



# PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

## October 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes

**PRESENT:** Brian Bressler, Steve Walker, Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, Jeannie Gilbert, Jed Holmes, Maggi Kriger, Scott Pratschner, and Holly Miller  
**ABSENT:** Zarah Manju and Jessica Sankey  
**STAFF:** Gina Austin, Melissa Bianconi, Bree Park, Laine Potter, Caryn Regimbal, and Lauren Woodmansee  
**VISITORS:** David Christensen, Dillan Kilroy, Pedro Jimenez, Cindy Scott, Collin Whalen, 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:**

Steve Walker encouraged the group to explore the “We Grow Garden”. Brian Bressler provided an update on the recent Cyclocross events that have happened at the City Parks. Holly Miller was welcomed as an official member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The Northwest Skate Collective provided an update on their current grant application and the status of their proposed skate park near Roeder Avenue. Dillan Kilroy inquired about the possibility of larger events and expansion of the facilities at Salish Landing Park. Cindy Scott stated that the Civic Athletic Complex Plan should increase capacity and usage for all youth sports.

**IV. SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made to approve the September meeting minutes. Motion passed. Jeannie Gilbert abstains.

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Fairhaven Center:

Over the past several months, Parks staff has met with the design team to review preliminary trail and overlook design concepts for the space at Fairhaven Urban Village. During those meetings, Parks staff agreed to explore the idea of including a public plaza or small, urban park as the trail enters the development. Dave Christensen, project designer at Christensen Design Management, presented their current design concepts. The board provided feedback, including the addition of bike lockers.

b. Civic Complex Planning Update:

The Parks & Recreation Department created a Masterplan to update the Civic Athletic Complex, as the original development opened in the 1980's. The Civic Athletic Complex Plan is a three-step plan including, Phase One: Site Assessment, Phase Two: Master Planning, and Phase Three: Implementation. This complex plan is used to guide future development of this important recreational park due to the demanding growth of our city.

c. 2025 Proposed Budget Reductions:

The City of Bellingham is experiencing declining sales tax revenue, leading to the direction for all departments to reduce general fund expenditures 5% and propose new options for revenue generation in 2025. The Parks and Recreation Department proposed nearly \$800,000 in General Fund expenditure cuts. Melissa Bianconi shared the five proposed Parks & Recreation areas to achieve the 5% reduction.

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

There will be new EV charging stations added at Civic Stadium. The Spooktacular Halloween event, hosted by Gabriel's Art Kids, will be hosted at Woodstock Farm from October 24<sup>th</sup> thru October 27<sup>th</sup>. The current volleyball and basketball leagues are completely full, with over 300 individuals currently waitlisted.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no executive session.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The October 9, 2024, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 8:57am.