

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, March 14, 2007**

**Present:** John Hymas, Tom Barrett, Ira Hyman, Scott Fleenor, Jane Blume, Julie Guy, Jim McCabe, Harry Allison, Mike Anderson, Stan Snapp

**Absent:** All in Attendance. One vacancy.

**Staff:** Paul Leuthold, Parks & Recreation Director  
Marvin Harris, Park Operations Manager  
Leslie Bryson, Design Development Manager  
Tim Wahl, Greenway Program Coordinator  
Gina Gobo, Park Project Engineer  
Judy Spear, Board Secretary

**Attending:** Laurel Cook, Greenway Committee Chair

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Two items for discussion.

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION:**

Following discussion, a motion was made by Stan Snapp and seconded by Harry Allison for purchases in the Samish Area. Motion Carried.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Stan Snapp and seconded by Jim McCabe to approve a property trade in the Larrabee Buffer area of Fairhaven and voiced their support of staff in seeking the best financial benefit for the City as well as enhancement of the landscape buffer. Motion Carried.

**III. FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES:** A motion was made by Stan Snapp and seconded by Tom Barrett to approve the February 2006 minutes. Motion Carried.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Whatcom Creek Trail Update:** Gina Gobo, Park Project Engineer, provided the following update: A Steering Committee was formed with a core group of 10 to 15 people who developed an overall trail alignment. The Department applied for and was awarded a \$500,000 Federal Highways Grant for this project. Bids were opened last week for the section of trail from Racine to Fraser which will tie into Civic Complex. An enhanced corridor street connection needs to be developed at the end of the trail but there is no funding for the street segment. Tiger Construction was awarded the bid for the Racine Street Bridge. All the environmental permits are in place to construct the trail. Staff is working with the School District to move the bus barn fence a small distance to better accommodate the trail. Within the next 3-4 weeks, staff will be staking the entire alignment of the trail before beginning construction. It will take a year for site preparation which is planned for 2008. The portion of the trail behind Diehl Ford may have water problems during the rainy season. There is also a problem with beavers building dams but a beaver re-location plan has been developed. The City has entered into an "Air Space" lease with the DOT (Department of Transportation) which is a no fee lease to do trail work under I-5. Public Works is planning to convert the 3-way stop at Meridian and James into a 4-way stop. They also have approved a cross walk marking on James by the bus barn. Public Works is currently working the portion of Puget Street along Geri 4 Field. TIP is the City's Transportation Improvement Plan which needs to be updated every 6 years for the City to be eligible for State monies for transportation corridors.

- B. Share the Trails Campaign:** Paul Leuthold will contact Janice at BTV10 to set a timeline for filming (April) for viewing in early summer. Ira and Tom met with Anara Thomas of the Grateful Dogs who was very supportive of the Trail Etiquette guidelines outlined by the Board and approved of the simplicity. She suggested another guideline to “say hi to the other trail users”. During discussion, the Board suggested a sub-set of guidelines for the various trail users such as bicycles, runners, dog walkers etc. Other changes recommended during Board discussion included 1) Pull your dog close when someone approaches. 2) Changing “by voice or bell” (rule #9) to “by voice and/or bell”.

***Board members will be prepared to identify areas of interest to help organize and promote the “Share the Trails Campaign”.***

- B. Greenway Committee Update:** Laurel Cook, Greenway Committee Chair, gave a brief overview of the success of the public meetings and the recent Committee Retreat. In regards to statements made back in June of 2006 that there was a commitment among some City Council members to apply \$8 million of the Greenway III monies to purchase the Chuckanut Ridge property, a memorandum was received by the Committee from Joan Hoisington, City Attorney. The memorandum stated:

“Neither an individual Council member nor the Mayor has the authority to commit the City to any particular property purchase. The future decision to purchase any particular piece of property will take a majority vote of the City Council. Past remarks of individuals are not legally significant to the Greenway Committee’s current advisory role.”

Laurel also advised the Board that as Chair of the GAC and its official spokes person, her statement to anyone who asks for clarity on the Committee’s position is “We as the Greenway Advisory Committee are not required nor are we qualified to address the legality of this issue and the levy. If you as a voter have concerns, address your questions to your elected officials who are City Council Members and who, with the assistance of the City Attorney’s Office are qualified and obligated to respond. Our job is to recommend to Council land acquisitions which we feel are the best buy for the public funds and which best fulfill the wishes of the voters as stated in the Levy.”

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Disposition of Youth Hostel at Fairhaven Rose Garden:** Due to time restraints, this discussion will be postponed to the April meeting.

- B. Informal Interviews:** Following informal interviews, a recommendation will be forwarded to the Mayor to approve William Hadley to fill the vacancy left by Michele Wolf. Scott Fleenor did advise the Board that he is in the process of purchasing a house in the County which would require that he resign from the Board. The Board expressed their sadness at the prospect of losing Scott, but did express their desire to offer this potential vacancy to Adrienne Lederer.

**VI. PRESENTATION:** No presentation at this time.

- VII. **BOARD REPORTS:**  
**Big Rock Garden Sculpture:** Jim McCabe submitted the following report: The committee is working with Parks staff on the installation of the new "Friends Wall".which is not really a wall but three metal tree sculptures with the names (friends) on the leaves. The committee has a new member, Mary Ann Crawford. The Mother's Day Sculpture Show jury met on March 10. From among 32 entries from 19 artists the jury selected 14 pieces. Ideally all will be able to participate in the show, which opens on Mother's Day and runs through September..
- VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No Public Comment.
- IX. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** No Director's Report.
- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** The March 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was adjourned by consent.

Approved: Ira Hyman, Chair  
Attest: Judy Spear, Secretary