

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, July 11, 2007**

**Present:** Ira Hyman, Julie Guy, Harry Allison, Bill Hadley, Jane Blume, Jim McCabe, Mike Anderson, John Hymas, Adrienne Lederer, Tom Barrett, Stan Snapp

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

**Attending:** Louise Bjornson, City Council Member  
Laurel Cook, Greenway Advisory Committee Chair

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Closed Session from 7:00-7:45 a.m.

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION:** In open meeting following the Executive Session, Stan Snapp moved, and Jim McCabe seconded the motion, to add a parcel of property located on Aldrich Road in the Bear Creek tributary to the acquisition list. The motion carried unanimously. Harry Allison moved, and John Hymas seconded the motion, to add a parcel of property located on 26<sup>th</sup> Street in the Chuckanut Creek area to the acquisition list. The motion carried unanimously. John Hymas moved, and Adrienne Lederer seconded the motion, to add a parcel of property located in the Interurban Basin area of Fairhaven to the acquisition list. The motion carried unanimously. Stan Snapp moved, and Bill Hadley seconded the motion, that the proposed partnership with Whatcom County to develop property behind Cornwall Church of God on Northwest Avenue be respectfully declined. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. JUNE MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion made and carried unanimously to accept the June meeting minutes.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Greenway Committee Update:** Laurel Cook reported that she will be giving the Greenway Advisory Committee's annual year-end report to City Council at the July 16 meeting. Laurel also reported that at the June GAC meeting, they discussed forming a subcommittee made up of Greenway, Park Board and Bicycle/Pedestrian committee members to create signage connecting grayways to greenways. The Greenway Committee is interested in connecting the street bicycle routes (grayways) to the greenway trails, but does not want to spend greenway money to do so. Stan Snapp stated that the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee is under the umbrella of Public Works and suggested that Public Works may be able to fund the signage. Laurel also reported that the GAC voted unanimously to recommend to Park Board, City Council, and the Mayor that the trail through Red Tail Reach be better integrated with a larger buffer from the neighboring industrial site. Leslie Bryson reported that following the public meeting on the project, the Public Works Environmental Resources staff went back to their consultant and the trail plan was revised with a large buffer and more of a meander through the property. Leslie will email the new plan to Greenway and Park Board members. Laurel also reported that an executive session walk is scheduled for July 11 and Park Board members are welcome to attend.

**V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Paul Leuthold reported that the 2008 general fund budget requests including personnel and shared capital funds have been submitted and approved. The only requested not approved was a 2-wheel drive pick-up for Marvin Harris to replace his 4-wheel

drive pick-up. Operating expenditures and non-general fund capital expenditure requests, such as Park Impact Fees and Greenways, have not been submitted yet.

Park staff had requested \$1.5 million in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Real Estate Excise Taxes to complete the portion of the Whatcom Creek Trail from Meador to Ellis Street, including a passage under I-5. Staff had also requested an additional all-wheel drive vehicle for the Design/Development Division for visiting undeveloped construction sites. Neither of these requests were approved.

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Real Estate Excise Tax funds were approved to build a new playground at Maritime Heritage Park that will be relocated to a better position and help with the homeless issue at that park. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter REET funds were also approved to resurface park tennis courts and to design new entry columns at Fairhaven Park to replace the one destroyed in a storm last year.

Park Staff had also requested some new positions, but has been notified that only 5 or 6 new positions total will be approved for the entire City, and Park Staff do not expect that any will be in the Parks Department.

Leslie Bryson will be submitting the non-shared fund capital requests.

In reference to the budget, Julie Guy asked about a proposal that had been made to build a full size gym at the new elementary school that will be built in North Bellingham. Julie heard that \$400,000 was privately donated toward the project, but \$200,000 more was needed. Paul responded that he did meet with the Bellingham School District and discussed the possibility of helping provide these funds in exchange for Parks programs having first priority on the gym schedule. An agreement with the school district was not made, but Paul has heard that the private donor will give the additional \$200,000 needed to build the full size gym.

Paul Leuthold also reported that progress is being made on a Request for Proposals to put the Lake Padden Golf Course management and greens maintenance under one lease agreement. The ability to raise the greens fees will still be controlled by the City, but the leaseholder will have the ability to gift greens fees as they see fit. As it currently stands, the City does not have this ability because it is viewed as a gifting of public funds. The RFP stipulates clear maintenance specifications including a USGA turf audit every other year, and the Golf Advisory Committee will submit capital improvement requests to the leaseholder. The lease agreement will go into effect January 1, 2008.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:** No Public Comment.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:** The July, 2007 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was adjourned by consent at 9:05 a.m.

Approved: Ira Hyman, Chair  
Attest: Liz Haveman, Secretary