

**Greenway Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2011, 7:00 PM—9:00 PM, Fireplace Room,
Bellingham Municipal Court Building, 625 Halleck Street**

Committee Members Present: Jim Zander, Charles Matthews, John Blethen, Scott Dorough, David Marshak, Linda Grant, Rod Dean, Bob Hendricks, Alex McLean

Committee Members Not Present: None

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Member Present: Pam Holladay

Guests Present: Steve Crooks

Staff Present: James King, Parks & Recreation Director; Tim Wahl, Greenway Program Coordinator

I. AGENDA REVIEW AND ADDITIONS: The agenda was approved as submitted.

II. INTRODUCTION OF JAMES KING, PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR; Director King described his prior work in greenway planning and implementation in North Carolina and Alaska. He urged GAC members to think ahead to 2016 and the end of the Greenway III levy.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD & ANNOUNCEMENTS: GAC member Alex McLean reported on his liaison experience with the Transportation Commission. Two projects were identified for him to present to the TC to encourage support and coordination: the "Sunset Pond to Barkley Trail" trail project and improvement of a segment of the Consolidation Ave. footpath per the GAC's discussion requested by Scott Dorough, see Item VI. Tim Wahl was to prepare area and concept maps for use by McLean in describing the projects relative to GAC plans and discussions and other potential City initiatives. (The Puget neighborhood project was not identified as Greenway Program project, although it would improve access to the Samish Crest Greenway.)

IV. INTERVIEW AND VOTE TO RECOMMEND POTENTIAL GAC MEMBER STEVE CROOKS: Crooks was interviewed and his approval was recommended to the Mayor and Council.

V. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2011 MINUTES: The minutes were approved as written.

VI. STAFF REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF PUGENT NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS TO WEST VIA HAWLEY TRACT & CONSOLIDATION AVE. TRAIL See item II above. Tim Wahl provided a review of barriers and opportunities for improved non-motorized circulation in the Puget Neighborhood and recapped the Greenway Program's focus on the north/south Samish Crest corridor.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION NOTES (Executive Committee proceedings are not recorded. These descriptions are here for purposes of basic GAC record keeping and mapping work only.)

Item 1. Discussion of staff findings re Tract 24 Project N1.

Item 2. Cordata overview and discussion of POI tracts 268, 267 and 642, Project N2.

VIII. APPROACH TO AND PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF GREENWAY PROJECTS AND ISSUES OUTSIDE THE GREENWAY III LEVY: Several concerns were identified: 1. Better public information (including signing) to inform greenway users and potential greenway supporters of accomplishments and to provide directional information, 2. Adequacy of maintenance funds for constructed park and greenway assets and for care and protection of raw lands acquired for future development or passive nondevelopment uses, 3. The amount of Greenway III funds ultimately collected by 2016 given devaluation of taxable property in the economic downturn; the impact of this on existing priorities, 4. The shortage of Greenway III levy allocations for trail and park development relative to overall public demand and numerous development opportunities, 5. Feasibility and program-wide impacts of increasing trail and park development during the later years of Greenway III. 6. Outside of the GAC's primary focus, a big-picture identification of all funding sources available for park and trail system development.

IX. IDENTIFICATION OF DATES/TOPICS FOR FUTURE HIKES AND MEETINGS: The possibility of a meeting involving GAC and PRAB members, possibly as citizens, and others, to address the topics identified under Item VIII and outside the scope of GAC business and the Greenway III levy, was noted.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 9:12 PM