

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, January 12, 2011**

**Present:** Bill Hadley, Geoff Middaugh, Mike Anderson, Dominique Zervas, Jane Blume, Rosalie Nast

**Excused:** Adrienne Lederer, Julie Guy, Pam Holladay

**Staff:** Leslie Bryson, Park Design & Development Manager  
Marvin Harris, Park Operations Manager  
Liz Haveman, Board Secretary

**Attending:** John Blethen, Greenway Advisory Committee  
William Langley, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Candidate  
Mayor Dan Pike

**I. DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:** Geoff Middaugh requested that the first sentence of the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph on page 3 be re-written to read, "Geoff Middaugh suggested that he meet with John Blethen and Leslie Bryson to clarify the role of each committee and recommend ways to reduce duplication between them, as well as discuss all of the concerns about combining the two committees, or continuing to staff two committees." Geoff also suggested re-wording of the first sentence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on page 5, and Dominique Zervas agreed for the sentence to read, "Dominique Zervas stated that she understands that there needs to be resolution with Coastal Salish Tribes about their fishing grounds and stated that she feels that the environmental and ecological issues brought forward will be thoroughly vetted by the proper permitting agencies as the project moves forward." The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

**II. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Board Emails:** Leslie Bryson reminded Park Board members that all emails sent to City staff are subject to public disclosure.

**B. Board Liaisons:** Dominique Zervas mentioned that she emailed Park Board members and volunteered to be the Board liaison to the Planning Commission. Leslie Bryson stated that the Planning Commission meets frequently and that it could be very time consuming, but a liaison could simply review the meeting agendas and attend when there was related business. Leslie also mentioned that this is timely as she recently learned that the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan needs to be updated in conjunction with the City's Comprehensive Plan. Leslie stated that she does not anticipate the update to be extensive as the projected growth has not changed significantly and the maps should remain the same. Leslie also stated that the Board liaison positions have changed over the years as members have come and gone and that some positions could change now. For example, Northridge Park is listed as a Board Report, but the Phase II trail construction is complete. Also, Boulevard shoreline improvements could be added. Geoff Middaugh requested that Board liaison positions be a new business topic on the February meeting agenda to discuss new assignments and the responsibility of the liaison for the new members.

Dominique Zervas also mentioned that she knows Penny Rings, a volunteer who will be heading up the fundraising efforts for the Fountain Plaza remodel, and asked the Board if they would be interested in inviting Penny to a future meeting to talk about the fundraising. Leslie Bryson reminded the Board that the City's Planning and Community Development Department awarded a small and simple grant to the ReStore to conduct a public planning process to renovate the Fountain Plaza. A plan was drawn up by a landscape architect and approved by the Park Board, with the exception of vacating a side street. Leslie stated that the Urban Village Plan recommends that closure of the street be allowed for special events. Staff and Board members generally agreed that it would be good to have Penny attend a meeting and update them on the project.

Jane Blume arrived at 7:55 a.m.

### III. **BOARD REPORTS:**

- A. **Arts Commission**: Dominique Zervas reported that the Arts Commission reviewed the donation of the sculpture *Hope* to Big Rock Garden and they discussed fund raising ideas at their last meeting. They are also working on ensuring that maintenance and deaccession plans are in place for each new piece accepted in the City's collection, and they are looking into the possibility of leasing artwork between communities.
- B. **Watershed Advisory Board**: Bill Hadley reported that the Watershed Advisory Board's website has been substantially improved to include acquisition maps and information on each parcel of property, as well as the minutes from the last two years of meetings.
- C. **Greenway Advisory Committee**: John Blethen reported that there was no Greenway meeting last month, but there will be a meeting on January 20. At the upcoming meeting, the Committee will appoint a new Chair, Vice Chair and Park Board liaison. They will also discuss updating the Greenway Strategic Plan.

Rosalie Nast arrived at 8:05 a.m.

### IV. **NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED...**

- A. **Interview of Park Board Candidate**: The Park Board informally interviewed William Langley, candidate for vacancy on the Board.
- B. **Recommendation on Park Board Candidate**: Following the interview and discussion, the Board voted unanimously to recommend William Langley to the Mayor for appointment to the Board.

Mayor Pike arrived at 8:30 a.m.

- C. **Update from Mayor Pike**: Mayor Pike stated that he came to the Park Board meeting to address what happened with the departure of Paul Leuthold, Parks Director, and Mark Handzlik, Public Works Engineer. Mayor Pike said that this situation has been the most difficult challenge in his term as Mayor and at the outset, he did not expect that the outcome would be what it is. Mayor Pike stated that a thorough discovery investigation was done and reviewed by outside counsel and that he feels very clear that the outcome was the right thing to do.

