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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Trevor Huntingford

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Parks and Recreation Launching Planning Effort

As part of the Jefferson County Parks, Receation, and Open Space (PRO) planning process a volunteer citizen committee is holding four Town Hall meetings. The meetings are from 6pm to 8:30pm on the following days and locations:

1. Wednesday, 11/5, Quilcene School Cafeteria Room
2. Thursday, 11/6, Chimacum Main Campus, Elementary School, Multiple Purpose Room
3. Monday, 11/10, Port Ludlow Beach Club, Bayview Room. 121 Marina View Drive.
4. Wednesday, 11/12, Blue Heron Middle School Commons Area

The meetings will empower the community to shape the short and long term future of Jefferson County Parks and Recreation. According to committee member Trevor Huntingford, Parks and Recreation is in serious trouble because of recent funding cuts. "There is a very real need for the people of the County to come out to our meetings and share with us what they want and how we should pay for it."

Each Town Hall meeting will feature a brief presentation on the symptoms facing Parks and Recreation and small work groups called study circles. Each study circle will have a facilitator that has been trained in Dynamic Facilitation by Jim Rough. The comments made by the participants will be written down and saved and used to help create the new Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

One committee member emphasized that all the options are on the table. "This is not the kind of planning effort where the decisions have been made in advance" said Bill Tennent, committee

member. “We are starting with a blank slate. All we know is we need to plan for the future. Some incredible natural areas, habitats, programs, and facilities are at stake here” noted Tennent.

According to Tennent, almost everyone in the County should be able to think of a personal reason to get involved with this plan. “Just think of how important Memorial Field, the P.T. Recreation Center, North Beach Park, Gibbs Lake Park, Beausite Lake Park, H.J. Carroll Park, Irondale Beach Park, Indian Island Park, Oak Bay Park, Lake Leland Park are, to name a few” said Tennent. “It is a whole system we are working with.” he added.

The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recomended the new plan and it was sanctioned by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners on February 11th, 2008. In a letter to the Commissioners from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Liz Coker stated: “It is the opinion of the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board that a grassroots public process to determine both the demand for local parks and recreation and the means to meet it should be launched as soon as possible”.

Committee member Davis Steelquist said that all the partners of County Parks and Recreation will be contacted separately for interviews or a focus group. He noted: “Focus groups are great for connecting with your partners and learning what they want. Organizing focus groups in addition to the Town meetings for partner organizations like the Little League, or the School Districts and other community partners is essential”.

“We need to do this planning project so we can be good stewards of our parks and programs, now and in the future” said Trevor Huntingford, Committee Member. “The public has a very, very real opportunity to shape the future” noted Huntingford. To get involved please give a call to 385-9129.