



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

May 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Brian Bressler, Steve Walker, John Blethen, Jeannie Gilbert, Jed Holmes, Maggi Kriger, Scott Pratschner, and Jessica Sankey
ABSENT: Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, and Zarah Manju
STAFF: Nicole Oliver, Gina Austin, Melissa Bianconi, Sara Brooke Benjamin, Kathryn Franks, Peter Gill, Paul Knippel, Bree Park, Laine Potter, Caryn Regimbal, and Lauren Woodmansee
VISITORS: Neil Schaner and Skip Williams.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 am by Chair, Brian Bressler

- I. **AGENDA REVIEW:**
New Business items A and B will be switched in discussion order.
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
There were no announcements.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
There were no public comments.
- IV. **APRIL MEETING MINUTES:**
A motion was made to approve the April meeting minutes. Motion passed.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Woodstock Farm Interpretive Signs:**
Kathryn Franks, Development Specialist with the City's Planning Department, presented information related to the background information of Woodstock Farm, the timeline of changes, and the history of Chuckanut Drive. She presented the draft for the new welcome sign and the specific location where it would be displayed, and the group provided feedback on suggested verbiage for the signage.
 - b. **Whatcom Trestle Interpretive Signs:**
Gina Austin provided information regarding the installation of an interpretive sign to summarize the history of the railroad trestle and its local and regional significance. The group requested the verbiage to state "displaced" rather than "forced out". A motion was made to place signage at Derby Pond. Motion passed. John Blethen abstains.
 - c. **Urban Forestry Management Plan:**
Nicole Oliver summarized the current status regarding the Urban Forestry Management Plan and the major impact it has on the Parks & Recreation Department. The board is encouraged to share their input via the Engage Bellingham survey or the virtual input session on May 8th.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Civic Complex:

The Civic Complex kickoff begins on May 10th. The contractors and consultant team are under contract. The assessment continues with the plan to co-design and negotiate an amendment to the Master Plan for re-location of Carl Cozier.

b. Ski to Sea:

The original plan is in place for the Ski to Sea Race. No longer must plan for the secondary option, due to lack of snow, so all is finalized for the normal Ski to Sea race.

c. Coast Salish Day:

Various tribes will be holding The Coast Salish Day event at Maritime Heritage Park and Waypoint Park on Saturday, May 25th.

d. Bloedel Summer Construction:

There will be ongoing construction at Bloedel Donovan Park during the summer, which will cause certain limitations and park impacts. There is a new project page online that lists all the details for this specific project, including current map with access locations.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:42am. The meeting was called back to order at 9:02am. A motion was made to pursue due diligence on property #1. Motion passed. A motion was made to explore the easement and trail access for property #2. Motion passed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The May 8, 2024, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:07am.