situations. Most folks are using the system with ease and the ones that have talked to the staff are very appreciative of the improvement over previous programs. If you get a chance, go on to our website and take a look. And, if you see Stan Matthews, please tell him what great work he did.