

## PSC Notes

August 26, 2015

Don't let anybody tell you that nothing interesting ever happens at a gun club. We are right in the first stages of a major project that we are now ready to get up and running, the process to repair and maintain the 200 and 100-yard firing lines and to significantly improve the 50. We saved our money and raised our dues so we could do the job right and also to make sure we got the most bang for the buck, to conform to the new county range ordinance. So we signed the contract for the engineered plans and there's that 'interesting' thing I mentioned.

At the county commissioner's meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month there was a comment and exchange that made me and a few of you, sit up and take notice. I don't attend the meetings with any regularity but I try to catch the TV version available a day or so later, just in case. You may have seen the Kitsap Sun Article which was about KRRC's legal battle but it also mentions this exchange. If you're interested the comments are made at about 01:38 into the meeting, but the gist of it is that Commissioner Wolfe and Marcus Carter very briefly, and informally, mentioned something about 'talks' and also hoped for 'compromise' in getting KRRC reopened.

Now, neither I nor I presume anyone else in the club wishes for anything else than for KRRC to reopen, it's good for KRRC, it's good for us and it's good for the county. But my immediate issue was the above mentioned development work. More on that later but we are going to spend a lot of money and we already signed the contract for the design phase to start. My immediate, serious concern was that a change in the ordinance at this point through 'compromise' or otherwise would change what we can do or should do in our own work and with money on the table I think you can understand my concerns. My strong belief was, and is, that any change to the requirements of the ordinance would affect everyone concerned. Without notice that is a little late in the game for us, what changes at what price and under what circumstances?

Rather than fret I met with Commissioner Wolfe and Commissioner Garrido, separately because of open meeting requirements, and discussed the issues at length. The commissioners were open to the conversation and I believe understood the concern I had; I held the position that we were at risk of spending money that we might not need to spend which would take away from other projects or worse, we might take on a project that might later be problematic for some reason. The surprise and uncertainty was the sharp end of the problem. In other words, 'What's going on with the ordinance, is it done or isn't it?' The conversations were long and cordial and I believe that we came to a mutual understanding.

The important take-away from our conversations is that we are assured that there will be no amendment to the requirements of the ordinance; all of the elements will remain

in place, and we can go forward with our plans relying on that position. Keep in mind that the ordinance contains protective paragraphs as well as those that require compliance. That's how these things should work, give some, get some, and it took three years plus to get where we are. We also spent some time discussing the capabilities of PSC and the way we meet the public with our youth-rifle group, hunter sight-in (which you may not know has been occurring annually since the founding of the club), hunter-education, NRA Firearms safety courses, and of course the large number of Range Safety Officers that volunteer their time and keep the ranges going. I went there on business but it's always a pleasure to get in a commercial.

Another part of the discussion concerned Title 17, which controls new shooting facilities and details of which are posted on our website. The rules in Title 17 are quite different than the requirements of the ordinance, also on our website, and I asked for confirmation of our understanding that none of the requirements apply to existing and grandfathered ranges unless they choose to expand or change use. The commissioners each agreed that was indeed the case. We will continue under the ordinance as we have since 1996, as amended of course, but this separate set of rules and guidelines does not apply to us as we are now. And we will be vigilant that we do not accidentally trip into changed use as we go forward.

As a point of information, I will forward these notes to the commissioners whom I have invited to correct any misunderstanding or important omission in this piece. I hope the reason is obvious; all of us want to be sure that we are operating with the same set of understandings and having a review for accuracy aids in the effort.

A final note which is new today; our inspection by the Department of Community Development for the operating permit is scheduled for this Friday (Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>) at 8:00 A.M. We will be closed until the inspection is complete which we estimate will probably be around 10:30. This is our choice not a requirement of the county. It won't be that long and some people find gunfire distracting.

Thanks for reading.

Doug O'Connor  
President  
Poulsbo Sportsman Club