



PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 17, 2023

1. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Mayor Scott Korthuis, Councilors; Ron DeValois, and Nick Laninga, Mark Wohlrab

Staff Present: City Administrator; John Williams, and Parks Admin. Assistant Nancy Norris.

2. ACTION ITEMS:

A. **Approval of Parks Committee Minutes- May 15, 2023**

Laninga motioned to approve the May 15, 2023, minutes DeValois approved the motion.

Action: *The Parks Committee Minutes from May 15, 2023, were approved*

3. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. **SHKS Information on Benson Barn**

Met about making additional adjustments to scope and are awaiting comments and a new contract for moving forward. No new draft has been provided. The decision is NOT to use the barn as a public event space. Recommend fixing the south wall, add new doors, paint the outside and landscape the surroundings.

B. **Updates on Parks and Trails projects**

Benson Park

SCJ Alliance has a second draft of the master plan complete. New updated plan was received 7/17/2023, no other information included.

Holes are complete and bridge material is on the way to get pressure treated. The wood is completely done, they are currently drilling the hole into the steel. They are on schedule to meet the August deadline.

Schoolyard

Met with architect and developer about beginning stage plans.

Will meet again 7/18/23. The plan is 1 pavilion, and the main restroom. Irrigation plans being developed and getting Reichert and Ebe started on the perimeter, parking etc.

Property is cleared and being maintained in minimal fashion until plans move forward.

Trails

Depot-8th St. construction off to a good start—mainly water, sewer, sidewalks 7/19/23 they will be starting on the west end.



Temporary security fencing to be installed on back of VGL property. The poles are in.

Whatcom County Rail to Trail concept discussions continuing.

Progress is being made; contact has been made w/ the attorney involved.

C. Civic Rec

Meeting/Training with staff continues payment portal and policy completion.

Official Launch date has been pushed back to August 2023.

Additional custom extract program needs to be developed for Civic Rec, Forte and Caselle to work together and needs to be approved before we can move forward, this will push the launch date back to October. The estimate cost is \$3750.

DeRuyter asked Parks Committee if they would approve this fee.

Action: Parks Committee agreed to the fees for the extract program.

D. Dickinson and Berthusen Property Upgrades

Renovations are complete and Annika Bierlink has moved into the Dickinson house. The outside stairway path is being eliminated and a gravel path installed. Parks is recommending tearing down the carport that needs repair.

Still finalizing a candidate for the Berthusen house. The potential tenant has backed out. An email will be sent out to employees soon, to fill the vacancy. The house is ready to be occupied.

E. New Staff Update

Final Seasonal Hire to replace the one who decided to leave moved quickly and was completed by the beginning of June.

Adia Newcomb joins the parks maintenance team.

4. ITEMS ADDED

A. Project List for committee review

Under Design:

- Schoolyard Park Amenities -- Interested donors looking into designs/costs for spray park, bathrooms/park signage, outdoor pavilion. Awaiting irrigation plan from WaterTec for use of storage tanks. Progress is continuing.
- Benson Barn – Awaiting an adjusted plan on “U” use facility for the future.
- Benson Park Master Plan – Updated graphic, but no numbers yet.
- Bender Shop/Office Extension – Staff is putting together criteria for bid and construction of an additional shop bay, one set of bathrooms, and 3 office spaces on the west end of current Bender Shop. Current office would be free for extra storage.



Under Construction:

- Batting Cages at Bender Fields – Ground is being leveled and preparation beginning for concrete pads and construction thanks to community donors.
- ADA Accessible Swing at Bender Fields – Swing will be installed once crew is caught up on field and trail upkeep.
- Depot to 8th Trail Section – Construction has begun and construction meetings occurring weekly with WRS and R&E.
- Dog Park at Patterson Park—Staff is leveling the middle section of overgrown shrubbery by the parking lot and putting up fencing for a second dog park in Lynden.

B. Budget Discussion

Planning for the 2024 Budget.

Supply increases: The cost of operating supplies such as field paint and fertilizers fuel and cleaning supplies, have increased.

Park Development: Benson, Dickinson, and Schoolyard Parks are starting to develop more employees will be needed to help maintain these properties. There is the also the discussion of Parks taking over Public Works small public properties they manage.

DeRuyter mentioned if additional employees are not an option, there is the question of what kind of equipment would be an asset and eliminate or free up hours. Example more Robotic Mowers.

C. Donation Bench Discussion (Kok)

Tracy Kok is donating a park bench to be placed at Bender Fields in memory of her husband Jerry Kok.

Jerry volunteered countless hours of his time coordinating youth sports as well as coaching youth sports, many of those hours were at Bender fields. Tracy would like the bench to be located near the concession stand area. There are no other benches in this area, so it seems to be a good fit.

Action: Parks Committee accepted the donation of a park bench to be located at Bender Fields in Honor of Jerry Kok.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:12pm

NEXT MEETING-Monday, August 21, 2023