Mayor Pike explained that the Parks Department and the Lake Padden Golf Course lessee both recognized a problem with siltation in a pond near hole 13. The overall cost of fixing the problem would be around \$100,000, and the Parks Department did not have the funds budgeted to fix the problem. Washington State law forbids breaking down large capital projects into smaller projects in order to avoid bidding rules and paying prevailing wage. The investigation found that Paul Leuthold suggested that the golf course lessee talk to Mark Handzlik about a less expensive, more expeditious way to fix the pond. Mark Handzlik hired a wetland biologist on his own and estimated that he performed approximately \$10,000 to \$25,000 worth of engineering work for the golf course in exchange for a lifetime of free golf; an estimated value of \$25,000. The investigation found that Mark Handzlik performed the work on a City computer, emailed regulatory agencies such as the Department of Ecology from his City email account identifying himself as a City employee, and it is believed that at least some of the work was performed on City time. Mayor Pike stated that he feels that Paul Leuthold showed poor judgment by leading Mark Handzlik into this project and by breaking down a capital project in violation of State law.

Geoff Middaugh thanked the Mayor for informing the Board of the situation and expressed concern about the morale of the Parks Department staff and the future of the Department, and the ability of the Department to develop creative partnerships in the future. Mayor Pike stated that he would be meeting with the Parks Department staff immediately following the Park Board meeting, and that he also met with the Public Works Engineering staff to address any concerns. Mayor Pike said that he does not anticipate any broad changes in the Parks Department's current operation. Mayor Pike also said that he is concerned that if the Parks Director position were opened for hire now, the pool of candidates might be lacking because of the economy and this year being an election year. The current plan is to move forward with the Parks Department's three competent managers each running their division, and to conduct a job search later this year so the position can be filled after the election, which could provide a more secure position for the new Director. Mayor Pike also stated that he is in favor of creative partnerships for capital maintenance and thinking outside the box during a tight economy. However, these partnerships need to be well vetted and properly approved.

Mayor Pike also reported that Chuckanut Ridge has been receiving more attention lately and while he cannot fully disclose what has transpired, there has been some movement on the part of the bank and the FDIC that suggests that there will be a conclusion in the foreseeable future. Mayor Pike stated that up to \$5 million of Parks Department resources will be allocated to acquire the property, and Responsible Development has committed to raise \$1 million. Any remaining balance could possibly be covered by a bond or an intergovernmental loan. Mayor Pike stated that he would like to have a community conversation to find a resolution to this matter that will allow both the Greenway Strategic Plan and the neighborhood plans on the South side to move forward. The community conversation during the last Greenway Levy left people with differing opinions on how much money was designated for this property and a new conversation needs to be held. John Blethen asked if the current discussions include acquisition of the Washington Federal property near Galbraith and Lookout Mountain in addition to Chuckanut Ridge. The Mayor responded that they do not at this time.

John Blethen stated that he is of the belief that Paul Leuthold did what he felt was necessary to bring City costs down and make a necessary project happen, and asked for clarification the role of moonlighting in the situation. Mayor Pike responded that moonlighting was not an issue in this situation as Mark Handzlik performed the work on City property using City resources. Mayor Pike stated that Mark violated City policy, State law, and an engineering code of ethics. Mayor Pike stated that Paul Leuthold made the mistake of loyalty to his friend, Mark Handzlik, over his obligations and loyalty to the City as a Department Head.

Mike Anderson commented that he understands that Mark received an annual pass from the golf course in exchange for his work. Mayor Pike responded that Mark stated himself during the investigation that he received an annual pass that would be renewed for up to 25 years; in essence a lifetime pass. Mike Anderson expressed concern that the funds generated by the Lake Padden Golf Course that have been going toward paying off the loan on the clubhouse renovations may be diverted to the City's General Fund now that the loan is paid off, rather than staying at the golf course for much-needed maintenance. Mayor Pike responded that the golf course maintenance needs will be weighed against overall other City and Parks Department needs and he is not ready to commit that \$90,000 per year one way or another at this point in time.

Geoff Middaugh expressed concern about three individuals running the Parks Department, rather than the appointment of an interim director. Mayor Pike responded that David Webster will attend the weekly Parks Department manager meetings and can act as an arbitrator if necessary, and keep the lines of communication open. Mayor Pike also said that they will be paying close attention and can re-visit the option of appointing an interim director if the need arises. Geoff Middaugh offered for the Park Board to act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor during the Parks Director recruiting efforts.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:** The January 2011 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was adjourned by consent at 9:13 a.m.

Approved: Geoff Middaugh, Chair  
Attest: Liz Haveman, Secretary