

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, June 9, 2010**

**Present:** Mark Peterson, Adrienne Lederer, Jim McCabe, Bill Hadley, Julie Guy, Mike Anderson, Pam Holladay

**Excused:** Dominique Zervas, Geoff Middaugh, Jane Blume

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

**Attending:** Marinus VandenKamp, The Center for Local Self Reliance  
Mary Mullen, The Center for Local Self Reliance  
Tom Jay, artist  
Ann Morris, artist

**I. ANNOUNCEMENT:** Paul Leuthold reported that this meeting would be Jim McCabe's last as his second 3 year term is ending. Paul thanked Jim for his six years of dedicated service to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and presented him with a certificate of appreciation from the Mayor.

**II. MAY MEETING MINUTES:** Motion made and approved to accept the May 2010 meeting minutes as written.

**III. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Greenway Advisory Committee Update:** Paul Leuthold reported that he drafted a letter to the Council as requested by the Park Board and Greenway Advisory Committee stating the concerns about the hold on the South portion of the Greenway Strategic Plan. The draft letter was submitted to Mark Peterson and John Blethen for their review, and copies were distributed at the meeting. Paul reported that John Blethen responded that he and Eric Hirst met with the Mayor and were assured that a resolution could be expected by the end of July. John suggested that they wait until then to send a letter.

Jim McCabe reported that a new liaison from the Park Board to the Greenway Committee is needed now that his term is up. Pam Holladay volunteered to be the liaison.

Jim McCabe also reported that Frank Ordway, Chair of the Transportation Commission, came to the last Greenway meeting to discuss the overlap of duties of the Transportation Commission and the Greenway Committee. Jim stated that the Birchwood/James Street connector came up in discussion. Jim reported that this is in the TIP as a multimodal connector, but has no funding and there is disagreement on the meaning of multimodal. Some would like to see a road with a trail and bike lanes; others would like just a trail and bike lanes.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Community Event Co-Sponsorships:** Mark Peterson reported that he has heard of various organizations within the community receiving fee waivers from the Parks

Department for use of park facilities for their events. Mark expressed concern about this as he was under the impression that due to budget constraints, facility use fees were adjusted and the Parks Department would be charging commercial and non-profits fees for use of equipment and facilities. Mark specifically heard that the Chamber of Commerce was not being required to pay a fee for the Jr. Ski to Sea race. Paul Leuthold responded that the Parks Department is charging standardized fees to commercial and non-profits alike. Also also stated that the Chamber of Commerce was billed for the Jr. Ski to Sea race. The Chamber approached the Mayor's office and requested a fee waiver. Paul stated that the Mayor's office may reimburse the Chamber for a portion of the fees that they were charged by the Parks Department, but that the Parks Department would not be waiving any of the Chamber's fees.

Mark also expressed concern about the lack of organization on behalf of the Chamber for the Jr. Ski to Sea race. Mark reported that he personally informed Chamber staff of the lack of course marking and monitors for the bike leg around the lake. This situation was not rectified and a 10 year old girl ended up getting lost. Mark requested that the Parks Department require that the Chamber provide adequate course marking and monitors in the future. Paul Leuthold responded that a meeting between himself, the Chamber, and Recreation staff has already been scheduled to discuss in detail what will be required of the Chamber in the future if they wish to continue to use Park facilities and equipment for this event.

Pam Holladay excused herself at 8:00 a.m.

- B. The Center for Local Self Reliance fence plan:** Marinus Vandenkamp with the Center for Local Self Reliance (CLSR) reminded the Park Board that CLSR received a \$10,000 Small & Simple Grant to construct a fence. Copies of the proposed fence plan were distributed to the Park Board for review in their meeting packets. Marinus reported that they will also show the fence plan to the neighbors for their approval. Originally, they had a fence plan that incorporated artwork. At this time, there is no artwork included in the fence design. Marinus stated that any future artwork would be brought back to the Park Board and/or Arts Commission as required for approval.

Marinus reported that Park staff had suggested that they consider using black powder coated or galvanized mesh for the fence. Marinus reminded the Park Board that on December 9, 2009, they voted to approve the purchase of fence materials. Following that vote, non-galvanized mesh fencing was purchased. Marvin Harris stated that since the fence will be maintained by the CLSR, he does not have an issue with the non-galvanized mesh as CLSR will be responsible for replacing it if it deteriorates. Marinus also reported that Park Staff suggested that the columns be constructed of brick to match the existing brick pillar on the site. Marinus distributed copies of an email from Dave Christensen on the City's Historic Preservation Committee. Dave responded that from their perspective, a stone veneer with a rectangular sandstone look would be more historically accurate.

Marinus reported that the benches along the fence will be made of Douglas Fir and will have a look similar to the porch at Boulevard Park. Marinus stated that the gates will be kept closed to keep the deer out, but not locked so that the public can always gain access to the site. The gates will also be ADA accessible.

