

**Regional Park Boards Meeting  
February 25, 2015  
Jacob Smith House, Lacey**

Sponsored by Lacey City Parks and Rec and PARC Foundation – 22 people in attendance

Lori Flemm (Lacey) opened meeting. Thanked hosts

**Chair Reports:**

James Reddick and Joe Hyer (PARC Foundation) talked about future of PARC Foundation and changes imminent this year. Strategy to grow. Alignment in priorities in departments and PARC Foundation.

Mike Culley – new Commissioner for Tumwater and Trent Grantham. Projects coming up to connect trail system. Golf course doing fine. Landed an exclusive Tileist sponsorship. Opened a kid clinic.

Jim Nieland – Chair of Parks Board in Olympia. Staff is working on the Parks Plan. Barbara Benson (member) and Scott River also in attendance. Going through program audit with an outside agency. Need money. Not just parks, also homelessness and other issues that impact parks.

Paul Royer – Chair of Lacey Park Board– happy to host. Three other Board members (Robert Kowalski - Vice Chair & Youth Member, Matt Acker, Ken Balsley) in attendance, as well as Lori. Find more money. Essential volunteers – don't know how they would do it without volunteers. Maintenance and operation costs for RAC. Need new revenue sources.. Working with companies to sponsor RAC. Commercializing. Possible to do – compare with Fairgrounds in Kitsap County.

Lisa Breckenridge - Nisqually Tribe Park Commission. Set up to partner with state parks. They have a few pocket parks on res. 2016 – hosting canoe journey.

Paul Brewster – TRPC – council of government. Convener on regional issues. Finance trail projects. Thurston County Bike Map. Promoting regional trail network. Will facilitate discussion on uniformity/standardization on trails.

Diane Dalstad- Tenino – Chair of Tenino Park Commission. New ordinance finalized by City Council, changed what they can do in parks (food vendor trucks in park; concession stands to nonprofit group). Discussed changing fees. Productive work project day third weekend in April of last year. Presbyterian church in Tenino has a fifth Sunday activity – worked on trails and picnic tables. Next project day is April 25. Developing designated campsites. Pool will be open – roughly July 4.

Jack Horton – Woodland Trails Greenway Association. Several grants – mile markers, maps, signs. Creekside Conservancy – Monarch Park – doing a design study to get the park reopened and expanded. Creating economic drivers for the region – tech and related industries look for the places they want to live.

Bob Droll, Droll Landscape Architect. – Deschutes/Trail – Fish and Wildlife at Tumwater Falls Park. T-Street park – Tumwater in collaboration with LOTT. Bridget the Gap project – placemaking is at intersection of three trails. County facility that straddles the boarder of Lacey and Olympia. Oly stepped forward – TRPC, Lacey, Oly and Thurston County. 400 people came to the opening of the bridge ceremony in December.

Chris Hawkins, Thurston County Public Health Department, Thurston Thrives Initiative – Creating a healthy community

Lori Flemm: speaking for staff, she wants Park Board members to know how much staff appreciates the Board members. Thank you for serving.

### CONVERSATIONS ON HOT TOPICS

- Drones/Model Radio Controlled Helicopters, etc
  - ✓ Need regional plan – wait to see what happens in Leg, etc.
  - ✓ Investigate what others are doing
  
- Formation of a Park District
  - ✓ It's about funding
  - ✓ M&O drives Parks, Arts and Rec – get M&O out of parks and into Public Works (efficiencies and economies of scale)
  - ✓ Formation of a park district creates new taxing districts – problematic
  - ✓ In the end, perhaps a regional district is not the answer to the question of funding – other paths (inter-local agreements, collaboration, M&O to Public Works, investigate other revenue streams, collaboratively, etc.)

### CONVERSATIONS ON WORK TOPICS

- Regional Trails

What key issues should be addressed on trails?

- ✓ dog leashes and waste
- ✓ system safety and security
- ✓ respect for private property
- ✓ environmental
- ✓ homeless, illegal camping
- ✓ promoting courtesy (don't be a jackass)

Constraints around implementation of trail rules?

- ✓ Engage police to enforce rules
- ✓ Check with fire and EMS to consider other safety issues
- ✓ Use images to explain rules; Less is more with trail signs – turn rules to positive

How to get trail managers at same table around rules – consistency across all jurisdictions? Elevate issue, get policy maker's support?

- ✓ Hub nub sets the standard?
- ✓ Hub group takes a crack at developing? Yes!
- ✓ Engage law enforcement as stakeholders

- Regional Recreational Services

- ✓ Communicate with one another – coordinate rec facilities
- ✓ Review city owned facilities – create a master inventory, coordinate using Google calendar or something like

Specialized rec in dire straits; what happens if loses funding – make it whole so it isn't a constant