

**COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
KITTTAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING
UPPER KITTTAS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
CLE ELUM, WASHINGTON**

WEDNESDAY

6:00 P.M.

AUGUST 8, 2007

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich, Vice-Chairman David Bowen, Commissioner Mark McClain.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board and approximately 10 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** opened a public hearing continued from August 2, 2007 to consider a request to consider two petitions received requesting a proposed Ballot Proposition which would authorize additional areas to be included in the Kittitas County Park and Recreation District No. 1, including the legal boundaries of the Easton School District, as of record in the office of the Kittitas County Auditor and the area in the Cle Elum-Roslyn School District that is contained in the Kittitas County Hospital District No. 1. He noted the record was closed.

COMMISSIONER McCLAIN said that although he was not present at the previous public hearing he had listened to the recording of the testimony and reviewed the written record as well.

CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH said at the conclusion of the last public hearing he witnessed what he viewed as a heated exchange between a Parks & Recreation District Commissioner and an opponent of the proposition. He reminded the Parks & Recreation District Commissioners they are elected officials, and they need to conduct themselves as such.

COMMISSIONER McCLAIN said he had reviewed the Board of County Commissioners obligations and said it appeared they were bound to eliminate those areas to not allow those boundaries to be included in which would not be benefited. He questioned how it is determined what would benefit from inclusion. He explained he did some preliminary research to see how Court's had decided in the past, and how they demonstrated actual benefit to be included in a particular district. He said the only thing he found in the record that would be a documented benefit is a trails system to Twenty Nine Pines. He said he was very apprehensive to expand the boundaries and couldn't see any evidence in the petition or record of an actual benefit that is available. He said although there may be a plan potentially out there, it is not currently located within in the record.

COMMISSIONER BOWEN said the Easton request was very narrow strip of privately owned land surrounded by public lands used for recreation and has existing trails. He felt compelled to support and put that one forward to a ballot before the voters.

CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH acknowledged the request brought forward by a petition. There was only one comment specifically relating to the Easton proposal and they were in favor of it, and one other which was unclear. He said he would be in favor of putting that request forward on a ballot. He said in the beginning of the Parks & Recreation District formation they were to work

cooperatively with private land owners to make sure there are accesses available that were traditionally open to the public.

COMMISSIONER BOWEN moved to approve the Petition as presented and forward it onto the November 6, 2007 ballot with regard to the Easton School District. **COMMISSIONER McCLAIN** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The Parks & Recreation District needs to create ballot language and present it to the Prosecutors office for their review to forward onto the Auditors office.

CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH said he generally supported the concept of the Parks & Recreation District. He explained he gleaned out of their presentation a justification of the request relating to the Teanaway area was assertions, assumptions. He explained he read an article in the newspaper that stated there was a plan in place from the Parks & Recreation District, but it was not entered into the record for consideration and said it would have been helpful to have that in front of the Board to consider. He said one of the largest concerns he heard from land owners was the power of eminent domain. He said there were two options including having the Forest Lands Advisory committee and Agriculture Lands Advisory committee review or if there was some way to obtain assurances from Park & Recreation District there would be no action taken other than talks with the land owners prior to receiving a recommendation from the two committees. He said questions would be answered and valuable information would be provided for all concerned. **COMMISSIONER McCLAIN** did not feel it was within their authority to do that but thought getting a review by the committees would be a good idea.

COMMISSIONER BOWEN said he looked at process, the petitions as well as went back through the prior elections and their results with voter turnout. He said he had spoke with the Auditors office and Treasurers office and they have not received any information from the Parks & Recreation District for processing finances and he was concerned because of the mention of a grant by the Parks & Recreation District. He said he did not find in the record any actual benefit to add all of the areas located in the Teanaway area. He agreed sending the work product to the advisory committees for their review. He said he was very supportive of the Parks & Recreation District he thought the proposal for the Teanaway area may be a little premature. He encouraged conversation with land owners to find some common ground.

COMMISSIONER McCLAIN said if the Board determines to section out pieces, they would need to make a finding that it would provide an actual benefit by being included in the proposed annexation. He felt they should move forward with a methodical pace since its only been formed two years ago and let the advisory committees review and make their recommendations before making a final decision. He agreed with the need to maintain access to public lands.

COMMISSIONER McCLAIN moved to unable to determine actual public benefits and to forward boundaries of the Teanaway section and eliminate land Hospital District #1 boundaries as outlined in the petitions. **COMMISSIONER BOWEN** seconded.

CHAIRMAN been supportive of the Parks & Recreation District but to include the Teanaway area it still needs some work. The advisory committee will be very helpful to provide information to all parties concerned with a March 1, 2008 deadline to provide recommendation to the Parks & Recreation District and Board of Commissioners.

Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ATTEST:

Julie A. Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board

Alan Crankovich, Chairman