

Greenway Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes March 19, 2009

Members Present: John Blethen, Scott Dorough, Damon Gray, Glenn Merrill, Kenni Merritt, Steve Walker.

Board Liaisons Present: Jim McCabe, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board liaison

Staff Present: Tim Wahl, Leslie Bryson

Guests Attending: Joe Yaver, Linda Grant, Rod Dean

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes: A motion was made and carried unanimously to approve the February 19, 2009 meeting minutes with corrections as noted. Glenn Merrill indicated that he had provided information that was incomplete during the February Northridge Park Phase II Steering Committee Update regarding the next phase of development of Northridge Park. The correct information is provided in the March report, below.

Agenda Review: Accepted as written.

Public Comment Period: Joe Yaver, attending as a representative of Responsible Development, said that the EIS is very important to the outcome of the Chuckanut Ridge matter. He said he feels there is a disconnect between where resources are being allocated and high-priority areas like Chuckanut Ridge. He said he was not clear on Jim McCabe's role with GAC as a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) member. Mr. McCabe said that he was the PRAB Chair and its liaison member for GAC matters and that land purchase transactions were reviewed by the GAC, then, by PRAB and then approved or rejected by the City Council. Mr. Yaver asked how the Southside Greenways allocations affect the Northside allocations. Leslie Bryson said that the City Council can change the allocation amount, but by ordinance the levy has allocated \$12.1 million to north area, \$6 million to south area and \$2 million unallocated. Mr. Yaver then submitted three citizen letters addressed to the City Council, the Planning Department and the Mayor which addressed impacts of the Chuckanut Ridge development. Mr. Yaver said he was attending the meeting to solicit funding support from the GAC to preserve Chuckanut Ridge. Tim Wahl said there is 6 million allocated for the Southside but said there are opportunity costs in other areas of the Southside if all those funds go to Chuckanut Ridge. Scott Dorough asked Mr. Yaver if he thought GAC members had lesser concern for environmental matters than Responsible Development members. Dorough indicated he felt that would be an unfair assumption and that GAC members had a broader objective to assess environmental concerns across a larger geographic area.

Old Business: None.

New Business: During a discussion of possible topics for a retreat, Tim Wahl reminded the committee members of their official charge. Kenni Merritt said that the

GAC needs to consult more on development priorities and the budget. John Blethen said that a GAC strategic plan for Greenway levy development projects would be helpful. Leslie Bryson said that the six year budget has been based on recommendations from the GAC and that a discussion of the budget would allow new members to become more familiar with projects. Ms. Merritt suggested making the budget an agenda topic for a future GAC meeting. Ms. Bryson said that a discussion of the budget would be included in an orientation for new members.

GAC Potluck Retreat: The GAC potluck was rescheduled for Thursday, April 9th.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Monthly Walk: The Committee decided to schedule the monthly walk for Wednesday, May 6th at 5:00 p.m. Committee members are to meet at the Parks office. Ms. Bryson said that she will confirm with the owners of a current property under consideration and e-mail final walk details to Committee members regarding a walk of that property.

Northridge Park Phase II Steering Committee Update: Glenn Merrill offered corrections to his remarks that were made in February's minutes and said that although the Greenways III Levy has allocated money to complete development of the master plan for North Ridge Park, everything but the trails has been put on hold due to lack of funds for maintenance after construction. All trails and trail connections at Northridge Park will be going in starting this summer. The restrooms haven't been eliminated from the plan but have been put on hold.

Guest Invitations: No guest invitations were proposed.

Park Advisory Board Update: There was no Park Advisory Board update.

Strategic Planning: Mr. Blethen said that he would start a development sequence plan to be considered by Committee members.

Executive Session: Executive session was held from 7:40 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

Vote in Open Meeting following Executive Session: The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that portions of Greenway Program parcels 256, 303, 397 and 398 be investigated and considered for purchase as a park site component of the King and Queen Mountain area greenway.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.