

**Mason County Parks and Trails  
Advisory Board Meeting  
December 16, 2021  
MCRA Administration Office  
411 N 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Shelton, WA 98584  
5:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

- **Meeting Called to Order:** 5:00 PM
- **Present:** Andrew Kinney, Jeanne Robinson, Mendy Harlow, Diane Zoren,
- **Call In:**
  
- **Excused:** Mike DiMatteo
- **Guests:** Bob Droll, Dan Penrose, Constance Ibsen, Ken VanBuskirk, Teri King
  
- **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from November 4, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.
  
- **Agenda:** The agenda for the December 16, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.
  
- **Public Comment:** (Up to 5 minutes available per person for citizens to address the Parks and Trails Advisory Board.) It was agreed by the Board to split Public Comment time to before and after the agenda was completed.
  
- Ken VanBuskirk suggested that the Board should focus on the Counties existing facilities as the County cannot currently afford new parks.
  
- Teri King would like to address the Board at a future date about her concerns with marine invasive species. She would also like to see a map showing the impact of climate change.
  
- Teri King noted that the Capital Facilities Plan has nothing included about climate change and would like it to highlight what will/needs to be done.
  
- **Business Items:**  
**Introductions:** Call in members introduced themselves to those present at the meeting.

**Comp Plan Update:**

There was a discussion on how the County could connect with other agencies like DNR and State Parks. Jeanne mentioned that Green Diamond would be open to having trails on some of their property for horse riding and biking. If trails were developed with other agencies the County may not have to take on the full cost. I would also help with grant applications if letters of support were received from agencies like PUD.

Bob talked about the need to identify the cost of needs at current parks plus the cost of new projects. Having the BOCC review the 2013 Comp plan and see what

needs to be removed that have been completed. He asked the Advisory Board to prioritize the time line for projects like renovations, new facilities and new trails using time frame 0-6 years, 6-12 years and 12-20 years.

There are 7 items on the New Facilities list. The County should do a site analysis, find property and review environmental impact. A new column will be added to the Comp Plan to include Partnership Opportunities and the Union Park shelter cost.

The Comp Plan should be complete by March in order to apply for grant funding.

### **Survey Update:**

Hans explained that they reviewed the raw version of the survey, especially the open comments and created a summary report. A hard copy was distributed to members. The highest preference from the public was open space with paved trails being a close second. Water access was third and support of current facilities fourth. A lot of the responses from the survey showed a lack of interest in a splash park.

The need for trails was identified in the 2018 Comp Plan and that has not changed. The Shelton to Belfair trail idea is still very popular as is the Mason Lake to Tahuya trail. Hans acknowledged the County has limited resources and would like the location of new trails to be prioritized.

Many of the open comments suggested maintaining and improving current facilities rather than investing in new facilities.

There were over 700 comments and the most used words were safety, water access, and maintenance.

The survey showed that many of the public are unaware where all Mason County parks are located and education of the public is needed. A suggestion was made to maybe have a park of the month each month and highlight the location and amenities of that park.

Dan showed the Board the Mason County biking map. It shows the different types of trails, inclines, shoulder size etc but it needs to be refreshed to make sure all information is current and link destinations like boat launches and hiking trails. The Consulting group will also do a map showing ownership by all agencies in Mason County.

### **Virtual Workshop:**

Dan gave an update on the feedback from the virtual workshop. The interactive map is still live and to date there have been 45 responses. These responses will be reviewed the same as the survey and a report generated. That should be available by the end of the month and results will be sent to the Board members. The members agreed to have their response to Bob by Jan 15. Dan also said they would boost the interactive map one more time to get additional comments.

A suggestion was made that the map could be used with the County's GIS system and make it permanent so public could comment on individual parks they visit.

- **Correspondence/Good of the Order:** Mary Miller sent her letter of resignation to the Board.
- **Meeting Adjourned:** adjourned at 6:39 pm.
- **Next Meeting:** The next scheduled Parks Advisory Board Meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. January 27, 2022 at 411 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Shelton.