Marinus requested approval from the Park Board to submit the fence plans to the City's Permit Center. Mike Anderson moved to approve; Adrienne Lederer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- C. Donation of Tom Jay's Bronze Watershed Bell:** Leslie Bryson introduced artists Ann Morris and Tom Jay. Leslie stated that Ann would like to donate a bronze Watershed Bell created by Tom. The placement of the bell is yet to be determined, but will be at an approved location within Maritime Heritage Park. Leslie reported that the main concern about the donation is a lack of maintenance funds for the piece.

Tom Jay gave a brief description of the bell and summarized the prologue provided in the Park Board meeting packet. Tom explained that historically, bells were considered the voice of the village and highly prized. They were sounded in times of peace and war, to celebrate births and honor deaths, during holidays and celebrations. Tom stated that he has been casting bells for approximately 15 years. The inscription on the Watershed Bell reads, "Our simplest wisdom is to follow the sea bright salmon home." The images on the bell depict adult salmon arriving to spawn and smolt drifting out to sea. The theme of the bell fits well into the Salmon Art Trail along Whatcom Creek in Maritime Heritage Park.

Tom reported that the clapper of the bell will be a hard plastic, rather than a metal, to create a more muted, sweet sound. The clapper could be placed inside the bell, or hang from the steel frame by a chain. Staff and Board members generally agreed that the clapper should be placed inside the bell to minimize the chance of vandalism.

Tom Jay explained that minimal maintenance is required. If no maintenance is performed, the bell will simply turn a speckled green over time. To avoid this, the bell must be scrubbed with a mild soap and waxed every 2 to 5 years.

Ann Morris stated that she and Darby Galligan with the Arts Commission went to Maritime Heritage Park together and agreed that the location depicted in photograph 2 in the meeting packet would be most appropriate. Leslie Bryson stated that this location is acceptable. The Arts Commission will approve the final location. Ann also reported that Darby said that the Arts Commission would have funds available to pay for the concrete to install the bell. Marvin Harris stated that Park Operations staff can assist with installation, but not with funds.

Adrienne Lederer moved to approve the donation of Tom Jay's bronze Watershed Bell. Mike Anderson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Leslie Bryson will forward the Board's approval to the Arts Commission with the recommendation that the clapper be placed inside the bell.

- V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Paul Leuthold reported that the Parks Department has submitted a small capital budget request for 2011 and that they are currently working on their 2010 personnel budget. All City Departments were instructed by the Mayor's office to absorb all cost of living and employee benefit increases, plus make a 5% reduction. For the Parks Department, this amounts to an 8.8% reduction, which is approximately \$790,000. Paul stated that last year, the Parks Department cut \$400,000 and lost 12 positions. Paul stated that he is

meeting with the Parks Department managers to examine all of their options to meet their budget cut requirements.

**VI. BOARD REPORTS:**

- A. Big Rock:** Adrienne Lederer reported that 660 people visited Big Rock Garden on Mother's Day. Big Rock Committee members grew herbs from seed in the Big Rock greenhouse. The herb containers were wrapped and given away for donation during the Mother's Day garden party. They collected \$312.
- B. Boulevard Over Water Walkway:** Leslie Bryson reported that this project is currently in the permitting phase. Leslie also stated that signs are posted at Boulevard Park to make the public aware of this upcoming project, as well as the Pattle Point Trestle reconstruction that will begin in September.
- C. Cordata Park:** Leslie Bryson reported that Razz Construction began construction and then had to halt work due to wet weather conditions. Leslie also reported that an additional trail section from Birchwood Presbyterian Church to Cordata Park may be constructed next year depending on planning, permitting and funding.
- D. Lake Padden Golfers:** Marvin Harris reported that so far, the rounds are up this year compared to last.
- E. Northridge Park:** Paul Leuthold reported that trail construction at Northridge Park is complete and we have received all positive feedback from the neighbors. Paul also reported that there are a number of private property owners encroaching the park property boundaries at Northridge and Park Staff are working to notify those property owners that the encroachments must be removed.
- F. Watershed Advisory Board:** Bill Hadley distributed copies of a map depicting protected watershed properties and a financial assessment of the budget for watershed property acquisition. Bill reported that the Watershed Advisory Board is recommending a rate increase from \$5 to \$12 to increase their budget for acquisition funds. However, they are not real hopeful that the rate increase will be approved.
- G. Woodstock Farm:** Leslie Bryson reported that the bid for Inspiration Point reconstruction and the driveway realignment project at Woodstock Farm was awarded to Award Construction Incorporated. Work is expected to begin the first week of July.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The June 2010 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was adjourned by consent at 9:10 a.m.

Approved: Mark Peterson, Chair  
Attest: Liz Haveman, Secretary