



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

- PRESENT:** Maggi Kriger, Thor Beck, John Blethen, Lucky Blue, Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, Jeannie Gilbert, Jed Holmes, Michael Kutcher, Zarah Manju, Jessica Sankey, and Steve Walker
- STAFF:** Gina Austin, Melissa Bianconi, Peter Gill, Steve Janiszewski, Nicole Oliver, Laine Potter, Caryn Regimbal, and Lauren Woodmansee
- VISITORS:** Eric Brown, Mikkel Hong, Chris Mandell, and Skip Williams (Council Rep.)

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 am by Chair, Maggi Kriger.

- I. **AGENDA REVIEW:**
There were no changes made to the agenda.
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
Steve Janiszewski announced that a volunteer work party will be held at Little Squalicum Park on January 14th from 10am to 1pm, in honor of MLK Jr. Day.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
There were no public comments.
- IV. **DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:**
A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Whatcom Disc Golf Club Association Presentation:**
Mikkel Hong, Vice President of the Whatcom Disc Golf Club, presented a proposal from the club for an 18-hole public disc golf course in the City of Bellingham. The three proposed locations are Queen Mountain Open Space, Northridge Park, and the Civic Complex.
 - b. **Samish Way Parking Lot Changing Room & Art Donation:**
Eric Brown, the Executive Director of Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition (WMBC), proposed to donate to the City a small, open-air changing station at the Lake Padden/Galbraith parking lot on Samish Way. WMBC will be responsible for maintenance of the structure and artwork. A motion was made to recommend approval of the donation to City Council.
 - c. **Bloedel Donovan Park Community Room Project Updates:**
Gina Austin provided a project update for the Bloedel Donovan re-roof and energy upgrades, include reroofing the main multipurpose building, eliminating natural gas services, and upgrading the electrical service meter. She also introduced preliminary design concepts for a future Community Room renovation project.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Pickleball Club Meeting:

The Parks and Recreation management team met with Pickleball Club (Club) representatives to discuss a possible location for a 12 court, covered pickleball pavilion. Staff have evaluated opportunities and constraints at several locations and will continue to work with the Club to assess site suitability.

b. Sportsplex Update:

The Sportsplex amended lease was finalized and the required amount of money was deposited into their bank account. The roof project is being fast tracked and, depending on permitting timeline, is anticipated to begin summer 2023.

c. Cost Recovery Update:

The Parks and Recreation management team recently met to review the functionality and accuracy of a draft cost recovery tool created by the consultant team. Staff is currently reviewing the back-end data to formulate questions and build a list of updates needed within the tool to accurately reflect subsidy goals and objectives. A project update, including a presentation of the cost recovery tool, will be provided to PRAB in the next couple of months.

d. Storm Event Recap:

The recent ice storm caused some flooding and frozen pipes in various park locations. All issues have since been resolved.

e. Community Safety:

Community safety continues to be a priority and concerns at the Civic Athletic Complex are being addressed with security improvements and adaptations to the community shower program. The City's solid waste program is making significant progress on addressing illegal encampments in parks & public spaces.

VII. MEMBERSHIP:

a. Field Trips:

There are no upcoming field trips.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The January 11, 2023, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:29 am.