

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Commissioners Present: Mark Helpenstell, Dennis Hunter, Matt Simms (via GoToMeeting) and Don Wood

Staff Present: Doug Coutts, 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

Moe Jerome, a local resident and sculptor, invited the commissioners to an open house at Cloudstone Sculpture Park on April 24. Moe said the property is 20-40 acres, full of sculptures and the owner of the Park is not sure what to do with the property. Moe said he would like to see an entity such as the Park District take over the sculpture park.

Kevin Hilton, a Little League baseball coach, said he was opposed to the Choochokam Festival moving to Community Park prior to the baseball tournament because of the potential damage to the fields from the festival. Shonda Hilton, local resident, was also opposed to Choochokam moving to the Park and said having a beer garden on the basketball court would damage the court. Shonda said she has a business in Langley and not having the festival in the City of Langley would be detrimental to her business since she would lose the festival traffic.

Gwen Jones, Choochokam Arts representative, said nobody has more pride in Community Park than she does because she walks her dog daily through the Park and she would not do anything to damage the fields. Gwen said she wants to move the festival out of the City of Langley because the festival will die financially if they stay because they cannot generate enough income with the number of booths they are allowed in Langley. Gwen said the stage for the musicians in Langley will no longer fit because of tree growth and fire regulations. Gwen said they need music at the festival to bring in more sponsors and money to keep the festival afloat.

Gwen said they suggested having the beer garden in the basketball court because the area is confined and there is no glass allowed. Gwen said no tents will be on the grass at the Park and Choochokam staff would clean up the Park when the festival was done. Gwen said they are working with Whidbey Children's Theater and are planning to expand children's activities at the festival. Gwen said they will have a shuttle going from the ferry to the City of Langley and to the festival. Gwen said they want to be given the opportunity to show everyone that Choochokam can work at Community Park.

Olivia Batchelor, president of Little League, said they may have a tournament scheduled prior to Choochokam but they may be able to work with Little League to move up the dates of the tournament so that they do not conflict with Choochokam.

Celia Black, Choochokam Arts representative, said she does not want to harm the Park in any way and wants to expand the children's programs offered at Choochokam. Celia said they are willing to work with Little League on festival dates in the future.

Doug said he would give other groups, such as Little League, priority at the Park before allowing Choochokam to use the Park in the future.

Gwendy Hastings, local resident, said that if the Board approves the use of alcohol at the festival, it opens the door to other things in the future. Celia said the beer garden is not managed by Choochokam and not having a beer garden is not a deal breaker for having the festival at the Park.

Doug said the South Whidbey High School soccer team sent a card thanking the Board and Tom for the maintenance and use of the soccer fields.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 16, 2016, were unanimously approved in a motion made by Dennis and seconded by Matt.

IV. Treasurer's Report/Voucher List Approval

Matt reviewed the Treasurer's Report.

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

- The Maintenance and Operations Fund was \$218,682.63.
- The Capital Fund was \$500.61.
- The Reserve Fund was \$200,129.98.
- The Bond Fund was \$73,839.08.
- The Property Fund was \$91,919.92.

Voucher Approval

In a motion made by Matt and seconded by Don, the Board unanimously approved the Maintenance and Operations Fund Vouchers #7453 through #7505 in the amount of \$65,458.84, Property Fund Voucher #6 in the amount of \$18,314.04 and electronic tax payments in the amount of \$3,330.33.

V. Staff Report (to be included in permanent records)

Doug reviewed the Staff Report with the commissioners. Doug said he met with Robert May, EMT, who said that Whidbey Hospital wanted to donate an AED and case to Community Park. Doug said that if the Park District accepts the donation, the District could also purchase an AED and case for \$850 that would be located at the Sports Complex. Doug said that Whidbey Telecom was willing to maintain the phone line for the AED's at no cost to the District. The commissioners agreed to move forward with the donation and purchase of the AED's.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Comprehensive Plan Programs

Doug said he met with the amphitheater committee and they reviewed locations in the Park for the amphitheater. Doug said the preferred location of the amphitheater was on the north side of Community Park in front of the maintenance facility.

