



# PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

## August 9, 2023, Meeting Minutes

**PRESENT:** Maggi Kriger, John Blethen, Brian Bressler, Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, Jed Holmes, Zarah Manju, and Steve Walker  
**ABSENT:** Jeannie Gilbert, Michael Kutcher and Jessica Sankey  
**STAFF:** Peter Gill, Steve Janiszewski, Nicole Oliver, Bree Park, Caryn Regimbal, Jonathan Schilk, and Lauren Woodmansee  
**VISITORS:** Annette Bagley, Marla Bronstein, Sky Lupa, Peter Roberts, Neil Schaner, and Skip Williams (City Council Representative)

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

**I. AGENDA REVIEW:**

There were no changes made to the agenda.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Steve Walker encouraged the group to see the movie, "The Living". Asa Deane announced that he accepted the new Whatcom County Parks Supervisor role.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Sky Lupa discussed the new fees at the Fairhaven Auditorium and how that impacts the local dance groups. Peter Roberts, from the Eldridge Society, introduced the visual concept to expand the Elizabeth Park gazebo with potential partnership. Holly Miller expressed concerns regarding E-Bikes and their usage on trails, hoping for imposed safety measures.

**IV. JULY MEETING MINUTES:**

The field trips section to be changed to "East Bakerview Neighborhood Park". Under the section, Student Representative Member Practice, the word memorialize needs to be changed to institutionalized. A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes with proposed changes. Motion passed.

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Amendments:

Peter Gill presented a minor amendment to the PRO Plan that addresses Section 5.5 Trails, and Appendix D, the six-year Capital Facilities Plan. The proposal amends the Recommended Facilities Plan trail map to address updates in development since 2020, improve trail alignments to better reflect development patterns and geographic constraints, and align with proposed updates to the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans. On August 17, 2023 the Planning Commission is holding a public hearing to consider the Bellingham Parks & Recreation Department's request to amend the PRO Plan. A motion was made to approve the amendment with the Parks Department making appropriate changes that align with existing documents and priorities. Motion passed.

- b. Storybrook Park Phase 1 – 50% Design Update:  
Jonathan Schilk presented the most recent design plans for Storybrook Park phase one development. This phase also includes bicycle and pedestrian improvements along West Maplewood Avenue.
- c. Capital Projects Update:  
Laine Potter gave a brief update regarding all Capital Projects and their current status. The board was provided a more detailed handout with a breakdown of each capital project.

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- a. Lake Padden Showers:  
The showers at Lake Padden are still closed due to a sewage problem. Operations will begin working on that project in the near future.
- b. Campaign Memo:  
A memo was sent out from Karen Frakes at the County Prosecuting office reminding all board members to refrain from making comments in favor or opposing any ballot measure or campaign.
- c. Hundred Acre Wood Conservation Easement:  
The conservation easement has been revised, accepted and transferred to the Land Trust.
- d. Community Shower Program:  
The Arne Hanna Shower program is now closed. A new shower trailer ran by the Opportunity Council will be at City Hall on Fridays through Sundays.
- e. Park Activity Update:  
There are nine full time park ambassadors that are provided daily reports to the department. These reports are very positive and show lots of progress happening in our Parks.
- f. Woodstock Weddings:  
There will be no reservations at Woodstock Farm in 2024 due to a cultural management project but will remain open to the public.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:19am. The meeting was called back to order at 9:27am. A motion was made to approve the purchase of property #1. Motion passed.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The August 9, 2023, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:31 am.**