

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

April 15, 2009

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Ron Treabess & Judy Friedman

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Bolton, Cindy Gustafson, Layne Van Noy, Roger Adamson & Amy Norman

The April 15, 2009 meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.

1. BOAT RAMP/QUAGGA MUSSEL UPDATE

Bob Bolton reported that the TRPA approved on March 26th a fee schedule for inspections, effective June 1, 2009. Most boats will be charged \$30 for an inspection, but the prices go up from there. Mr. Bolton and Roger Adamson attended a TRPA meeting last week where the inspections were discussed. Homewood has offered the use of their parking lot for inspections. The TRPA is looking for 7 sites that are remote like Homewood for next year to do inspections. They are considering using the Homewood parking lot for this season as a pilot program to see how remote inspections will work.

At this point staff from the TRPA are working at our kiosk and handling all inspections. The current hours are 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will increase May 1st to 8:00 p.m. On June 1st they will start charging the inspection fees. Mr. Bolton tried to get the hours increased to 10:00 p.m. but the TRPA said no to this request. He would really like the hours to be from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Since the TRPA is not willing to provide staff for these hours, we will need to supplement with our own trained staff.

Mr. Bolton spoke with the WCB who has approved the charging of a launch fee of \$10 so instead of charging to park we will now charge to launch. This is projected to increase revenues by at least \$25,000. We will also need to increase the price of season passes.

Discussion turned back to the TRPA and staffing issues. The TRPA wants their own inspectors at the ramps. The question is do we want them to continue to man the kiosk. And who will take the money for the inspections and launching. The public will not enjoy paying twice so we will need to coordinate this. Plus, we currently take cash only and the TRPA wants to only take credit cards.

Cindy Gustafson pointed out that the additional revenues projected for charging a launching fee are too low. She went on to say that we may to begin to 'site' people who leave their boats on the pier, especially overnight. Mr. Bolton is not sure if we have the authority to do this.

Judy Friedman wondered if \$10 is enough to charge for a launch fee. Since our pier is public access we feel we shouldn't charge any more than that. The real concern is staffing issues. We will need more staffing due to the inspections and if we are going to extend the hours beyond what the TRPA is providing they will need to be certified inspectors. There are issues of mingled staffing, mingled money, etc. What if the TRPA staff doesn't show? This will reflect badly on the TCPUD.

Mr. Bolton would like the Committee to recommend to the Board that the May hours be 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on June 1st we increase the hours to 10:00 p.m. and start charging the launch fee. We should also send as much staff as possible to the one day inspection training scheduled for April 30th. Ms. Gustafson recommended that we increase the hours to 10:00 p.m. starting Memorial Day Weekend-May 22nd. She also thinks we should have a resident rate for the season passes, which everyone agreed with.

Ms. Friedman asked what was going to happen with sail boats and kayaks. Mr. Adamson responded that the TRPA is not requiring non-motorized crafts to be inspected at this time.

Mr. Bolton brought the discussion back to the hours of operation. Should we extend the ramp hours to close at 11:00 p.m. in the summer or even midnight? The TRPA is giving us 14 hours of inspectors per day but some of these hours are overlap and covering breaks. We will need to cover the rest of staffing if we want to increase the hours. Ron Treabess asked when the summer hours would end. Mr. Adamson responded that this had not been discussed other than winter hours of 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning November 1st. Mr. Treabess wanted to know if someone took the training how long would it take to be able to inspect and the answer was immediately. Also, if mussels get into the lake would the inspections stop and the answer to this was no. They would actually be increased to avoid the mussels from spreading.

Discussion next went to public outreach and signage. Ms. Friedman is concerned that the TRPA won't do a decent public outreach and suggested putting something in the newspaper. Mr. Bolton stated that there will be problems with this program and we should be prepared to hear lots of complaints. Mr. Adamson went on further to say there could be vandalism occurring to the gates, etc. this summer. The gates were purchased by the TRPA and they should take care of any damage but they still haven't fixed the gates from damage that occurred a month ago. There is also major concern about staff morale. Anyone manning the ramp/kiosk will be getting lots of complaints.

