



# PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

## December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes

- PRESENT:** Maggi Kriger, John Blethen, Brian Bressler, Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, Jeannie Gilbert, Jed Holmes, Zarah Manju, Jessica Sankey and Steve Walker
- STAFF:** Melissa Bianconi, Peter Gill, Steve Janiszewski, Steve Nordeen, Nicole Oliver, Bree Park, Laine Potter, Caryn Regimbal, and Lauren Woodmansee
- VISITORS:** Joan Banel, Devon Caines, Mike Grummel, Bob Merth, Scott Pratschner, Neil Schaner, and JP Slagle

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:**  
The Winter Playbook will be coming out at the end of December, with registration opening on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The City Council approved the purchase of the East Bakerview Property.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
Joan Banel requests that Cornwall Cross on January 13<sup>th</sup> be cancelled due to destruction of certain areas at Cornwall Park. Bob Merth and Mike Grummel voiced their support of saving the Cornwall Memorial Park tennis courts and not converting them into pickleball courts.
- IV. **NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES:**  
An edit to be made to Coast Millenium Trail at Arroyo Park stating that the bridge is not included in the Capital Plan. A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes with proposed change. Motion passed.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - a. **Northwest Neighborhood Park Design and Name:**  
Devon Caines and Laine Potter presented an overview of the new proposed park that will be in partnership with a private residential development. They provided all details, including design, location, community feedback, and other additional information. A motion was made to recommend the name of Northern Lights Park to the City Council. Motion passed.
  - b. **Cyclo-Cross Discussion:**  
This event last year caused some severe damage to certain areas of Cornwall Park, due to the condition of the grounds and routes taken by the group that were not approved by the Parks Department. Nicole Oliver stated that there is a more in-depth review process for this event

to happen by limiting the number of competitors, clearing marking the approved routes only, and additional COB event staffing.

- c. Cornwall Memorial Park Usage:  
Nicole Oliver provided an update on feedback received from community members regarding the bridge currently being closed due to damage and the sports courts being resurfaced. Staff will summarize the responses, facilitate discussions, and ask the board for feedback prior to taking any further action.
- d. 2024 Meeting Calendar:  
The board was provided the 2024 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board schedule. A motion was made to approve the 2024 meeting calendar. Motion passed.
- e. 2024 Chair/Vice-Chair Nomination and Election:  
A motion was made to nominate Brian Bressler as Chair. Motion passed. A motion was made to nominate Steve Walker as Vice-Chair for the committee. Motion passed.

## **VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- a. 2024 Park Board Work Plan:  
Nicole Oliver asked for group input regarding work plan. The board discussed their varying opinions on the goals for the Parks Board in the near future. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.
- b. Exceptional Tree Interim Ordinance:  
The Exceptional Tree Ordinance project brief was approved by the Mayor for one year, which will protect significant trees by species over a certain size, age and level of specificity, including culturally significant trees.
- c. Cordata Park Phase 2 Update:  
Nicole Oliver presented the current update for Cordata Park Phase 2 and shared progress pictures. Phase 2 should be completed and ready to open by the end of January 2024 or early February 2024.

## **VII. MEMBERSHIP:**

- a. Candidate Interviews:  
Scott Pratschner has lived in Bellingham for over 18 years. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Geology and works as an Air Quality Specialist. A motion was made to recommend to the mayor the appointment of Scott Pratschner. Motion passed.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no executive session.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** The December 13, 2023, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:30 am.