

## PSC Notes

June 26, 2015

Although we talk about the Kitsap County Shooting Range Ordinance fairly frequently at monthly meetings there hasn't been anything broadly distributed for a while. This week there were two news items in the Bremerton paper on the topic so now is a good time to touch on it again.

Along with the articles there were some reader comments attached that are worth spending a moment on, here, not there, and no we don't routinely go public with our issues, so this is the only place you will see these comments. There is an exception on that 'public' comment though; if you see something in the paper where one of our officers is quoted it is because the paper sought us out and it is our practice to respond when we aren't breaching a confidence of some nature. Also there are only a couple of people, who by executive board agreement are authorized to speak for the club, I'm one of them.

Back to business and a quick review. We submitted our application for an operation permit on time and with the appropriate payment, \$500, some of which may be refunded depending on the expense the county has to outlay for the eventual inspection. We aren't counting on much if any though.

A question that popped up in the comments on the news article wondered about how the county had worked with us (we are usually referred to as 'the other club', sometimes I think we should change our name) and the answer to that is professionally, in every way.

At the time we submitted the application we did not have adequate drawings of our ranges and we knew it. We could have submitted the drawings we had, inadequate though they were, and rested on the ordinance language that we had to have drawings, they didn't have to be good ones. In discussion with the director of the Department of Community Development (DCD, from now on) and all involved we recognized this is a new ordinance with no background or experience in working through this process, we agreed to work up a set of drawings that filled all the niches.

It is very clear to us the county commissioners have an active interest in this and want it done, but I think they want it done right too. The result of that is DCD and we have been over a couple of iterations of the drawings and now have what DCD thinks they want. Our draftsman, member and volunteer Justin Morgan and I will meet with DCD as soon as they can fit us in and have what I think is the final review of our submission.

There has been some concern that the application was late, but it was not. The application and fee were timely, there was no attempt to skate around requirements

and by agreement we have continued to work out what is required. The issue, if your wondering 'What could be so hard about this?' is the drawings with overlays of 'fans of fire' reflecting maximum ranges of the highest caliber gun used on a specific range, bird-eye views, elevations, and etc. At any rate we will meet with Mr. Keeton and stay in his office and drink his coffee until we have a finished product and I expect that to happen the week of the 28<sup>th</sup> of June.

This is old news but worth repeating: We were not and are not thrilled with this extra level of government oversight but we recognized with the advice of legal counsel that this process is settled law. By law, a county or other appropriate authority can establish ordinances for business and other entities, and by court decisions through out the state, a permit is recognized as the way the authority enforces its ordinance.

Our historical use of the club property is a grandfathered right and the ordinance does not encroach on that right. If at some time it does, or if interpretation changes we have not given up our right to due process to challenge that infringement.

This is all new stuff for us and we are all muddling through the process. It is our intention though to muddle through smartly and with attention to the process and what is going on around us. I don't think any of us need to worry but all of us need to pay attention. In the meantime, the ranges are open, come on down and enjoy your club.

Doug O'Connor  
President  
Poulsbo Sportsman Club