



# PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

## July 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes

**PRESENT:** Maggi Kriger, John Blethen, Brian Bressler, Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, Jeannie Gilbert, Jed Holmes, Zarah Manju, and Steve Walker

**ABSENT:** Michael Kutcher and Jessica Sankey

**STAFF:** Melissa Bianconi, Peter Gill, Steve Janiszewski, Nicole Oliver, Bree Park, Laine Potter, and Caryn Regimbal

**VISITORS:** Dina Dickerson, John Heima, and Neil Schaner

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 am by Chair, Maggi Kriger.

- I. **AGENDA REVIEW:**  
There were no changes made to the agenda.
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**  
Greenways Levy V will be added to the November ballot for voting. There will be a memorial service held for Julianna Guy on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
There were no public comments.
- IV. **JUNE MEETING MINUTES:**  
A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - a. **Parks Reservation & Facilities Fees:**  
Caryn Regimbal presented the proposed changes for park facilities including the elimination of commercial rates, reducing fee types for athletic facilities, and adjusting rates to off-set increasing costs of staffing and facility enhancements and maintenance. The proposed changes will increase revenue and will simplify fee schedules for all users. The board proposed a few changes to which the Parks staff will discuss and bring back to the group, prior to presenting to City Council.
  - b. **Amendment to Galbraith Mountain Recreational Easement:**  
Nicole Oliver proposed two changes to the Recreational Use Easement; amend the definition of the easement to allow ebikes on Galbraith Mountain and broaden the trail mileage maximum from 65 miles to 85 miles of trail. A motion was made to recommend approval of the proposed changes. In addition, a recommendation was made to increase the variety of usage on the new trails, as well as clarify the different trail usage on existing maps. Motion passed.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

a. Greenways Levy Update:

The Fifth Greenways Levy was unanimously approved by City Council and will officially be put on the November ballot.

**VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

a. Interim Stewardship Supervisory Plan:

Steve Donnelly's job duties were assigned to the current Parks supervisors on a rotating schedule, with a new supervisor on call each week. The new Stewardship Supervisor position is currently being interviewed with many qualified candidates.

b. Urban Growth Area Boundary – Basic Overview:

The City's comprehensive planning began this week with focus on updating the urban growth areas and urban growth reserve. The city will be evaluating the current rules and the new state legislation, with more information to follow on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

c. Chuckanut Community Forest District Easement:

Nicole Oliver informed the group that the amended easement has been approved, as well as the approval to transfer the easement. The final amendment that was made was to assign all of the Chuckanut Community Forest to Whatcom Land Trust for \$75,000. The City has now hired a surveyor to survey the current easement boundaries.

**VIII. MEMBERSHIP:**

a. Field Trips:

The next field trip will be on Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at the East Neighborhood Park property with more details to follow.

b. Student Representative Member Practice:

The board has agreed to memorialize the current bylaws to have a student appointed to the board for a one-year term.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no executive session.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:** The July 12, 2023, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:27 am.