



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

September 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

- PRESENT:** Brian Bressler, Steve Walker, Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, Jed Holmes, Maggi Kriger, Zarah Manju Scott Pratschner, and Jessica Sankey
- ABSENT:** Jeannie Gilbert
- STAFF:** Nicole Oliver, Gina Austin, Melissa Bianconi, Freya Fradenburgh, Peter Gill, Steve Janiszewski, Paul Knippel, Bree Park, Laine Potter, Caryn Regimbal, Taylor Webb, and Lauren Woodmansee
- VISITORS:** Spencer Anthony-Cahill, Darren Belt, Evan Bing, Dylan Bonsell, Sarah Burch, Buddy Chapman, Corina Cheever, Bill Geyer, Eddie Hansen, Brent Hartwig, Holly Miller, Neil Schaner, and Skip Williams.

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

- I. **AGENDA REVIEW:**
There were no changes to the agenda.
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
There were no announcements.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Brent Hartwig, Corina Cheever, and Dylan Bonsell expressed their appreciation for cyclocross events in the City of Bellingham. Buddy Chapman shared his vision of producing recycled plastic benches for the City of Bellingham in the future. Eddie Hansen and Bill Geyer voiced their support to bring lifeguards back to Bloedel Donovan Park next Summer.
- IV. **AUGUST MEETING MINUTES:**
A motion was made to approve the August meeting minutes. Motion passed. Zarah Manju abstained.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Storybrook Park Art Proposal:**
Taylor Webb, Developmental Specialist for Planning & Community Development, shared an update regarding the art proposal for the 1% for the Arts program, which will be displayed at the new Storybrook Park. The arts jury selected three semi-finalists that will come back with their final designs at a later date.
 - b. **2025 Capital Budget Requests:**
Nicole Oliver provided a breakdown of the Parks & Recreation Department 2025 Capital Budget Requests, which include new projects and additional amendments to existing projects.

c. Stewardship Program Update:

The Park Stewardship Program has recently undergone some transition, completed some process improvement work, and is bringing on new staff. Acting Stewardship Supervisor, Freya Fradenburgh, provided a brief update on the park stewards, park ambassadors, community gardens, and work parties.

d. Membership:

Holly Miller, Spencer Anthony-Cahill, Evan Bing, Darren Belt, and Sarah Burch were interviewed by the board for the open vacancy. A motion was made to recommend to the mayor the appointment of Holly Miller to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Motion passed.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

There is a great team in place for the Civic Master Plan and there will soon be an invitation sent to stakeholder representatives to distribute to the community. Nicole Oliver thanked Melissa Bianconi and the Lions Club for working the concessions at Civic and are looking to add various groups in the future. The Public Works Board approved over \$7 million to fund the Cornwall Avenue Landfill Clean Up Project, which will turn into Salish Landing. The final design of Sunset Pond has rerouted the existing trail to connect to an existing right of way, which will save close to \$1 million. Boulevard Shoreline Restoration project will go out to bid soon.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:29am. The meeting was called back to order at 9:34am

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The September 11, 2024, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:35am.