

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, February 13, 2008**

**Present:** Jim McCabe, Ira Hyman, Bill Hadley, Jane Blume, Tom Barrett, John Hymas, Adrienne Lederer, Julie Guy, Mark Peterson

**Staff:** Paul Leuthold, Parks & Recreation Director  
Leslie Bryson, Design/Development Manager  
Marvin Harris, Park Operations Manager  
Liz Haveman, Board Secretary

**Attending:** John Blethen, Greenway Advisory Committee Chair  
Edie Norton, Greenway Advisory Committee Liaison  
Louise Bjornson, City Council  
Jack Weiss, City Council  
Greg Aucutt, City of Bellingham Planning Department  
Judy Hoover, Planning Commission  
Sue Taylor, PRO Plan Update Steering Committee  
Pamela, Applied Research Northwest  
Rachel, Applied Research Northwest

**I. JANUARY MEETING MINUTES:**

Ira Hyman stated that the motion following executive session as recorded in the draft January meeting minutes did not accurately reflect his expectation to hear back from Park staff regarding a coordinated plan with Public Works before a recommendation on land acquisition is made by the Park Board. The motion in the January minutes was amended to read, "Ira Hyman moved to recommend that the Parks Department coordinate with the Public Works Department on the plan for daylighting Padden Creek prior to Park Board recommendation on land acquisition." Motion made and carried unanimously to accept the January meeting minutes as amended.

**II. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Greenway Committee Update:** Edie Norton reported that Kim Brown, staff for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, attended the January Greenway meeting to discuss the process that BPAC goes through to appropriate grant funds to create needed crosswalk connections on older streets where crosswalks were not originally included. Edie stated that Councilman Jack Weiss also attended the meeting to discuss the formation of a sub-committee that would be made up of Greenway Committee members, Park Board members and BPAC members to examine and create greenway connectors to street and sidewalk bicycle routes. Edie reported that Greenway Committee members volunteered for this sub-committee and created several others including a public outreach committee, a strategic planning committee, a Chuckanut Ridge research committee and a committee for guest speaker invitations in order to accomplish more and distribute the Committee workload.

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Greyway Connectors Committee:** Councilman Jack Weiss requested a Park Board representative for a sub-committee that will work with representatives from the Greenway Advisory Committee and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee to identify major bike routes that connect to greenway trails in order to map a seamless bicycle and pedestrian multi-modal system. A more suitable name than "greyway connectors" might be "green streets" or "bike boulevards". Councilman Weiss distributed copies of a memo he wrote to

Paul Leuthold, Parks Director, and Dick McKinley, Public Works Director, asking for staff support and a modest level of funding for this project.

Councilman Weiss reported that he does not expect that the project will be very time intensive; the first phase will involve overlaying GIS maps of the current greenway trail system and the current BPAC bike routes to determine where the gaps are. The second phase of the project will involve determining which greenway trails should be designated bicycle routes and how to re-route bicycles off narrower trails that should not be designated bicycle routes. The second phase may also include designating some City streets as bicycle boulevards that would be closed off to cars. Leslie Bryson reported that she has staff currently working on a map overlaying the trail system with the existing and proposed bike lanes, which could serve as a good starting point for the first phase of this project.

Tom Barrett reported that a year ago or he went to a meeting with Chris Comeau, Public Works Transportation Planner, and Brent Baldwin, Public Works Development Manager, and they were very supportive of the idea of a City-wide bicycle route system and bicycle boulevards, but stated that they did not have the time to design the system. Tom stated that they offered support and funding if someone else would research and generate the ideas for the system.

As far as a project timeline, Councilman Weiss stated that he hoped for support from the department heads by the end of the week and that he would be attending a BPAC meeting to ask for a representative from that committee within a week and a half. Once the project is supported and various committee representatives are appointed, the project will be underway. Park Board members Mark Peterson, Ira Hyman and Jim McCabe volunteered to be part of the sub-committee.

- B. PRO Plan Update Steering Committee:** Leslie Bryson reported that approximately 50 people attended the first public input meeting held on February 6, 2008, for the Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan update and distributed a handout summarizing the input received at the meeting. Leslie stated that the meeting was successful in generating a variety of ideas through small group, in-depth discussions. Leslie pointed out that flexibility to accommodate a variety of park users was a major theme that surfaced in all of the small group discussions. For example, tactics such as designating areas for a particular use, such as a dog off leash area, during certain times of the day and designating other hours of the day for a different use will be necessary to accommodate the growing population and demands for a variety of park use.

Leslie reported that the next step in the PRO Plan update process will be conducting telephone and web surveys. Leslie introduced Dr. Pamela Jull and Rachel Williams from Applied Research Northwest, a subcontractor to Hough, Beck & Baird who will be conducting the surveys. Leslie stated that Applied Research Northwest has done a number of surveys for City projects in the past including the Greenway 3 Levy Survey. Leslie stated that the survey for the last PRO Plan Update was considerably longer than this survey will be; this survey will take approximately 10 minutes.

Pamela reported that the telephone survey will be a simple, random household survey and all data analysis will be done with the telephone survey results. The web survey is considered a

mechanism for public input and no analysis will be done with the results of the web survey, but the web survey will serve as a good background by which to filter the telephone survey results.

Ira Hyman expressed concern that younger citizens, such as college students, primarily use cellular telephones and therefore would not factor into the simple, random household telephone survey. Leslie responded that it will be important to make sure that the public meetings are well publicized in an effort to draw in the younger population that might be missed with the telephone survey. Tom Barrett recommended an interview with the Western Front. Jane Blume recommended also contacting the Bellingham Technical College and Whatcom Community College.

Pamela reported that the surveys will go out in approximately one and a half weeks and results will be collected for three weeks after that. Rachel distributed copies of the draft survey questions to Park Board members for their review and feedback. The remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing and recommending changes to the survey questions.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:** The February 2008 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was adjourned by consent at 9:05 a.m.

Approved: Jim McCabe, Chair  
Attest: Liz Haveman, Secretary