



# PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

## May 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes

- PRESENT:** Michael Kutcher, Thor Beck, John Blethen, Brian Bressler, Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, Jeannie Gilbert, Jed Holmes, Zarah Manju, Jessica Sankey, and Steve Walker
- ABSENT:** Maggi Kriger
- STAFF:** Melissa Bianconi, Peter Gill, Steve Janiszewski, Nicole Oliver, Bree Park, Laine Potter, Caryn Regimbal, Patrick Ulinkski, and Lauren Woodmansee
- VISITORS:** Jeremy Casados, Ramon Falkowski, and Neil Schaner

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 am by Vice-Chair, Michael Kutcher.

- 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. **APRIL MEETING MINUTES:**  
A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - a. **Birchwood Neighborhood Sign Request:**  
Jan Patterson, the Birchwood Neighborhood Association Vice President, presented their request for a small and simple grant to install placemaking signs in various locations. There were three different signage options provided. A motion was made to recommend the Birchwood Neighborhood Association and Parks Department staff to coordinate the specific signage locations. Motion passed.
  - b. **Lake Padden Golf Surcharge Fee:**  
Steve Janiszewski provided a brief update on the Lake Padden Golf Course background, reinvestment priorities, and future opportunities. The top priority item is to replace the irrigation system, as the current system has reached the end of life. The second priority is to replace the existing maintenance building with a larger, more modern facility. Steve Janiszewski proposed the increase of the current golf rates in order to address the most critical concerns. A motion was made to recommend a \$4 surcharge for ball golf and a \$2 surcharge for disc golf. Motion passed.

- c. Comp Plan Amendment:  
Peter Gill introduced the general proposal to amend the 2020 Parks & Recreation Open Space plan. The minor amendment would be regarding the proposed trails and updating the capital facilities plan. There will be an Engage Bellingham website published soon for community feedback.
- d. Acquisition Process & Property of Interest Mapping:  
Peter Gill provided an update regarding the progress that the Greenways Advisory Committee has made to update and extend the Property of Interest Maps and clarify the property acquisition process. The purpose of this process is to improve property acquisition approval timelines by pre-approving priority properties for due diligence.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Greenways Levy Update:  
Steve Walker announced that the final draft proposal has now been sent to City Council. The administration will be reviewing the document in the following days.

**VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- a. Chuckanut Community Forest Park District:  
The City is very close to an agreement on a revised conservation easement with the Park District. Phase one overview was presented to the Park District regarding the Herrera implementation, outdoor classroom, and native plant garden.
- b. Small and Simple Grants:  
This item was tabled for the next agenda.
- c. Lake Padden Updates:  
Nicole Oliver informed the group that there is a new Lake Padden webpage that provides information on New Zealand mud snails, blue/green algae, golf course water and other helpful resources.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The committee adjourned to Executive Session at 9:07am. The meeting was called back to order at 9:29am. A motion was made to approve due diligence for the high interest parcels related to the map provided. Motion passed.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT:** The May 10, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:31 am.