

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF FALL CITY METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
OF KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON
HELD May 5, 2009

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fall City Metropolitan Park District (FCMPD) of King County, Washington, was held May 5, 2009, at the Duthie Hill Park Offices located at 27101 SE Issaquah-Fall City Road, Issaquah, Washington, at 4:00 p.m. Commissioners Harris, Moderow, Pettersson, Schneider, and Wilkins were present.

Also present were Kevin Brown, Director of King County Parks and Recreation (KC Parks); Butch Lovelace, KC Parks Program Manager; and Alan Sinsel, KC Parks Snoqualmie District Park Specialist.

1. Call to Order.

Commissioner Schneider acted as Chairman of the meeting and business was conducted as follows. He stated that Commissioner Harris has volunteered to take minutes of this meeting.

Commissioner Schneider reported that notice of the meeting had been issued as required by law. A meeting notice was posted at the Fall City Water District and the U.S. Post Office on Monday April 27, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Introductions.

3. Nearer Term Discussion Topics.

- Fall City Park (FCP)
- Snoqualmie Valley Trail (SVT) access at SE 39th Place
- Partnerships

Kevin Brown stated that with County Executive Ron Sims intending to resign his position with King County upon being sworn in as Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in Washington D.C. and the Snoqualmie Tribes' withdrawal of their offer to take ownership of Fall City Park (FCP) the push for KC Parks to divest itself of FCP has been removed. Therefore with these recent developments, KC Parks intends to continue its ownership and management of FCP.

KC Parks expressed a willingness to work with FCMPD on a wide range of different capacities from transfer of FCP to simply sharing duties of maintenance and program administration without actually transferring ownership. A partnership approach between KC Parks and FCMPD would allow KC Parks to continue with the day to day maintenance of the FCP, including the ball fields and equestrian arena, so that FCMPD could potentially focus its limited resources on specific capital improvements to FCP. KC Parks was also receptive to working with FCMPD to

better address maintenance priorities desired by the District as well as partner on an option for enhanced services.

The informal trail connection at SE 39th Place between Fall City Park and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail (SVT) was also discussed. This historic trail connection was officially closed in May 2008 because the access route over private Weyerhaeuser property had never officially been secured by the County. Recently Weyerhaeuser has expressed an interest in selling this parcel and KC Parks has met preliminarily to review terms for acquiring the property.

FCMPD stated an interest in backing KC Parks in their bid to settle the unresolved trail access issue. FCMPD agreed that it would be appropriate to write a letter of support to encourage the County to move forward with the acquisition in an effort to resolve the trail access issues.

Commissioner Pettersson and Wilkins noted that they were recently contacted by the Snoqualmie Tribe and were setting up a meeting with them to discuss partnering opportunities and the Tribe's recently awarded grant from EPA, for approximately \$100,000, which would be applied towards river front restoration. KC Parks noted that they too had been contacted and would welcome a joint meeting to discuss partnering opportunities.

Butch Lovelace stated that he recently walked the FCP site with a representative of the Snoqualmie Tribe to discuss the proposed river front restoration improvements along FCP on the east side of the Snoqualmie River. He also noted that the Water Resources Division of King County is also doing restoration work on the west side of the Snoqualmie River in the vicinity of Olive Taylor-Quigley Park.

Butch Lovelace stated that a special use permit is required from KC Parks for modifications to the County's parks and that the modifications must be consistent with park use.

Butch Lovelace noted that King County has volunteer coordinators that are available to assist in the event that FCMPD would like to arrange a volunteer event like a Parks Appreciation Day. He would be happy to forward on this contact information upon request.

Butch Lovelace noted that there are partnership grants from King County that can be applied to enhance local parks. The Youth Sports Facility Grants (YSFG) and Community Partnership Grants (CPG) are two such grant programs for which FCMPD could apply towards future projects. Mr. Lovelace is the YSFG Program Manager. The City of North Bend and the North Bend Parks Foundation are recent recipients of a \$60,000 YSFG towards a new climbing wall in Torguson Park. Preston Athletic Fields and Community Park is a recipient of grant funds from both YSFG and CPG from 2003 to 2008. Highlights for both of these grant programs have been excerpted from the County's website and are attached to these meeting minutes for reference.

Commissioner Harris noted that there are other state grants that can be applied to improve local parks. The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) is one such grant program administered through the Washington State

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB). For example, Big Rock Ball Park in the City of Duvall is a recipient of \$125,000 of 50% matching grant funds from the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) program.

Butch Lovelace offered KC Parks assistance with reviewing and editing grant applications from FCMPD.

4. Longer Range Discussion Topics.

- Parks
- Trails
- Open Space

Kevin Brown stated that currently there are no significant capital improvements or park land acquisitions planned by KC Parks within the boundaries of the FCMPD.

Kevin Brown stated that trail connectivity issues within the Snoqualmie Valley are a high priority for KC Parks. Extensions of the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail to the Snoqualmie Ridge Trail and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail to the east beyond Tokul Road are two such priorities.

Kevin Brown stated that there has been no status change on the issue of a new trail connecting Fall City to the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail via any of the alternative routes identified in the Fall City Trails Feasibility Study prepared in 2001.

Commissioner Harris inquired about the status of any significant residential developments in the District and how they might be required to provide recreational (parks, trails, and open space) as part of their mitigation requirements. Kevin Brown stated that KC Parks has a calculation which determines how much recreation mitigation is required of a future development. This mitigation may come in the form of items such as on-site recreation, fee in lieu, transfer of development rights, or trail connections. Kevin Brown stated that he was unaware of the status of any specific pending development applications. He suggested that the FCMPD prepare a formal letter and send it to the King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) and request that the FCMPD legally be notified of any pending permit applications within the District requiring parks or trails mitigation.

5. King County Parks Other Discussion Topics.

KC Parks reiterated that it was open to the concept of partnering with FCMPD, the Snoqualmie Tribe, and other groups as the FCMPD works toward establishing the priorities for the District for the coming years.

6. Site Visits to FCP and SVT Access (time permitting).

Due the length of the meeting, a site visit to review and continue discussions regarding near term issues at both of these sites was not taken.

7. **Adjourn.**

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

President and Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk and Commissioner