

**Greenway Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 21, 2008**

**Members Present:** John Blethen, Eric Hirst, Steve Walker, Glenn Merrill, Edie Norton, Jim Zander, Damon Gray, Scott Dorough

**Members Excused:** Kenni Merritt

**Members Absent:** Dan Remsen, Janie Pemble

**Staff Present:** Tim Wahl, Liz Haveman

**Board Liaisons Attending:** Jim McCabe, Park Advisory Board liaison

**Guests Attending:** Joe Yaver, Responsible Development; Julie Guy, Park & Recreation Advisory Board member

**Review of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Motion made and carried unanimously to accept the June 19, 2008 minutes as written.

**Public Comment Period:** Joe Yaver introduced himself as a member of Responsible Development committed to preserving Chuckanut Ridge. Joe reminded the Committee that in June, the Chuckanut Ridge Research Sub-Committee stated that they would like to meet with Responsible Development to review R.D.'s research on Chuckanut Ridge. Joe asked the Committee when that meeting might be set. John Blethen responded that he will connect with Eric Hirst and Dan Remsen to get some possible dates and contact Joe.

Joe distributed copies of the City's Amendment to the March 11, 2008, Scoping Summary for the Fairhaven Highlands Environmental Impact Statement of August 11, 2008. Joe stated that he feels that the City is making a genuine effort to ensure that the Environmental Impact Statement is thorough.

Joe also distributed copies of articles entitled, "Legislature Passes Evergreen Communities Act to Protect Urban Trees", and "Drayton Harbor on Pollution Rollercoaster", for the Committee's information.

Joe passed around a photograph and stated that there is a piece of property currently under development on University Way off Chuckanut Drive. Joe said that this project is independent of the proposed Chuckanut Ridge development, but is quite close and a number of trees have been knocked down in what looks like the beginning of a subdivision. This further stresses the importance of preserving Chuckanut Ridge.

Finally, Joe mentioned that he and his colleagues have reviewed the PRO Plan draft of June 12, 2008, and they like what they see in terms of open space.

**New Business:**

Endowment Fund Request: Marvin Harris stated that prior to Greenways Levy III, Park Operations has at times viewed the Greenway Program as adding responsibilities to their work load without providing much additional funding to pay for those responsibilities. However, the most recent changes to the Greenway Endowment Fund that allow Endowment Fund interest to be spent on the maintenance of any Greenway acquisition or project is a positive change.

Marvin distributed copies of a summary of Endowment Fund expenditures dating back to 2001 that shows a total expenditure to date of \$285,189.15. Marvin also distributed a data sheet showing a breakdown of staff hours spent working on Greenway projects, the staff cost associated with those hours, and the equipment cost associated with those hours for 2005-2007. These average out to 5562 hours with a staff cost of \$162,575 and an equipment cost of \$13,432. The data sheet also summarizes Marvin's 2009 budget request from the Endowment Fund for reimbursement of wages for two full time positions, a forestry service van and annual fleet services in addition to the ¼ time position that the Endowment Fund has already been covering in previous years. The request totals \$177,377.

Eric Hirst noted that the request for 2009 is considerably larger, close to five times larger, than any other year in the past and asked Marvin why. Marvin responded that the request in 2009 is larger because the scope of the Endowment Fund widened to allow it to be spent on any Greenways project. Marvin stated that in years past, he struggled to find projects to spend the money on because of the limitations of the Endowment Fund. Eric also pointed out that on Marvin's data sheet, the estimated interest for 2009 amounts to \$108,000. Eric noted that the 2009 request is approximately \$70,000 more than the interest and expressed concern over whether spending at this level is sustainable.

Marvin responded that the principal grows by approximately \$350,000 per year, which means that the interest earnings are growing as well. Marvin stated that at the end of 2009, there will be \$392,721 in the Endowment Fund. If you subtract his request of \$177,377, there will be \$215,344 remaining in the Fund. Marvin also stated that if all of the hours for the two full time positions are not used, the unspent dollars would roll over into the next year; they would not be lost. Marvin believes that the request is sustainable over the next few years. Jim McCabe suggested that a simple spreadsheet showing projected interest earnings and inflation might be helpful. Marvin agreed to create a spreadsheet for the Committee's information.

Marvin stated that his biggest need is for additional staff. In light of this, he will not be coming back to the Committee and asking for additional funds for equipment or plantings as he has done in the past when the Endowment Fund was limited to specific projects. Marvin stated that the City's General Fund budget has been frozen in 2009, which makes it impossible for him to hire additional staff out of the General Fund to take care of the newly acquired Greenways properties. Marvin reported that as it is, the

Parks Arborist and Natural Resources crews are behind schedule in dealing with a variety of tree issues, including hazardous trees, and do not have enough resources to devote to new Greenway properties. The Endowment Fund is intended for the maintenance of properties and projects purchased with Greenways funds.

Steve Walker stated that the request seems to be very true to the intent of the Endowment Fund and that it is logical that adding more properties means that there will be an increased demand for maintenance. Eric Hirst moved to approve Marvin's request of \$177,377 for 2009 Endowment Fund Expenditures. Steve Walker seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**Sub-Committee Reports:**

Greenstreets Committee: John Blethen reported that the Greenstreets Committee has not had any additional meetings; Kim Brown's time to devote to the project was limited by Dick McKinley. John mentioned that at the June meeting, Leslie Bryson stated that she would get a copy of the map created by the Greenstreets Committee and determine which areas are Parks projects so that a prioritized list can be created. Jim McCabe noted that Leslie has been tied up with the PRO Plan and has likely not had an opportunity to do this yet.

Guest Invitations: John Blethen reported that Barbara Ryan was invited to attend the August meeting but was not able to make it. John stated that Kenni Merritt plans to invite Barry Buchanan to a future meeting, possibly September.

Monthly Walk: Glenn Merrill reported that the August monthly walk was cancelled. Glenn will work with Tim Wahl to determine when the monthly walks should be scheduled for Saturdays as days grow shorter.

PRO Plan Update: Jim McCabe reported that at the last Planning Commission hearing on the PRO Plan, the Commission decided to send the Plan back to the steering committee to review suggested changes and thoughts compiled during the Planning Commission meetings. On October 2, 2008, the Planning Commission will have a public hearing where they could vote to recommend the PRO Plan as a Comprehensive Plan amendment, or not. Jim stated that the main issue of discussion at the Planning Commission meetings is level of service. In summary, the Planning Commission would like to see a PRO Plan that provides a level of service consistent with the current Comprehensive Plan, which will be more expensive than the Plan submitted to the Planning Commission. However, in May, City Council requested that staff put together a Plan that was affordable. Jim stated that in order to afford a plan that is consistent with the current Comprehensive Plan, Park Impact Fees would need to be raised.

Public Outreach: John Blethen reported that there will be a potluck picnic on Thursday, September 25, from 6-9 p.m. at the Lake Padden Playground Shelter for Greenway Advisory Committee members, Park & Recreation Advisory Committee members, City Park Staff and County Park Staff and County Park Advisory Board. Committee

members should plan to attend and bring a potluck dish. Spouses are welcome to attend as well.

**Executive Session:** Executive Session was held from 8:10 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. The Committee invited Julie Guy, Park & Recreation Advisory Board member, to attend executive session.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.