Ms. Gustafson again brought up the subject of boats left at the pier overnight. What authority do we have to site owners if they do this or arrive late? The response from Mr. Bolton was none. We would have to create an ordinance and take it to the Placer County Sheriffs to be enforced – if they would even be willing to enforce it. Then she asked how we would inspect boats after dark. The lights there are minimal due to TRPA regulations. There is the possibility that boats would only be able to pull out after dusk and not launch.

It was agreed that the Committee would suggest to the Board that the boat ramp hours be increased on May 22nd to 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and the TCPUD provide the additional staffing for these extra hours.

2. REVIEW PARKS & RECREATION BOARD REPORTS/STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Bolton reported that he is meeting again with John Britto from the TTUSD. He is hoping to finally agree on a contract for leasing Rideout. He will give an update on the progress at the Board meeting on Friday. Mr. Treabess asked him to bring up with Mr. Britto the possibility of having Coldstream move out or at least move to the back classrooms. He also wants Mr. Bolton to make sure the lease is long enough for the TCPUD to have time to accomplish the goals we have set for Rideout.

Mr. Bolton is meeting with Karen Ellis from NTA again tomorrow. The two are getting close to agreeing on what programs will qualify to keep their rent at \$810/month. He is also meeting with the NLTRA concerning their rent. They won't be trading for in-kind services to keep their rent low, instead they have talked about the NLTRA helping to pay for several projects that need to be completed on the building. Ms. Friedman brought up the concern that the parameters should be the same for both NTA & NLTRA for it to be fair.

The temporary lease between the TCPUD and Tahoe Faith Fellowship for Fairway has been finalized and will run through June 30th. They are now in discussions on a long term lease starting July 1st.

Mr. Bolton has meet with the California State Parks to review the Burton Creek Operating Contract renewal. They have agreed to have the contract just cover the winter months which will decrease our liability because we will no longer be liable for the summer months. He will also be meeting with Kevin & Valli Murnane who run Tahoe Cross Country at the Highlands. Their lease is up and they want to renew for 10 more years. Mr. Bolton has received several positive letters concerning the cross country center and we plan on renewing the lease.

Mr. Bolton attended another meeting concerning the Farmers Market. The farmers are working with Justin Broglio from the TCDA to define the list of who can participate. Ms. Friedman pointed out that some local businesses suffer on Thursdays because they are competing with the market.

Parks – Mr. Adamson reported that Connors Field will open on Friday for the High School to use for practice. Pomin Park will be worked on next week. The North Shore and Truckee River bike trails are clear and will be swept by Monday but are still officially closed. The West Shore trail still has too much snow on it to be swept. We are removing snow in house this year instead of hiring out which is saving us money in contractor services. The closed signs will be taken down off the trails by Memorial Day Weekend.

The State Parks has agreed to go into Skylandia on Monday and begin clearing all the dead and infested trees. This has been a real concern because of the beetle problem and the possibility of losing even more trees if this was not taken care of.

Recreation – Layne Van Noy reported that the Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success. He then went on to the Participation Report for Rideout. Weekends have dropped dramatically so Mr. Van Noy may propose at the next meeting to close the center on the weekends. Concerning the summer swim program, he is still negotiating with Granlibakken on swim lessons. The summer catalog is due to be in post office boxes and mailed April 27th.

Mr. Treabess asked which night would be set aside this summer for the basketball league. Mr. Van Noy said he talked with the players last night at the finals and they agreed it will be a week night, not a weekend. He then asked if we are pushing basketball for youths in the summer. Mr. Van Noy replied that we are offering some basketball clinics this summer. Another question brought up by Mr. Treabess was why we thought the pickleball didn't go? Mr. Van Noy thought that those who had expressed an interest could be summer and not year round residents. He is going to try it again this summer.

Ms. Friedman asked why the Snowfest Parade cost so much this year. Mr. Van Noy responded that we had also tried to hold an event which had cost extra dollars. She next asked if we were doing anything at Rideout for the West Shore Opening Day on Memorial Day Weekend. Amy Norman replied that it won't be possible because there is an Aikido Seminar booked at Rideout for the weekend and they have rented the entire building.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No one present for this item.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Amy Norman, Administrative Assistant

Prepared by Amy Norman