

Meeting Minutes
San Juan County Parks Commission
Monthly Meeting, June 12, 2023
Odlin County Park, Lopez Island

Present: Meghan Alexandra, Tex Blankenburg, Brandon Cadwell (Director, SJC Parks) , Cy Field, Bill McGown, Heather Dew Oaksen, Margaret Payne. Excused absence: Johannes Krieger. No guests were present.

The meeting began shortly after 10:00 a.m.

There were no requests for public access.

The minutes for the May, 2023 meeting will be presented for approval in July.

Director's Report:

Brandon reported that Park campgrounds are full, fully staffed, and campers are happy.

The Odlin Trail North extension was completed as an "All Hands Day" project, in which staff take on a multi-person project, with goals of efficiency and team building. Other "All Hands" projects are ditches, fences, and tree trimming.

Commercial kayak use is down. Parks is seeking to create 'parity' regarding Parks launching fees and those for the Port of Friday Harbor's Jackson Beach site.

Resident reservations are up 20% in 2023 to 124 reservations. Brandon and staff are looking at creating a "rolling" reservation system in which campers can book a year out, with a resident-rate for locals and early groups. The hope is that this change will increase camping in the shoulder seasons, spring and fall. Presently, we use a quarter of Alice's time to book residents and early groups.

Next year there will be a small charge for Park aides living in Park housing in order to cover maintenance.

Brandon plans to increase the (Parks) "merchandise" budget so we don't run out of inventory and, consequently, lose income.

Commissioners entered Exec. Session for a personnel matter at 10:51 a.m., exiting at 11:15 a.m. The formal meeting adjourned immediately after. Brandon and Commissioners toured four county parks to learn about at facilities improvements: Odlin, Lopez Village, Agate Beach, and Shark Reef, on Lopez Island.