

Greenway Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2007

Members Present: Eric Hirst, Tom Chisholm, Janie Pemble, Steve Walker, Jack Kimmes, Edie Norton, John Blethen, Dan Remsen

Members Excused: Kenni Merritt, Laurel Cook, Jack Weiss

Staff Present: Paul Leuthold, Leslie Bryson, Tim Wahl, Matt Burke, Liz Haveman

Guests Attending: Christopher Grannis, Julie Guy, Adrienne Lederer

Agenda Review:

Public Comment Period was moved before Executive Session.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion made and carried to accept April 19, 2007 minutes as written.

Public Comment Period:

Christopher Grannis expressed thanks to Committee Chair, Laurel Cook, for her written statement handed out to GAC members at their March retreat acknowledging the comments made by Mayor Mark Asmundson in March 2006 in reference to spending \$8 million on Chuckanut Ridge. Christopher stated that at a Fairhaven Neighbors meeting on May 2, 2007, Councilman Terry Bornemann stated that the legislative intent of the Greenway III Levy was to spend \$8 million on Chuckanut Ridge. Mr. Grannis stated that GAC member Jack Weiss and Councilwoman Barbara Ryan were present at the Fairhaven Neighbors meeting when Terry Bornemann said this. Mr. Grannis also expressed that he felt that the Parks Director asked the City Attorney to issue a statement contradicting what he feels was the legislative intent of the Greenways III Levy. John Blethen responded with a plea to Mr. Grannis to begin raising private funds to help with the purchase of Chuckanut Ridge. Paul Leuthold, Parks Director, responded that he had nothing to do with the statement given to the GAC from the City Attorney and that the statement was issued in response to GAC members' questions about the role of the Committee.

Julie Guy thanked the GAC for their efforts in acquiring parks throughout the City and requested that the Committee consider acquiring three additional pieces of property in North Bellingham immediately adjacent to the 20 acres that the City is currently in negotiations with Trillium to acquire. Two of the additional pieces of property are currently owned by Trillium and one 7 acre-parcel is currently owned by the County. Julie stated that these additional pieces would be a nice addition to the 20 acre parcel and parks are desperately needed for children to play in North Bellingham. Adrienne Lederer voiced her support for Julie's request as well.

Executive Session:

Executive Session was held from 7:15 p.m. to 8:25 p.m.

Vote in Open Meeting Following Executive Session:

In open meeting following the Executive Session, John Blethen moved, and Janie Pemble seconded the motion, to recommend to Park Board and City Council to spend \$275,000 of Greenway III North area funds to purchase 10 acres of natural area as part of the Cordata area park. The remaining 10 acres of the parcel will be acquired with Real Estate Excise Tax funds. The motion passed with a unanimous 8-0 vote of the Committee.

John Blethen also moved, and Janie Pemble seconded the motion, to recommend to Park Board and City Council approval for staff to proceed with a letter of intent to purchase a 40 acre parcel of property from the Department of Natural Resources and a commitment of \$9000 from Greenway III North area funds to include an appraisal of the property. The motion passed with a unanimous 8-0 vote of the Committee.

John Blethen also moved, and Janie Pemble seconded the motion, to recommend to Park Board and City Council approval for staff to proceed with negotiations to purchase 2 additional 40 acre parcels in North Bellingham from the Department of Natural Resources, if available, using some Greenway III levy North area funds, along with other city funds. The motion passed with a unanimous 8-0 vote of the Committee.

Old Business:

Welcome Dan Remsen, new Greenway Advisory Committee member.

New Business:

The June GAC walk is TBA. Jack Kimmes will email Committee members the date, time, destination and meeting location.

Staff Report:

Welcome Matt Burke, new Property Acquisition Specialist for Bellingham Parks & Recreation.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.