



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

April 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Maggi Kriger, Michael Kutcher, Thor Beck, John Blethen, Brian Bressler, Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, Jeannie Gilbert, Jed Holmes, Zarah Manju, Jessica Sankey, and Steve Walker
STAFF: Gina Austin, Peter Gill, Steve Janiszewski, Nicole Oliver, Bree Park, Laine Potter, Caryn Regimbal, and Lauren Woodmansee
VISITORS: Ryan Pflueger, Neil Schaner, and Cindy Scott

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 am by Chair, Maggi Kriger.

- I. **AGENDA REVIEW:**
There were no changes made to the agenda.
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
There were no announcements.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
There were no public comments.
- IV. **MARCH MEETING MINUTES:**
A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Scramble Nature Playpark Name:**
Ryan Pflueger, the Vice President of Construction at Talbot Group, shared that the new nature park located next to the Cinemas in Barkley Village is almost finalized. The projected grand opening date for the park is June 2nd. The conceptual design for the proposed park sign was presented to the board. A motion was made to approve both the name of Scramble Nature Playpark and the proposed signage. Motion passed.
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Greenways Levy Update:**
John Blethen announced that they are making progress on the Greenways Levy with the first draft complete. The next steps are to encourage community outreach, raise money to open a bank account, and to provide documents to the City Council in May.
 - b. **Civic Complex Feasibility Study:**
Gina Austin provided an update regarding the status of the Civic Athletic Complex planning assessment project. The city is seeking a better understanding of the development potential for current and evolving uses at complex. The work will be completed in multiple phases as funding becomes available.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Swim Block Donation:

Nicole Oliver announced that the Bellingham Public School Foundation and the Bellingham Bay Swim Team, in cooperation with the Bellingham Lion's Club have proposed to donate eight swim blocks for community use at Arne Hanna Aquatic Center.

b. Arne Hanna Update:

Nicole Oliver informed the group that there was an unfortunate drug overdose at the Arne Hanna Aquatic Center last week, resulting in one death. The staff at the aquatic center are receiving immediate support and there are changes being made to the public restroom usage policy.

VIII. MEMBERSHIP:

a. Field Trips:

Michael Kutcher provided the tentative field trip schedule for the upcoming months. Both Greenways Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board have received invitations.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The committee adjourned to Executive Session at 9:15am. The meeting was called back to order at 9:26am. A motion was made to pursue due diligence on property #1. Motion passed. A motion was made to approve purchase of property #2, for assessed value. Motion passed.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The April 12, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:29 am.