



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

June 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes

- PRESENT:** Brian Bressler, Steve Walker, John Blethen, Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, Jeannie Gilbert, Jed Holmes, Maggi Kriger, Zarah Manju, Scott Pratschner, and Jessica Sankey
- STAFF:** Nicole Oliver, Peter Gill, Steve Janiszewski, Paul Knippel, Laine Potter, Caryn Regimbal, and Lauren Woodmansee
- VISITORS:** Jake Gombis, Holly Miller, Colleen Mitchell, John Payne, Neil Schaner, Paul Wayland, Rob Zisette, and Skip Williams.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 am by Chair, Brian Bressler

- I. **AGENDA REVIEW:**
There were no changes to the agenda.
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
There were no announcements.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Maggi Kriger stated that the Cordata Pickleball Courts are a great addition to the community. Paul Wayland advocated for a new skate park under the Roeder Avenue Bridge.
- IV. **MAY MEETING MINUTES:**
A motion was made to approve the May meeting minutes. Motion passed.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Maritime Heritage Park/Whatcom Estuary Boardwalk:**
Paul Knippel, the Greenways Project Manager, provided an update on the Maritime Heritage Park Boardwalk rehabilitation project. The updates included current repairs, permitting status, and construction timeline.
 - b. **Lake Padden Recreation Assessment:**
Peter Gill shared a very detailed presentation regarding the Lake Padden Recreation Assessment. The assessment provided data for recreational usage at the park, environmental concerns, existing conditions, enhancements, and what the next steps are to grow this location, as it is the third busiest park in Bellingham.
 - c. **John Blethen – Final Term:**
The group honored John Blethen for his many years of service on the Greenways Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The budget preparation will begin soon, with directions to departments to propose a 5% cut in general fund. The construction happening at Bloedel Avenue & Electric Street Bridge is limiting access to Bloedel Donovan Park, however, the Park is still open to the public. Safety recommendations to follow regarding that location. City Council set the zoning at Silver Beach neighborhood for multifamily housing. The Civic Complex is going to require a rezone and comprehensive plan amendment, which will happen in 2025. A press release will go out on Friday, June 14th, regarding the Little Squalicum Pier naming process and will be posted on Engage Bellingham for community feedback.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:17am. The meeting was called back to order at 9:32am. A motion was made to pursue due diligence on property #1. Motion passed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The June 12, 2024, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:32am.