



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

April 10, 2024, Meeting Minutes

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

ABSENT: Jessica Sankey

STAFF: Nicole Oliver, Gina Austin, Melissa Bianconi, Peter Gill, Steve Janiszewski, Paul Knippel, Bree Park, Laine Potter, Caryn Regimbal, Jonathan Schilk, and Lauren Woodmansee

VISITORS: Bill Caram, Christine Morton, Virginia Wiltshire-Gordon, 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:**
The Spring/Summer 2024 Playbook is now available. The Cordata Park Phase Two ribbon cutting ceremony will be on Friday, April 12th at 4pm.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
There were no public comments.
- IV. **MARCH MEETING MINUTES:**
A motion was made to approve the March meeting minutes. Motion passed.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Olympic Pipeline Disaster Safety Panel Location:**
Bill Caram, the Executive Director of the Pipeline Safety Trust, presented the plan to create and install commemorative signage in Whatcom Falls Park on the 25th anniversary of the historic pipeline disaster. The board reviewed the signage and specific location in the Park. A motion was made to approve the signage and location of the commemorative signage at Whatcom Falls Park. Motion passed.
 - b. **Gossage Plaza Little Library Park Location:**
Steve Janiszewski and Christine Morton, a member of the Letter Streets Neighborhood Association, proposed that a little library be installed in the Lettered Streets Neighborhood at Gossage Plaza. A motion was made to approve the installation of the Little Library in Gossage Plaza. Motion passed.

- c. Project Update: Storybrook Park:
Jonathan Schilk provided an update on the current progress of phase one at Storybrook Park. There is a proposal to install a new kiosk at Storybrook Park, which will display informative information for all parkgoers. A motion was made to approve the kiosk sign and specific design at Storybrook Park. Motion passed.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- a. Boards and Commissions – Guidance:
City Council is reviewing a draft of the guidance of expectations for advisory group members. This draft was provided to the board. This is an effort to provide better direction regarding roles and expectations of each advisory group throughout the city.
- b. MOU with Bellingham School District:
A team has been established that will work closely with the school district regarding the relocation of Carl Cozier. Consultants will be hired to help co-design the potential concept and once that is created, there will be opportunity for community feedback and public engagement.
- c. Lake Padden Shower Update:
At Lake Padden, the old lifeguard room will be converted into new showers and will be open to the public by the end of May 2024.
- d. Park Operations Final Staffing Plan:
The final ordinance regarding the Park Operations Final Staff Plan will be presented to City Council on April 15th.
- e. House of Healing:
City Council has approved the lease agreement and the official ground-turning ceremony will take place on Thursday, April 11th at 4pm.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:15am. The meeting was called back to order at 9:29am. A motion was made to recommend purchase of property #1 at \$1.8 million. Motion passed.

- VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The April 10, 2024, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:30 am.