



# PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

## February 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes

- PRESENT:** Brian Bressler, Steve Walker, John Blethen, Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, Jeannie Gilbert, Maggi Kriger, Scott Pratschner, and Jessica Sankey
- ABSENT:** Jed Holmes and Zarah Manju
- STAFF:** Gina Austin, Melissa Bianconi, Peter Gill, Steve Janiszewski, Bree Park, Laine Potter, Caryn Regimbal, Seth Vidana, and Lauren Woodmansee
- VISITORS:** Jeff Cummings, Jim Marcotte, Holly Miller, and Skip Williams.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 am by Chair, Brian Bressler.

- I. **AGENDA REVIEW:**  
There were no changes made to the agenda.
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**  
John Blethen announced that the Ecology Department will be hosting a public meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> at noon, regarding the future waterfront park property. Steve Walker will forward those details via email to all Park Board members.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
Holly Miller expressed her appreciation for allowing the board to hear their group's e-bike and trail safety presentation last month. Jeannie Gilbert requested additional benches and improvement of the overall landscaping at Birchwood Park. Jeff Cummings inquired about park restrictions at Cornwall Memorial Park.
- IV. **JANUARY MEETING MINUTES:**  
A motion was made to approve the January meeting minutes. Motion passed.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - a. **Park Board Subcommittee Workgroups:**  
The group discussed their top priority items moving forward for 2024 and created a list of themes for the Greenways Committee and Park Board to work on and/or subcommittee recommendations to bring forward to the full board. Subcommittees consist of four members (or less) and are to be self-supported. Board members that showed interest in subcommittees were recorded and the groups will be defined at a later meeting.
  - b. **Climate Resiliency:**  
Seth Vidana, the City's Climate Energy Manager, presented the City of Bellingham's current climate action plan. The main topic of discussion was regarding the two types of climates projects: carbon emissions reduction projects and climate resiliency projects.

c. Future Topics Related to Recreation:

Melissa Bianconi provided a brief overview of the initial plan at Civic, updates at Arne Hanna, and shared that Civic's Phase 2 project presentation should be ready within the next few months, which will then be brought to Park Board. She informed the group that there will now be "drop-in" badminton nights at Bloedel Donovan and if there is a high attendance rate then that could turn into a possible badminton league in the near future.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Taylor Dock Signage:

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The February 14, 2024, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:33 am.