

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

THURSDAY

6:00 P.M.

AUGUST 2, 2007

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

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board and approximately 20 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** opened a public hearing 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.

HOWARD CARLIN, REPRESENTING THE KITTTAS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT NO. 1 reviewed the two proposed petitions to expand the Kittitas County Park and Recreation District No. 1 and asked for the Boards support to place those issues on the November ballot. He reviewed their accomplishments to date including obtaining a \$70,400.00 grant to develop a sno-park, but said in the future there may be a need for tax support, but that would be for maintenance of the parks and trails. He said whatever taxing the district may request in the future, it would benefit the park district recreationists.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: CHRIS CAVIEZAL, CHAIRMAN FOR THE SNOQUALMIE PASS FIRE DEPARTMENT referred to the Easton area proposal and said they were in support of the annexation and they were currently working on a project for a new Fire Station. He said they were very impressed with the way the Parks and Recreations District have handled issues since its conception. He said from a personal standpoint, it would be beneficial to the Snoqualmie Pass committee to access grants for parks, trails and other amenities. **CHAD BALA** representing the Ranch on Swauk Creek LLC, Cle Elum Pines West LLC, DK Consultants & Teanaway Ridge LLC who opposed the proposed expansion of the Kittitas County Park and Recreation District No. 1. He noted they had not been contacted for the proposal. He distributed copies of tax parcel numbers that would be included into the proposed expansion request and said those would not benefit from any annexation into the District. He questioned concerns of what would happen if an accident or other liability occurs to the public while using the trails and whose insurance would cover any and all medical costs incurred by the public

on those private lands. He felt an annexation would be placing an insurmountable burden on private landowners and asked the Board to eliminate the annexation boundaries in accordance with RCW 36.09.050. **JEFF JONES, GENERAL MANAGER FOR AMERICAN FOREST LAND COMPANY, LLC** distributed a copy of comments opposing any of its Teanaway land holdings included within the Park and Recreation District. He said they do not oppose continued public enjoyment of existing trails and campgrounds on its private property, but felt the efforts to try and include the Teanaway is premature and has unknown consequences to the management strategy of their 50,000 acres. He felt the Park and Recreation District should first come up with a strategic plan to see what their goals and funding options are. **LOUIS MUSSO** explained according to RCW 36.69.050, providing the Board of County Commissioners can eliminate from the boundaries of the proposed district land which they find would not be benefited by inclusion therein. He said the property owners have the right to oppose it, but they do not have the right to be excluded “just because they want to”. He said they could spend as much time and money trying to oppose it to the voters before the election, but the Board should let the citizens decide on a ballot if the proposed expansion of boundaries of the Park & Recreation District should be approved or not. **KEN HARTMAN** expressed his opposition to the proposed expansion of boundaries of the Park & Recreation District. **ANNE WATANABE** said although she supported the Parks & Recreation District and their efforts, she was concerned of expanding the District into the Teanaway area. She felt the District was fairly new and would rather have them come up with a strategic plan outlining benefits, time frames and funding options prior to expanding into other areas. **JERI DOWNS** said they would like their land excluded from the proposed expansion. She said they do not believe their land would benefit from being a part of the Parks & Recreation District. **LILA HANSON** requested an exemption to the proposed annexation from the Parks & Recreation District No. 1 and reviewed the sections of land including their own property and its surrounding area in which she felt it could ultimately result in having negative impacts to their farming. She said the proposal was premature and asked the Board to have the agriculture committee review the proposed expansion and any impacts it could have to farming. **RICH GARILLOW** supported the proposed expansion of the Park & Recreation District and encouraged the Board to place the issue on the ballot and let the voters decide if they want the expansion. **LYNN HATCHER** felt there were areas that the Park & Recreation District should be located, but was not in favor of having in the Teanaway watershed area. He addressed the taxing ability of the Parks & Recreation District as well as eminent domain authority. He said the District has only been around a couple of years and felt they should first prove themselves and provide a plan in place before expanding any further. **DAN PETERSON, MEMBER OF THE PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT** said they have been looking at opportunities that would benefit both agriculture land owners and the Parks & Recreation District and supported the proposal. **THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

COMMISSIONER BOWEN said he did not hear any opposition to the Easton proposal. He said a few years ago, there were a couple land owners opposed to be included in the Parks & Recreation District. He said he is in favor of providing access, but he is unsure

of making a decision at this point relating to the Teanaway area and would like to research what options and abilities the Board of County Commissioners have.

CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH agreed with needing time for additional research. He said any type of proposition has proponents and opponents and with respect to the Teanaway, and believes it should be left up to voters to decide issues, but he would like to research if large landowners can be excluded if they request it. He was not ready to make a decision on the Teanaway boundaries, and would be willing to move forward with the Easton proposal.

COMMISSIONER BOWEN moved to continue the public hearing to Wednesday August 8, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Kittitas County District Court, noting the written record would remain open until Monday August 6, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ATTEST:

Julie A. Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board

Alan Crankovich, Chairman