

**South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District
December 20, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

Regular Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Commissioners Present: Mark Helpenstell, Dennis Hunter, Matt Simms and Don Wood
Staff Present: Doug Coutts, Tom Fallon, Carrie Monforte and Peggy Nelson

Mark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The attendance sheet is attached for permanent records only.

II. Public Comment

Bob Murnane, a select soccer parent, addressed the email that he had sent to the commissioners earlier in the week regarding the closure of the fields at the Sports Complex. He said that the mission of South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District was to provide fields for the Soccer Club and he hoped that moving forward the three select soccer teams can practice and play games at the Sports Complex. He was concerned that when the fields were closed, the coaches were not given enough time to alert parents of the change of venue and children were dropped off at the Sports Complex and had to be transported to the new location at Community Park.

Karl Petersen, a select soccer team coach, said he received an email about the closure but was not given enough time to alert players and parents. He said the email he received was forwarded by Brian Stuchell who had received the closure notice around Noon from Doug. Karl said that the Soccer Club was told at their meeting that notice of any field closures would be provided the Friday prior to the upcoming week. Karl said he did not have a problem with relocating to a different field but was given too short of notice. Karl said they were able to relocate their game on Saturday to the High School soccer field.

Doug said he asked the soccer team to move their game to a different venue but if necessary, he would find a location for the game so that the game was not cancelled. Doug said the decision was made to close the Sports Complex because staff is looking at field use for future games, not just present games and they are trying to preserve fields 2 and 3 for games. Don said a field policy was created for this situation and Matt said the intent of the policy was to get everybody together to discuss field use. Doug asked the Soccer Club if they could use the Middle School 'Cooler' Gym once or twice a week for practice and also offered to help them relocate to new practice areas.

Dennis said he has been a select baseball coach and has been responsible for ensuring the fields are playable before using them because he respects the fields. He recommended that the Soccer Club get organized within their own club so that the fields are not disrespected.

Matt said that the amount of time given to the Soccer Club regarding the field closure was unacceptable. Don said the select soccer team was relocated to another field within the Park and even though it was a short timeline, it was an acceptable solution.

Bob Murnane asked where games could be played on January 7 and 8 and Doug said he was going to work on helping them find a location. Mark said the field relocation on Monday was unfortunate but it was an anomaly caused by perverse field conditions and space was allocated within the Park for the soccer team to practice. Mark also encouraged the use of the 'Cooler' by the soccer teams. Karl said that looking long term at the select soccer teams, he is trying to promote the girls soccer program and hopes to add another select soccer team.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 15, 2016, were unanimously approved in a motion made by Dennis and seconded by Don.

IV. Treasurer's Report/Voucher List Approval

Matt reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the commissioners.

The ending fund balances, per Island County, were as follows:

- The Maintenance and Operations Fund was \$377,264.33.
- The Capital Fund was \$500.64.
- The Reserve Fund was \$200,729.72.
- The Bond Fund was \$260,023.84.
- The Property Fund was \$23,826.45.

Voucher Approval

In a motion made by Matt and seconded by Dennis, the Board unanimously approved the Maintenance and Operations Fund Vouchers #7889 through #7953 in the amount of \$70,416.26, electronic tax payments in the amount of \$4,278.05.

V. Staff Report (to be attached for permanent records)

Doug reviewed the Staff Report with the commissioners. Doug said the District did not receive enough registrations for the Snowrider program so since the program has been cancelled three years in a row, the District will no longer be offering the program.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Comprehensive Plan Programs

1. Capital Projects Spreadsheet

Doug discussed the Capital Projects Spreadsheet which consolidated the rankings from the commissioners for capital projects. Doug said the spreadsheet was still a work in progress and he would email the spreadsheet to the commissioners.

B. Property Acquisition Matrix

Doug said the property that was offered for sale to the District last month ranked below five on the matrix so the purchase should not be pursued at this time. Doug said the property owners wanted an easement through District property to access their property. Don said the District would be open to granting the owners an easement if the road was accessible by the public.

C. Campground Project – Update

Doug said that J.A. Brennan was still working to reduce the campground budget and there would be a meeting in January to discuss the campground.

VII. New Business

A. 2017 Board Meeting Calendar

Doug distributed the 2017 Board Meeting calendar to the commissioners.

B. 2017 Board Member Roles at the January Board meeting

Doug reminded the commissioners that they would need to decide at the next Board meeting what role each commissioner would have for the upcoming year. Dennis said he was okay with continuing with the current commissioner assignments and Don said he would not be at the next Board meeting but he agreed with Dennis.

C. Field Conditions – Report

Tom displayed pictures of the Sports Complex field conditions with the commissioners. Tom said they have had extreme weather this year with excessive rain which has caused major damage to the fields, causing the fields to be closed. Tom said the fields need to dry out before he can start repairing them and the fields were not designed for how they are being used. Tom said use of the fields is starting to impact the drainage system so the fields need to be closed in this situation. Mark said the priority is to have fields for people to play on which may outrank the maintenance of the fields. Doug said he is trying to move soccer players to the elementary school fields because the School District has allowed the Soccer Club to play on their fields. The commissioners debated about the amount of time given to the Soccer Club regarding the closure of the Sports Complex fields. Doug said he will obtain contact information for the Soccer Club and will try to attend Soccer Club meetings to discuss field conditions. Matt said the District needs to get together with the Soccer Club and the School District to discuss use of the sports fields.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.