B. Campground Design Process – Update

i. Preferred Schematic Plan

Doug said J.A. Brennan developed a campground schematic plan that can be used to apply for a grant if the plan is approved by the commissioners. Doug asked the commissioners to remove the amphitheater from the plan since the amphitheater committee wants the amphitheater in Community Park instead. The commissioners said they were okay with removing the amphitheater from the campground schematic plan.

ii. State Representative Visit – Report

Doug said he, Don and Matt met with the State representatives about the campground property and asked them to write letters supporting the campground for the grant application. Doug said the representatives were investigating whether or not they are allowed to write letters of support. Don said the representatives were supportive of the property purchase and the District's approach to stewardship of the property.

iii. Survey Plan – Discussion

Doug said he had closed down the initial public surveys on the campground and would be creating a new survey in conjunction with the release of the new schematic plan once he had the cost of the campground construction.

VII. New Business

A. Alcohol Policy - Discussion

Doug said he updated the alcohol policy with proposed modifications so that the Park District could allow a beer garden on District property if the commissioners chose to change the policy. Doug said he would add vaping to the list of banned substances allowed on District property. Doug asked the commissioners to review the proposed changes to the policy which would be discussed at a future Board meeting.

B. Special Use Permit Policy – Discussion

Doug presented a draft Special Use Permit Policy and asked the commissioners to review the policy for future discussion.

C. Choochokam Festival - Request

Doug said he has reviewed all the specifics of Community Park hosting the Choochokam Festival with Gwen and Celia and they have developed a plan for Choochokam. Doug said Little League could move up the dates of their tournament if needed. Doug said Choochokam would set up for the festival on Friday night and the festival would be over on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Doug said he has developed a new special use process that would charge Choochokam a special use permit fee along with a fee for using each area of the Park. Doug said the District also has to charge a vendor fee because the District cannot gift public

funds. Doug said he may also require Choochokam to pump the Park's septic tank prior to the festival if the bathrooms are open for the festival.

Doug presented Choochokam's plan to the commissioners and said the issues that needed to be addressed before Choochokam is allowed in the Park are the potential Little League tournament conflict and the use of alcohol in the Park. Doug said there was also a conflict with Ragnar Relay because the Relay ends Saturday morning at the Fairgrounds in Langley and there will be significant traffic from the Relay.

Dennis said he was concerned about the maintenance costs of hosting the festival and the timing of the festival. Dennis said it was hard for him to support the festival at the Park this year but could probably support the festival in the future. Don said he was okay with pursuing hosting the festival at the Park this year if Doug thought he could host it this year and he was also okay with hosting the festival in future years too. Matt said the timing of Choochokam was not great this year but it appeared that the festival would not happen if it is not at the Park so if the District can figure out how to host the festival this year, we should host it. Matt said the attendees will determine if it is feasible to host the festival at the Park in future years. Matt said he was not supportive of a beer garden at the festival this year. Matt said there was no comparison between Choochokam and Island Festival because Choochokam has proven to be a good operation.

Doug said Choochokam could happen in the Park even with the tight timeline but he was concerned about the amount of traffic on Saturday morning from the Ragnar Relay. Celia said Choochokam has the most attendance Saturday night whereas Ragnar Relay is over on Saturday morning and uses a different route to get to the Fairgrounds which does not conflict with the traffic at Community Park.

Mark said that conceptually the festival fits nicely in the Park and he wants the fees that the District charges Choochokam to offset the maintenance costs. Mark said he also wants to table the beer garden discussion for another Board meeting.

Matt made a motion to approve the Choochokam Festival at Community Park this year and to use the draft Special Use Permit Policy for the Festival this year. Don seconded the motion and motion was unanimously approved.

D. Campground Grant Application

Doug said he spoke with RCO about the campground grant application and he said the District can apply for either a WWRP Local Parks grant or a Land Water Conservation Fund grant. Doug said the campground committee recommended applying for a WWRP Local Parks grant. *Don made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-02 – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Grant Funding Assistance and Dennis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.* The commissioners also agreed that the campground committee should also act as the grant committee for the campground grant application.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.