



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

August 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Maggi Kriger, John Blethen, Lucky Blue, Ray Dellecker, Jeannie Gilbert, Jed Holmes, Michael Kutcher, Steve Walker
ABSENT: Thor Beck, Zarah Manju, Jessica Sankey
STAFF: Melissa Bianconi, Peter Gill, Nicole Oliver, Bree Park, Laine Potter, Jonathan Schilk, Lauren Woodmansee
VISITORS: Hue Beattie, John Brown, Farrell Buller, Bob Carmichael, Bill Hasenjaeger, Frank James, and Andy Leveto

The meeting was called to order at 7:30am by Maggi Kriger.

- I. **AGENDA REVIEW:**
No changes were made to the agenda.
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
There were no announcements.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Bill Hasenjaeger stated his support of the Hundred Acre Wood Master Plan and the Park's management of the conservation easement.
- IV. **JULY MEETING MINUTES:**
A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **110% Cost Recovery:**
Farrell Buller presented the 110% Cost Recovery project, the smart approach to financial sustainability programs in the Parks & Recreation Department. Cost recovery is offsetting recovering costs, not about making money. Farrell Buller discussed in detail the main purpose, the project overview and the overall process moving forward – including how the Parks Department manages finite resources including taxpayer dollars, levies, user fees, etc. Nicole Oliver clarified that the collected data being presented was for the year of 2019, the last full year that was not influenced by COVID-19.
 - b. **Lorraine Ellis Playground:**
Jonathan Schilk presented the Lorraine Ellis Playground renovation project, which is to replace the existing playground equipment from 1990, provide ADA access, install standard park amenities, and repair the existing park sign. The equipment selection, designs and preferences are based on input from the Columbia Neighborhood

residents and staff. There are three final design options for the public to vote on via Engage Bellingham, with voting open until August 18th.

c. Hundred Acre Wood Name:

Nicole Oliver shared that the naming of the new park space will be a separate action item but will be concurrent with the overall master plan. The proposed names were created by the Steering Committee and a survey was created on Engage Bellingham that allowed for community feedback. The first survey results favored the name of Hundred Acre Wood with 63% of the overall votes. The second public survey resulted in 94% of the respondents supporting the name of Hundred Acre Wood. John Brown, a member of the Chuckanut Forest Park District, recommended that the word “preserve”, or “reserve” be included in the naming of the Hundred Acre Wood. A motion was made to recommend to council that the new park space be Hundred Acre Wood. Motion passed. Maggi Kriger abstains. John Blethen abstains.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Hundred Acre Wood Master Plan:

Nicole Oliver presented a third revised draft of the Hundred Acre Wood Master Plan with comments incorporated from the public, board members and staff. The overall goal for this park is unique to other parks as this space is 82 acres of conservation easement. The location includes a very important wildlife corridor with two fish bearing watersheds. No significant land development would be allowed in the future. Peter Gill reviewed the most recent changes with the group, which incorporated the elements of the stewardship plan. Frank James, the President of the Chuckanut Forest Park District, stated that the key focus of the parcel is preservation. Bob Carmichael shared that the conservation easement should be included for updating in the Phase One part of the implementation. A motion was made to recommend approval of the Hundred Acre Wood Master Plan with an addition in phase one to update the easement and to incorporate additional comments that have been submitted. Motion passed. Maggi Kriger abstains.

b. Capital Budget Planning: Laine Potter provided the report for the Parks & Recreation biennial capital budget. A memo was provided that highlighted any changes that had been made since the meeting last month. The budget shows projects anticipated for the next six years. A motion was made to recommend approval of the budget to the Mayor. Motion passed.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Departmental Budget:

Nicole Oliver added that both the Capital Budget and Operating Budget were submitted and are currently under review by the administration and Budget Office.

VIII. MEMBERSHIP:

a. Paul Resignation:

Paul Randall-Grutter has resigned from the board, due to his new employment with the City of Bellingham.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The committee adjourned to Executive Session at 9:22am. The meeting was called back to order at 9:28am. A motion was made to move forward with the process of the property discussed. Motion passed.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The August 10, 2022, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:30 am.