

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, November 9, 2011

Present: Bill Hadley, Adrienne Lederer, Julie Guy, Pam Holladay, Geoff Middaugh, Diane Blake, Dominique Zervas

Excused: Bill Langley, Rosalie Nast, Mike Anderson

Staff: James King, Parks & Recreation Director
Leslie Bryson, Design & Development Manager
Liz Haveman, Board Secretary

I. AGENDA REVIEW: No new items were added to the agenda.

II. OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES: The October meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Greenway Advisory Committee Update: Pam Holladay announced that there will be no November Greenway Advisory Committee Meeting, but there will be an executive session walk on Saturday, November 12. Board Members should refer to their email for more information.

B. Big Rock Garden Park Update: Geoff Middaugh explained that George Drake's lease proposal of Big Rock Garden Park is not on this meeting's agenda because Marvin Harris has not had time to review the proposal yet or draft an RFP. Dominique Zervas said that she understood that George had withdrawn his proposal. Leslie Bryson responded that George withdrew his proposal for a David Marshall exhibit in 2012, but not for a long-term lease of the park.

IV. NEW BUSINES:

A. New Parks Director Introductions: James King introduced himself and shared some of his personal and professional history that led him to take the position as the new Director of Bellingham Parks & Recreation. Each board member also introduced themselves and shared their particular passion and interests that led them to participate on the Board, as well as named their various liaison roles.

B. Park Planning Update: Leslie Bryson gave a planning update for various park sites. Leslie reported that we will have a design charrette for VanWyck Park, sometime this winter. Staff are working on getting a survey and wetland map of the Chuckanut Ridge property in order to map the trails and then work with volunteers to stabilize the property and possibly provide some basic signage. A long range community planning effort for this property cannot begin until funding is identified. Staff are also working on a plan for the repair of the septic system at Woodstock Farm so that an on-site caretaker and an RFP for use of the site can follow. Jonathan Schilk will attend a future Park Board meeting to present plans for Squalicum Creek Park phase 3 development. The Parks Department is collaborating with Public Works on the extension of Horton Road which is required for the development of Cordata Park. Leslie also reported that the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan needs to be updated in 2013, for adoption in 2014, in order to stay eligible for

State grants. Leslie anticipates that due to possible budget constraints, most of the updating will be done in-house, rather than by a consultant, and staff will rely on Park Board Members to serve as the steering committee for this project as they have done in the past.

V. ADJOURNMENT: The November meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was adjourned by consent at 8:45 a.m.

Approved: Geoff Middaugh, Board Chair

Attest: Liz Haveman, Secretary