

**Waterfront Recreation Committee
Minutes
February 25, 2009**

Attending: Members Doug Archbald, Ann Frodel, Steve Gates, Jim Grady, Tim Maher, Michael Schock, Lori Stirn, Commissioner Sherry Bohn; Port staff Laurie Borton (ex-officio member).
Absent: Richard Sassara, Laney Gale, and Commissioner Hoby Streich.

Guests: CGKA Directors Mark Barnes, Brett Kelley, Adam Monohan, and Forrest Rae.

Commissioner Sherry Bohn opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m., with members and guests introducing themselves. Bohn stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss a single issue – whether or not to allow kite pumping and drying at the Event Site year round. At the February 3, 2009 Commission meeting, Columbia Gorge Kiteboarding Association (CGKA) representatives requested the Commissioners to consider a policy change because they believed they had a proven history of self-policing over the last two seasons, and an emphasis was made that their proposal did not include rigging, launching or landing at the Event Site.

When the meeting notice was distributed, committee members were asked to notify Laurie Borton if they could not attend but would like to enter comments into the record. Initially, Laney Gale and Ann Frodel questioned why the issue was being discussed as the Committee had decided in the past not to allow this activity, due mainly for safety reasons. Lori Stirn commented that it was a good thing to have this public process because things do change. Stirn also thanked Steve Gates for his succinct email about the change in policy. Gate's email, from February 20, 2009:

Hello WRC members,

When I saw the request for this special meeting, my first response was much the same as Ann's and Laney's. After a day or two of pondering, I decided to go to the Event Site and have a look at the situation. I visit the Event Site very frequently throughout the year, monitoring my business concession there, windsurfing after work and on weekends, and yes, kiting at the sand bar. My opposition to kite uses there in the past has centered on safety and space issues, particularly the eastern cove of the beach, where lots of young kids play, out of harm's way of the windsurfers.

With that in mind, I called Jim Grady to see if he would meet me there and discuss exactly what the CGKA is requesting. I had decided to remain open to a discussion. He did, and we looked at the layout to see if there was a possibility of meeting their request. I believe that there is. My requirements are that there would be no identifiable safety issues created, that the proposed use would not interfere with the public's use of the facility, and that it wouldn't create more conflict with the existing uses. I believe that we have identified an area that meet these criteria.

There is a concrete pad in the southeast area of the lawn, with a drainage grate that is a good reference for the area I'll describe. I would propose that we allow the use requested by the CGKA, pumping and drying of kites with no lines, no landing and no launching, in an area that begins 40' north of the north edge of the sidewalk (12' north of the concrete pad) and runs north to the alders and bushes that mark the north edge of the lawn; and is bordered on the west by a line 55' to the west of, and parallel to, the fence that defines the eastern edge of the Event Site. I have stuck a stake in the ground at the south west corner of the area that I describe for those who want to take a look. Jim Grady felt that this is an area adequate to meet the request of the CGKA and I believe that it satisfies my personal and professional concerns.

Jim has made a strong commitment that the CGKA and the kite community will police their use, and make their request with the clear understanding that repeated violations of the agreed upon definitions of area and allowed uses would be grounds for rescinding the agreement.

In addition, at last night's board meeting of the CGWA, it was voted on, and approved unanimously, to support the CGKA's request, within the parameters described above.

I'm happy to answer any questions any of you might have. –Steve-

After meeting with Jim Grady to discuss the topic and the area of use, Gates commented that his long-standing concern about safety and family use had been met. Mark Barnes commented on there being some miscommunication among the CGKA Board because it was his opinion that the eastern tree line should be used as the delineation point, and that people would have enough common sense regarding co-mingling and boundaries that the line would come and go depending on use. Gates stated that if the tree line were used he could not support CGKA's request because he would not be in favor of displacing more public use area. Doug Archbald suggested an alternative – use the Pet Pickup Bag post as the southwest corner anchor that is between the tree line recommended by Barnes and the stake posted by Gates as referenced in the description above. A question was also raised if more trees could be planted and could current trees and shrubbery be trimmed, and the response was that the request/proposal should be submitted to the Port.

There was lively discussion where the delineation should be, whether one sport was justified in having more space than another; if a demarcation is made, did it matter if the kites crossed the line if there were no windsurfers at the Event Site; was the Commission or Committee anti-kite; other Gorge communities seemed to be doing more for the kiting community and it was questioned if Hood River realized the economic benefit from the kiting community. Gates commented that it was not an "us versus them" situation and that the Committee and Commission was engaged to find a harmonious solution for all users and he personally did not see there being a pushback problem and that both the Port and the City were involved in efforts to expand water access for all, citing examples of permits submitted to shift sand from the Delta westward and the new Waterfront Park.

Bohn indicated the discussion among the Committee members was leading to a consensus for a provisional trial if the space and enforcement, by way of signage and/or ground markings, could be agreed upon. Bohn did specifically state that Port Maintenance and the Event Site booth attendant, who is usually a high school student, would not be the enforcers.

The following recommendation was made in the form of a motion to be taken to the next Port Commission meeting for consideration:

- Motion: Move to allow provisional year round use, with a mid-season evaluation in early August, using the existing Pet Pickup Bag post as the southwest anchor for the designated kite pumping and drying area at the Event Site.
- Move: Stirn
- Second: Gates
- Discussion: Jim Grady and Laurie Borton will determine the appropriate sign verbiage.
- Vote: **AYE:** Archbald, Bohn, Frodel, Gates, Grady, Maher, Schock, and Stirn
ABSENT: Gale, Sassara, and Streich

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Date to be determined.

Prepared by Laurie Borton