

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Present: Adrienne Lederer, Jim McCabe, Mark Peterson, Jane Blume, Bill Hadley, Dominique Zervas

Absent: Julie Guy, Mike Anderson

Staff: Paul Leuthold, Parks & Recreation Director
Leslie Bryson, Design & Development Manager
Gina Austin, Project Engineer
Liz Haveman, Board Secretary

Attending: Louise Bjornson, Bellingham City Council
Jim Zander, Greenway Advisory Committee

I. **JUNE MEETING MINUTES:** Motion made and approved to accept the June 2009 meeting minutes as submitted.

II. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Greenway Committee Update: Jim Zander reported that City Council has decided that south side properties can be brought to them for consideration. Leslie Bryson clarified that in January, Council decided to delay approval of the south area Strategic Plan for Greenway Acquisitions until the Chuckanut Ridge Environmental Impact Statement was released. Now that the EIS has been delayed until fall 2009, Staff is providing Council with information on south side properties so they know what opportunities are out there.

III. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Boulevard Park Shoreline Design & Pattle Point Trestle Improvements: Gina Austin, Parks Project Engineer, gave a presentation on a proposal to improve the beach shoreline and the wooden trestle at Pattle Point located just south of The Woods Coffee in Boulevard Park.

Gina reported that a structural assessment of the Pattle Point Trestle showed that the Trestle pilings are in fairly good shape, but the superstructure and bridge abutments are in poor condition. The plan is to replace the concrete bridge abutments and the superstructure and increase the width of the trestle to 12' wide with 4' bench areas to allow for 2-way pedestrian traffic. Gina stated that the Trestle superstructure will have a wood guard rail with steel pickets that will look similar to Taylor Dock and a portion of the walkway will include fiberglass decking. The fiberglass decking will allow sunlight to get to the eel grass beds below. Dominique Zervas asked when the Trestle was built. Gina responded that it was built in the late 1800's and repaired around 1990.

Gina stated that the annual storm surges at Boulevard Park have caused erosion resulting in damage to the open space and trail along the shoreline. The shoreline improvement proposal includes removal of the current rip rap consisting of large pieces of concrete rubble and replacing it with various gradations of rocks and sand and gravel beaches. Concrete drifts made to look like sandstone would extend into the water to protect the sand beaches. Gina noted that in this proposal submitted by Jim Johannessen, who designed the beach improvements at Marine Park. Some lawn area adjacent to the beach would be

converted from grass to sand and gravel. Jim McCabe asked what percentage of lawn would be lost. Gina replied that she does not have that figure, but emphasized that park space is not being lost; it is being changed. Dominique Zervas asked if there is a way to improve the shoreline without losing lawn. Gina replied that they could simply remove the existing concrete rubble and replace it with smaller rocks, but there would be no guarantee that this would work to fix the erosion problem. Gina also stated that while the proposal shows three sand and gravel beach areas, it would be possible to just improve only one of the beach areas, the largest one referred to as the "west beach".

Dominique asked if these projects are funded. Leslie Bryson responded that the Greenway Levy III will cover the trestle repair, but currently, there is not enough funding for the full shoreline repair. Paul Leuthold asked Parks Board members if funding becomes available, would they like to see the shoreline improvements made, and if so, do they prefer for just one beach area to be built, or all three proposed beach areas? Parks Board members generally agreed that they would like to see all three beach area improvements made. Dominique Zervas moved that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board approve the design of the Pattle Point Trestle. Mark Peterson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Board Reports:

- A. Arts Commission:** Dominique Zervas reported that Trish Harding is a new member on the Arts Commission. Dominique also reported that the Arts Commission is working with the Big Rock Committee to fund the repairs to the Lipchitziana piece at Big Rock Garden. Dominique stated that the Arts Commission is currently working on a maintenance plan that utilizes a combination of volunteers and professionals for all outdoor sculpture. Dominique also stated that the Mayor's Arts Awards nominations will now be accepted all year long online through Allied Arts.
- B. Big Rock:** Adrienne Lederer reported that the Big Rock Committee is considering a maintenance policy that would require the artist to pay for the upkeep of the sculpture once installed in the park.
- C. Woodstock Conservancy:** Adrienne Lederer reported that the Woodstock Conservancy hosted an event with musicians and root beer floats in the large barn on Father's Day. Adrienne also reported that the Conservancy is looking for more board members.
- D. Cordata Park:** Julie Guy reported that trail construction in Cordata Park will not begin until 2010 because of the permitting process. Julie asked if the Parks Department would mow the meadow area of Cordata Park this summer to create a safe place for children to play. Jim McCabe asked if the trail construction funding will be carried over to the 2010 budget. Leslie Bryson responded that the funding is coming from Real Estate Excise Tax and Park Impact Fees. Leslie stated that the Park Impact Fees are safe and she does not anticipate any issue with carry-over of the Real Estate Excise Tax dollars.
- E. Lake Whatcom Watershed:** Bill Hadley reported that there are currently 4 vacancies on the Lake Whatcom Watershed Advisory Board. Bill also reported that the Watershed

Advisory Board is recommending that fertilizer retailers provide visible signage about fertilizer requirements within the Lake Whatcom Watershed. They are also recommending that the fine for not abiding by these requirements be increased and that the fertilizer requirements be extended to the entire City.

- V. **RECOGNITION**: Jim McCabe noted that John Hymas's 2nd term on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board ended July 3, 2009, while John was on vacation. Jim noted that John served faithfully for 6 years and that his presence on the Board will be missed.
- VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: Jim McCabe announced that both he and Jane Blume will be on vacation during the August meeting and depending on whether or not others can attend, there may not be a quorum. Paul Leuthold announced that the traveling Vietnam Veteran Memorial Wall will be on display at Memorial Park through Sunday, July 12.
- VII. **ADJOURNMENT**: The July 2009 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was adjourned by consent at 8:30 a.m.

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